The Names, Titles, Positions and Ranks of Angels

A. Introduction

* Last lesson we discovered that there is in fact an angelic hierarchy and Christ is above all no matter what names, titles, positions and ranks there are in heaven.
* This lesson we are going to discuss and literally break it down and define the names, titles, positions and ranks of angelic order
* angels mentioned in thirty-four different books of the Bible
* “angel” implies “I dispatch, I send”
* Angels are always “spirits” but when they are “sent,” they are called angels

Questions:
1) You might ask, what is the name of their nature? It is “spirit”
2) What is the name of their service? It is angel

B. Angels

* “The Angel of God” or “Jehovah” usually signifies a theophanic appearance of Christ (a pre-incarnation appearance of Christ in the Old Testament) (Genesis 16:7, 9, 10; 22:11; Zech 1:11)
* “angels” and “messengers” Gen 32:3; Deut 2:26; Malachi 3:1, Luke 7:24; 9:52 and Revelation 22:16
* The original word is also used to describe God’s created messengers:
  - Israel (Isa 42:19)
  - Haggai (Haggai 1:13)
  - John the Baptist (Malachi 2:7; 3:1)
  - The Priesthood (Ecclesiastes 5:6)
  - Pastors or Bishops of the Church (Revelation 1:20)
* celestial beings
* “angel,” is used of the unseen hierarchy of heaven
* pure spirits

1) Hosts & Chariots

* “hosts” implies order and organization
* Imilitary
* God’s heavenly armies
* well-trained troops, loyalty, obedience instantaneous
* readiness to respond
* tightly ordered
* surround their Prince
* their eyes always turned to their Leader
* ready and prompt to execute orders
* “Lord of Hosts” used as a military low-point
* 1 Sam 1:3, Philistines oppressing God’s people
* “for the comfort of Israel”
* “their hosts were few and feeble and those of their enemies many and mighty”

* Philistine enemy Goliath
  
  “You come against me with sword and speak and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” (1 Sam 17:45)

* In 2 Chronicles 18:18
  
  “I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing on his right and on his left.”

* death to Ahab
  
  (2 Chronicles18:19-22)

* chariots. Psalm 68:17
  
  David’s song: “The chariots of God are tens of thousands and thousands of thousands”

* Isaiah’s warning in (Isa 66:15-16)
  
  “See, the Lord is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind”

* Elisha’s prayer (2 Kings 6:17) “the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around”

* “chariot of fire and the horses of fire” (2 Kings 2:11-12)

* (Psalm 110:3), “Your troops will be willing on your day of battle”, both angels and men may well be the Lord’s ready soldiers on that day

* Question: Are you his willing soldier?

* Ephesians 6:10-18

  “In conclusion be strong - not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God's complete armour so that you can successfully resist all the devil's methods of attack. For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil. Therefore you must wear the whole armour of God that you may be able to resist evil in its day of power, and that even when you have fought to a standstill you may still stand your ground. Take your stand then with truth as your belt, righteousness your breastplate, the Gospel of peace firmly on your feet, salvation as your helmet and in your hand the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Above all be sure you take faith as your shield, for it can quench every burning missile the enemy hurls at you. Pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer, keeping alert and persistent as you pray for all Christ's men and women.” (J. B. Phillips New Testament Translation)

* “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men (and women) of courage; be strong (1 Cor. 16:13).

* he Lord’s full armor (including your angels), “that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephes. 6:13)

Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ....(Romans 13:12-14)
  
  “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light

2) Holy Ones

* Angels are called “holy ones”

* Psalm 89:7
“In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.”

* “Holy One’s” (Duet 33:2)
* “holy ones” (Job 5:1, 15:15)
* Daniel recounting his visions:
  “Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, ‘How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled...’” (Daniel 8:13)
* “coming with his holy one’s”
* All three verses may refer to both redeemed believers and unfallen angels (Zech 14:5, 1 Thes. 3:13 & Jude 14-15)

3) Mighty Ones of God

* King James Version Psalm 89:6
  “Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord?”
* (Psalm 29:1)
  “Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
* (Psalm 103:20)
  “Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.”
* Psalm 8:5 “a little lower than the heavenly beings,” [elohim or “gods”]
* “a mighty angel” (Rev. 5:2)
* mighty angels (Rev. 10:1-2) and (Rev. 18:21)

4) Holy Watchers

* “watchers” mentioned by King Nebuchadnezzar
* “watchers” or “watchmen” (or messengers” in some versions) nowhere in the Bible except in Daniel 4.
* “to be wakeful” and “watchful”.
* root definition “to rouse oneself,” “awaken,” “incite” and “to stir up,” “be exposed” and to “arise”
* sense of urgency
* Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Dan 4:4)
* large, healthy, fruitful tree with birds in its branches and animals resting in its shade; (Dan 4:13 NASB)
  “I was looking in the visions in my mind as I lay on my bed, and behold, an angelic watcher, a holy one, descended from heaven. (Dan. 4:13)
* “drenched with the dew,” living outside with animals, and having an animals’ mind.
* watcher made a decree; (4:17 NASB)
  “This sentence is by the decree of the angelic watchers, and the decision is a command of the holy ones.”
*Verdict:
  “so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.” (4:17)
* “does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth” (4:35)
* no need of sleep
* like watchmen posted on the walls of Jerusalem (Isa. 62:6)

5) Cherubim

* related to “intercessor” or “guardian”
* plural form of Cherub is “cherubim” meaning more than one
* “work horses” among the angels
* constant attendance upon the Shechinah glory of God
* “cherubim” means to till or plough
* The first mention of Cherubim - Genesis 3
  “So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.” (3:24)
* God giving Moses directions for making the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle
  “The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the
* God meets Moses
  “There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.” (Exodus 25:22)
* protection, intimacy, sacredness
* Numbers 7:89
  “Now when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, so He spoke to him.”
* “enthroned between the cherubim”
  (1 Sam. 4:4, 2 Sam. 6:2, 2 Kings 19;15, 1 Chron. 13:6, Psalm 80:1, 99:1)
* King Hezekiah’s prayer:
  “O Lord of Hosts, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth...” (Isa. 37:16)
* the Lord put to death 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night (Isa. 37:36)

* David’s song of praise and victory in 2 Sam. 22
  “when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul”
* cherubim carrying God’s presence down to David’s rescue;
  “He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. II He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.” (2 Sam 22:10-11, Psalm 18:9-10)
* God encourages us in (Hebrews 4:16) to come to Him with confidence...
  “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”
* guards of the glory of God
* without the blood of Jesus, no one can pass
* Ezekiel chapter 10; cherubim with wings, feet, hands and “full of eyes,” encompassed by “wheels within wheels”
* “sound of their wings” is associated with very important events
* wings flutter...like the sound of an announcement of God’s voice
* Like thunder or a mighty rushing wind
* Day of Pentecost... Acts 2:2

**The sound of the wings...**
* cherubim have to do with the glory of God
* Ezek 10 should be read carefully and prayerfully

6) Seraphim (means “burning one’s”)

* Burning ones, celestial beings surrounding the throne of God.
* distinguished from the cherubim, Ezek 1:5-12
* Isa. 6:2-3
* “Each one had six wings, with two of which he covered his face, with two his feet, and with the two others he flew. They cried to one another, and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
* fiery ones - because their burning love.
* "fiery serpents" (Num 21:6,8; Deut 8:15)
* (Isa 14:29; 30:6) sent by God as instruments to inflict penalty of sin.
* The original Hebrew word for seraphim is [saw-rawf]

**Isaiah’s Vision and Commission**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.³And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!"³

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King,
The LORD of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.⁴And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

"Behold, this has touched your lips;
Your iniquity is taken away,
And your sin purged."⁴

* fiery features has to do with purifying and holiness
seraphim are present to purge
* They are the disinfectors of sin
* purging power of the blood of Jesus burns and melts enemy influence and bondage and purges
  the sinful nature
* “fiery serpents” or seraphims given to a class of angels to execute on the wicked the fiery
  indignation of God
* “fiery serpents” also from their ardent zeal
* Indicative of purity and zeal
* inflamed by love for God because of their nearness to Him
* agents for the purification of His people
* seraphim are represented as having six wings, whereas the cherubim have four wings
* 73 references to cherubim, only 2 mentions of seraphim in scripture
* Each seraph has six wings used in a three-fold way (Isa. 6:2)
  One: With two he covered his face.
    - (Exodus 3:6, Job 4:18, 15:15; 1 Kings 19:13)
  Two: With two he covered his feet.
    - reverent waiting on, more than in active service for, God.
    - Covered feet denote deep humility
  One: With two he did fly.
    - Four wings were for worship
    - Two wings were for work
    - 66% of our time should be in waiting and worship vs. 33 % working

7) Living Creatures and Elders

* John’s vision on the Patmos Island
* “four living creatures” who have similarities to both the seraphim in Isaiah 6 and the cherubim
  in Ezekiel 1
* Like cherubim, living creatures have the likeness of lion, ox, man and eagle (Rev. 4:7)
* Like seraphim, they have six wings, and honor God with their continual praise of “Holy, Holy,
  Holy is the Lord God almighty” ---to which they add a new phrase:
    “who was, and is, and is to come” (Rev. 4:8)
* they stand “in the center, around the throne”
* “covered with eyes, in front and in back.,”
* Ezekiel 1, which had eyes all along the rims.
* they see everything, past and future, front and back
* “I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, ‘Come!’” (Rev 6:1)
* authoritative shouts
* “rode out as a conquerer bent on conquest” (Rev 6:2)
* the other three creatures call call out, “Come!”
* Later, John says he saw...
  “seven angels with the seven plagues....Then one of the four living creatures gave to the
  seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and
  ever” (Rev. 15:6-7)

* Closely associated with the four living creatures in Revelation are the “twenty four elders”
* “They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads” (4:4)
* elders implies “leadership by example”
* a term of rank or office
* “examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:3)
* “the seventh angel sounded his trumpet” (11:15)
* “The twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God.” (Rev 11:16)
* You can listen to their praise (Revelation 11:17-19)
* four living creatures set an example for us of how we should worship
* Revelation 4:9-10
  “Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever.”
* elders “lay down their crowns before the throne”
* set aside and cast all our crowns, our gittings, our abilities, our individual anointing and every gift that God endowed us with, and we to should cast our crowns at his feet, setting aside our own honor as well
* We give Him the sacrifice of our very best, our lives, our beings, our love, our adoration, our worship....the bareness of who we really are....His creation
* elders and the living creatures work together in Revelation 5
* John saw the slain Lamb “standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four-living creatures and the elders (Rev 5:6)
* After Christ had taken the scroll from God’s hand,
  “the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”
* “every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth” sings praise to God and to the Lamb (Rev 5:13)
* “the four living creatures said, ‘Amen,’” and the elders fell down and worshiped God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rev 5:14)