

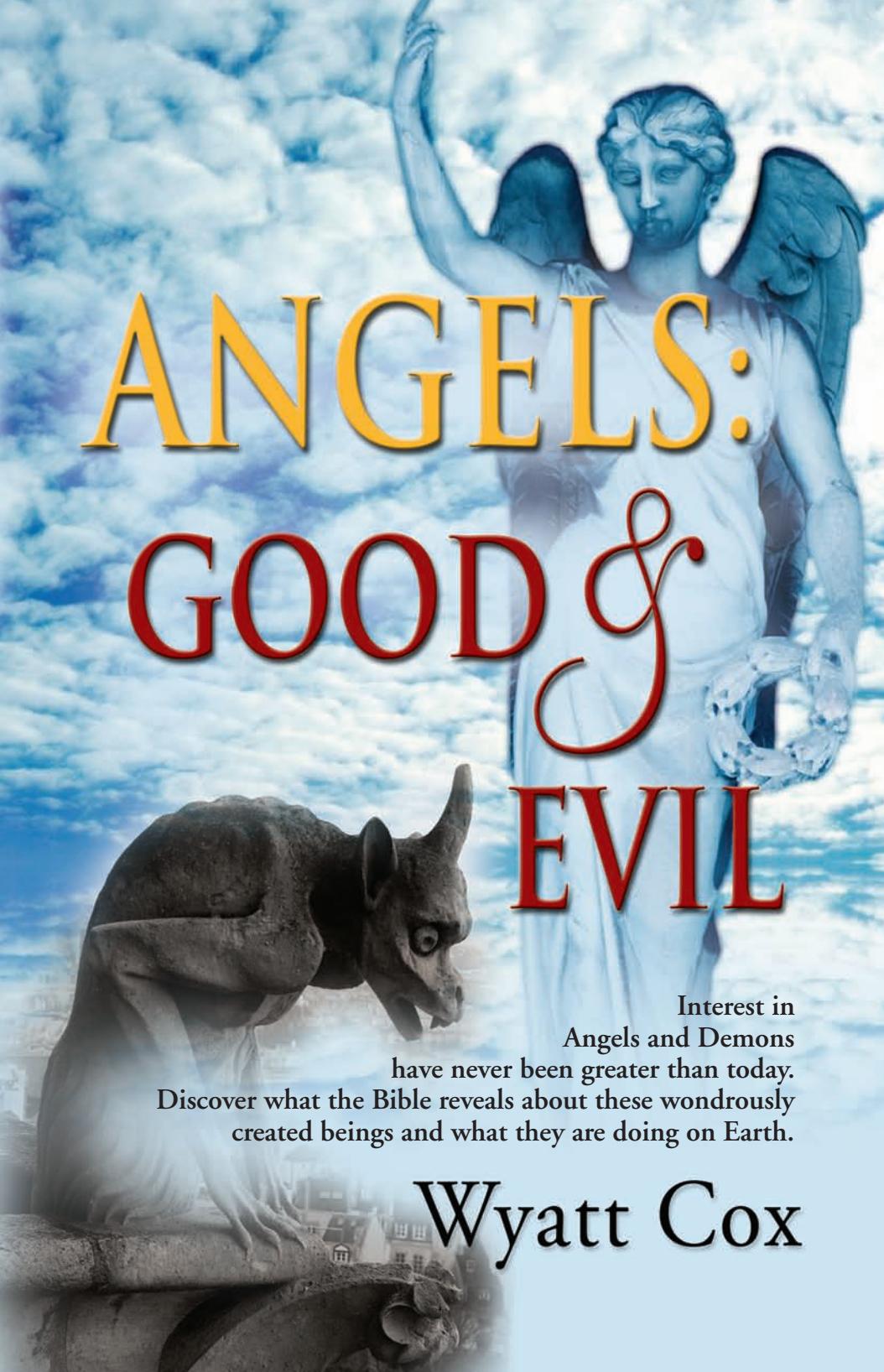
Angels: Good and Evil is a timely and informative book that looks into the fascinating and important study of angels from a Biblical viewpoint. There is a tremendous interest in angels and demons and many people are surprised to know that the Bible has a lot to teach us about them. In this book, we see that angels and demons are very active on earth and can have a great effect on people's lives.

Angels: Good and Evil

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ANGELS: GOOD & EVIL

Interest in
Angels and Demons

have never been greater than today.

Discover what the Bible reveals about these wondrously created beings and what they are doing on Earth.

Wyatt Cox

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*Scripture references are taken from the King James Version of
the Bible

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MAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGELS

Angels are “ministering spirits” and “fellow servants” and have been actively involved with people since the time of Adam and Eve. While angels are marvelous, wise and powerful creatures, we are to remember their God ordained functions. We are to understand they are holy and glorious beings but we are not to elevate them to a position higher than God permits us to.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews alerts us to the amazing fact that we will “entertain angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). Our involvement with angels is certain yet we will not be aware of our interactions with these “messengers” when they occur. This passage of Scripture can help us discern truth from fiction when hearing about people who claim to have been visited by angels.

While, it is possible some Christians will distort the permissible relationship we should have with angels. We are to embrace who they are and their God ordained activities. For example, In Revelation 19:10 John is sternly warned not to worship the angel he encountered. The angel tells John “...See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Angel worship is without any doubt categorically forbidden (Colossians 2:18). Paul warned Christians of the dangers of worshipping angelic beings. At the time Paul issued these words in the city of Colosee some Christians were involved in angel worship. Some people believed angels even controlled the

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elements of the world, which they don't. Angels are wonderful creatures but we are to worship their Creator and not His creation.

Even Christians have a tendency to be "blinded" by the angel rather than enlightened by their messages. Our focus is to be on the Creator and not His creatures. For this reason we are appropriately cautioned not to over elevate angelic beings. But in order to give angels their due regard we must seek what God has revealed in His Word. We must use care not to elevate angels and the things associated with them at the expense of Christ.

They are heavenly messengers and thus we should pay more attention to God's message than be overwhelmed by the messenger. The message they deliver is not their own but God's.

However, some false teachers worship angels. Paul warns us, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not see, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." (Colossians. 2:18). We find no teaching or example of a Christian being encouraged or authorized to call upon an angel for guidance.

Angels are involved with people from the time of childhood (guardian angels) to our death (escorting us to heaven (Luke 16:22) and even beyond that time. They shall be "reapers" when

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judgment time comes and yet they will be judged by Christians (1 Corinthians.6:3).

We learn from Paul that Christian women can grieve angels. The Holy Spirit had Paul write “for this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels” (1 Cor. 11:10). For a woman to remove her head covering would indicate her disregard for the Jewish Law and thus show disrespect towards God. A few Bible students suggest women should not remove their head coverings lest some angels be attracted by their beauty and then perhaps the angel may be tempted to sin.

However it seems more likely that Paul is basically saying that Christian women are to wear a head covering while in church to show they are submissive to God’s authority and are under the authority of men and the angels are under the authority of God. It seems that Paul wants the believing women to be examples to the angels.

By women accepting this functional headship of authority they do not rebel against this authority as some angels did in the past. The angels today have this constant and valuable reminder they are to accept God’s authority. Even angels need a reminder and symbol of submission to God’s authority, even today. And that reminder comes from faithful Christian women.

What a marvelous honor and privilege for women to have! Angels in heaven receive benefit from Christian women in church. This should be a reminder to all Christians that the

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angels in heaven are very much aware what takes place in churches.

While angels are keenly interested and directly involved in human affairs, there is no scriptural reference suggesting a Christian ever gave a command to an angel. Christians have no control or authority over the activities of angels. In Numbers 20:16 we read where the people appealed to God to send an angel and He did. But the people had no authority over the angel. We do not have the authority to summon an angel to come or to ask one to be our “spirit guide.”

We do know that at an undisclosed time in the future angels will be judged by Christians. Whether these are the confined angels (Jude) or angels in general is often debated. But Paul says, “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life” (1 Corinthians.6:3)? If Christians are to pass judgment on the holy angels perhaps it is to help determine their rewards.

We are told that we not to be “forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2). Part of the emphasis is not the fact that we will encounter angels but they we not forget the fact this will happen. It appears that offering hospitality to “strangers” could include angels who appear to be normal people.

After the fall of Adam and Eve we find that an angel was dispatched to stand guard at the entrance of the Garden of Eden to prevent anyone attempting to enter since entrance to the

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garden was forbidden (Genesis 3:24). Man's earliest encounters with angels were due to their sin, not their righteousness.

Other accounts of angels interacting with people in the Book of Genesis includes angels fellowshipping with Abraham (Genesis 22:11-18), Lot being delivered by angels (Genesis 19:15-16), Moses was given the law by angels (Acts 7:35, 38, 53) and Hagar who was comforted by an angel (Genesis 21:17-18).

The entire account is very much worth reading for we find that among other things this heavenly creature knew Hagar's name. Obviously angels know much about the affairs of man. Also what can be inferred is that fallen angels or demons also have this knowledge base as well.

Other instances in the Old Testament where angels interacted with God's people include Joshua who was encouraged by an angel (Joshua 5:13-14), Gideon was commissioned to deliver Israel from her enemies (Judges 2:1-4), Manoah who was instructed by an angel (Judges 13:15-18), Daniel who was ministered to by angels (Daniel 6:21-22), Zechariah who was enlightened by angels (Zechariah 1:14-16) and Elijah who was comforted and translated by an angel (1 Kings 19:4-7 and 2 Kings 1:3, 15).

Another function of angels is to give important announcements to people. For example the angel Gabriel announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah (Luke 1:8-9, 11-13) and the birth of Christ to Mary (Luke 1:27-28).

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We learn of the account of the rich man and Lazarus who died and Lazarus was escorted to Paradise by angels. Perhaps even at death our interaction of angels is just beginning. It is possible that these angelic escorts are needed because as we leave the physical plane of reality, angels must take us from earth to heaven because of the fact that the devil is the “ruler of the kingdom of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

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