

The logo features the words "FIGHT THE" in a clean, white, sans-serif font above the words "GOOD FIGHT" in a larger, bold, distressed, metallic font. The background is a dark, textured gradient.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Lesson 6 | The Armies of Heaven

The Old Testament frequently refers to Jesus as “the Lord of hosts.” This term refers to the fact that God is the God who is powerful enough to rule over the angelic armies of heaven. In this lesson, we will begin with a few important truths about angels and then will take some time to look at how angels serve God and help us.

Key Truths about Angels

There is a lot of wrong thinking about angels today. One of Satan’s tactics to keep people away from God is to get people to not believe in the supernatural, and part of the way he has accomplished that is by making the supernatural seem silly, ridiculous, and childish.

Angels are _____.

Serious Christians might not doubt that the Bible teaches God created angels or that angels are real, but many live as if they don’t actually exist. They are like the servant of Elisha who only saw a massive army and couldn’t see the even more impressive army standing around him.

Angels are _____.

Not only are angels real, but they are quite powerful. Many people have a very low view of angels compared to what is in Scripture concerning the heavenly host. Scripture depicts angels as fierce warriors, and those who find themselves in the presence of angels are almost always struck with fear (see for example Daniel 10 and Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds in Luke 1-2).

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Service of Angels

Most people today use the word “angel” as a broad category to refer to all spiritual beings who serve God, but technically the word “angel” means messenger and is one of many functions God’s that supernatural servants have.

Certain spiritual beings have been given the unique responsibility to have dominion or rulership over part of God’s creation. Paul tells us that we are fighting against principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

God does not usually send divine warriors to fight directly on His behalf. On one occasion, however, a single angel wiped out the Assyrian army (2 Kings 19:35)! If a single angel could devastate an army, imagine how much more impressive when Christ said that he could call down “twelve legions,” or roughly 50,000-60,000 angels!

The Bible will often depict angelic creatures as guarding important places, especially where God is present. But it is not just the divine presence that angels guard. Scripture makes it clear that angels also guard God’s people.

The term “angel” means messenger, and one of the primary functions of God’s heavenly host is to deliver messages on His behalf. This is one of if not the main task of angels, which is probably why the term “angel” has come to describe all supernatural beings in God’s service.

Finally, we see that angels lead in the worship of God. The seraphim stand continually around the throne offering praise to God who is “Holy, holy, holy” (Isaiah 6:1-3). By the time we get to the book of Revelation we see that this praise chorus continues (Revelation 4:8).

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