

## The Manifold Wisdom of God

### Ephesians 3:9-11 (KJV)

- 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
- 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

These verses tell us some interesting things about the body of truth called The Mystery. We find it is a fellowship that was hidden before the foundation of the world. The Godhead had created this plan in Christ Jesus so they could show the principalities and powers the manifold wisdom of God. Why? So God could finish His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus.

Who are these principalities and powers the God would want to show his eternal purpose to and why?

### Angels

Angel (Hebrew - *mal'ak*; Greek - *'angelos*, both meaning messenger). There are but few books in the Bible that do not mention angels: Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther, the epistles of John, and James. *Angelos* occurs 188 times in the Greek New Testament and is translated "angel" 181 times and "messenger" seven times.

Looking at Angels appears to be of dispensational importance by reason of its close connection with the fortunes of Israel, and of its non-association with any calling that is purely Gentile, such as the dispensation of the Mystery.

Angels have special reference in Scripture to the people of Israel, and they are not mentioned in the O.T. until after the call of Abraham and the birth of Ishmael (Gen 16:7)

For example, Angelic ministry in the book of Genesis is associated with:

- The destruction of Sodom
- The deliverance of Lot
- The Birth of Isaac
- The Blessing of Jacob

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### Creation of Angels

The angels owe their creation to God, but when this took place belongs to God's secret counsel. What we do see from scripture there are Angels present at specific times:

Present long before the earth was created - Job 38: 4-7

Job 38:4-7 (KJV)

- 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
- 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;
- 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Angels were created by God for His glory - Heb. 1:1-3

Heb 1:1-3 (KJV)

- 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
- 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Consequently, angels were created before the foundation of the world. We do not know from scripture how long before, this was not disclosed by God. Perhaps as to keep the focus off of these beings and directed where it should be - on Christ. Remember the warning Paul said "let no man bequile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels..." Col. 2:18 Moses said the same at Deut. 17:3

### How many Angels did God create?

We don't know specifically, but we have some clues from scripture. Daniel had a vision that showed him a number of Angels ministering around the Son of Man in the heaven in the future when He opens certain books

Daniel 7:10 (KJV)

- 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: *thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him*: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

$(1000 \times 1000 = 1,000,000) + (10,000 \times 10,000 = 100,000,000) = 101,000,000$  Angels

Matthew 26:53(KJV)

- 53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

$12 \times 1$  legion (a legion is six thousand) = 72,000 Angels

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From these verses, we can see that there are at least one hundred and one million angles in heaven. We can also see that the power of one angel is substantial.

### The power of one Angel

Isaiah 37:35-36(KJV)

- 35 For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.  
36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

$100,000 + (4 \times 20,000) + 5 = 185,000$  Assyrians killed by one Angel

### Angel Hierarchy

We see that the scriptures talk of the hierarchy in the heavens:

Ephesians 1:20-23 (KJV)

- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,  
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:  
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,  
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.  
(KJV)

Colossians 1:16 (KJV)

- 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)

- 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When God created Angels, He did so with a certain hierarchy. With that hierarchy God put one angel in charge with the highest position among the angelic community. His role was the anointed angel that covered the holy mountain of God; and walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire which was closet to God. His name was Lucifer.

Unfortunately, Lucifer became jealous of the praise that God was receiving and wanted to replace God. He therefore fell and became Satan.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (KJV)

- 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

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- 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:  
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.  
15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 28:12-19 (KJV)

- 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.  
13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.  
14 **Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth;** and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.  
15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.  
16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.  
17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

We see from a confrontation between Michael the Archangel and Satan that his power is not to be taken lightly.

Jude 1:9 (KJV)

- 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Now we see in scripture the role of angels called Cherubim's, that the primary activity of these angels were to covereth...

Exod 25:20-21

- 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.  
21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

2 Sam 6:2

- 2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

II Ki 19:15

- 15 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

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1 Chr 13:6

6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-je'arim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.

Ezek 10:1

1 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Heb 9:5

5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

### Cherubim

The word Cherubim means “to till or plough” and is expresses diligent service. The Cherubim of Ezekiel 1:5-18, 10:12 have two less wings than the Seraphim of Isaiah. The first reference to Cherubim is the expulsion of Adam and Eve in Gen 3:24.

The Cherubim have four faces: The Lion, The Ox, The Eagle, and The Man.

### Seraphim

These are thought to be the highest order of angels.. Their name means “burners or burning ones”. The description of seraphim revolves around his six wings.

Isa. 6:1-7, Psa. 24:1, 72:19.

- With two he covered his face - Exod. 3:6; Job 4:18, 15:15; I Kings 19:13
- With two he covered his feet
- With two he did fly

### Archangels

The word Archangel occurs twice in scripture and means “chief messenger”. The only named one is Michael in Jude 9. Gabriel is the only other angel mentioned in the Bible, but he is not spoken of as an archangel.

### Sons of God

Gen. 6:1,2; Job 38:7; Dan. 3:25-28

### Sons of the Mighty

Ps. 29:1, 89:6,7, 103:20; Isa. 13:3; Joel 3:11  
Ps. 103:20; Ps.104:4; Dan. 9:21; Heb. 1:7.

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### Watchers/Keepers

Dan. 4:13-17; Isa. 62:6

### Holy Ones

Zech. 14:5; Matt. 25:31; Isa 6:1-3; Dan. 8:13

### Princes

Dan. 10:13,20,21; 12:1  
John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Eph. 2:2

### Thrones

Col. 1:16, Rev. 4:2-11

### Dominions

Col. 1:16

### Powers

Col. 1:16

### Principalities

Col. 1:16; Eph. 1:21  
Col. 2:10; Eph. 6:12

Now, when Lucifer fell, we find that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the angelic community falls with him.

Rev 12:3-4 (KJV)

- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

It seems almost inconceivable that any so highly privileged as to live near to the throne of God, should sin against Him and consequently suffer expulsion from His presence. But such was the case, and Scripture is not silent as to open rebellion in the angelic hierarchy.

There are two categories of fallen angels: the fallen and imprisoned and the fallen and free.

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### The fallen and imprisoned

Gen 6:1-5 (KJV)

- 1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
- 2 *That **the sons of God** saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*
- 3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
- 4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.
- 5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

2 Pet 2:4-5 (KJV)

- 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
- 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Jude 1:6 (KJV)

- 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Heb 2:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.
- 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

### The fallen and free

Rev 12:1-4(KJV)

- 1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
- 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

These angels are lead by fallen Lucifer, now Satan.

1 Chronicles 21:1

- 1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

Job 1:6

- 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Matthew 4:3

- 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, if thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

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Ephesians 2:2

2       Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Other titles for Satan:

Satan, meaning, the Adversary	The Tormentor
Devil, the slanderer	The Accuser
Apollyon, the destroyer	The Deceiver
Beelzebub, the prince of demons	The Liar
Belial, the low, abject one	the Murderer
The Wicked One	He that hath the power of death
The God of This World	Abaddon
The Prince of Darkness	The Enemy
The Dragon	The Prince of this World
	The Tempter

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Colossians 2:13-18 (KJV)

- 13       And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
- 14       Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
- 15       And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- 16       Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
- 17       Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.
- 18       Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Ephesians 3:9-11 (KJV)

- 9       And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- 10       To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
- 11       According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

In every dispensation of God put in place here on earth, mankind has shown that he cannot save himself. It took The Mystery, which was a secret held before the foundation of the world, before the creation of angels, before the creation of principalities and powers that Christ will be all and in all. The fellowship he wanted with mankind has ultimately become a success because God has willed it in his Son, Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:7 (KJV)

- 7       Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands



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Psalms 8:5 (KJV)

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Hebrews 2:9 (KJV)

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Revelation 4:11 (KJV)

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

We are a showcase for the angels to show the manifold wisdom of God that is full of grace and mercy. Praise God for Christ and the fact that we get to be a part of his body.

Ephesians 1:1-12 (KJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:  
2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:  
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:  
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,  
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.  
7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;  
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;  
9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:  
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:  
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:  
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.