

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

Anthropology Part 2

A Study of Mankind from a Biblical
Perspective

Angelology

Beginning of Human Life/Personhood

Differing Views:

- During gestation process following conception
- Begins at birth
- Post-birth with minimal functioning
- Begins at conception

Begins at Conception:

- God's creation of a person is not a process but an event
- Traditional view of most Christians
- Didache (early book of Christian teaching):
"Thou shalt not murder a child by abortion not kill that which was begotten"
- Letter of Barnabas
- Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Chrysostom, Jerome, Martin Luther, John Calvin

Biblical Conclusions:

The Bible regards the unborn as human persons in a full sense

- Gen 25:22-23—Jacob and Esau
- Exodus 21:22-25
- Isaiah 44:24
- Job 10:8-11
- Psalm 139:13-16
- Isaiah 49:1
- Jeremiah 1:5

Is Abortion Murder?

Four Criteria that determine murder:

- Person must be killed
- Must be killed intentionally
- The victim is innocent (not official government judgment)
- Unlawful or sinful motive must be behind the killing

End of Life Views

- Continuation of soul but no continuation of body—no resurrection
- Cessationism—life ceases completely
- Annihilationism—life ceases completely for the unsaved
- Soul Sleep—no intermediate state between death and resurrection
- Reincarnation—we come back as cockroach, eagle, geranium, Buick, etc

Biblical Perspectives on Death

- End of a person's temporal existence
- Must involve discussion of anthropology and hamartiology
- Death is inevitable (except for the Lord's return)
- Death is both natural and unnatural
- Death is an enemy and curse (Heb 2:15; 1 Cor 15:26)

Biblical Perspectives on Death

- Death is feared, final, and often unexpected
- Death is under God's sovereign control—1 Sam 2:6; Job 12:10; Ps 90:3
- Death occurs when a person takes his final breath (Job 14:10)
- Three types of death: spiritual, physical, eternal

Biblical Perspectives on Death

- What Comes After Death?
 - Intermediate state in recognizable spirit form
 - Psalm 49:15; Ps 73:24; Eccl 12:7; Luke 9:30-31; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59-60; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:22-24
 - Resurrection of the body
 - Job 19:26; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:42-43; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:16-17
 - Endless life in either heaven or hell (Rev 20-22)

Angelology Broad Overview

Definition: A created spirit being with moral and intellectual ability but no physical body

TERMS:

- "host" (of heaven) (Neh 9:6; 1 Kgs 22:19)
- "Sons of God" and "morning stars" (Job 1:6; 38:7)
- "Watchers" (Dan 4:13, 17, 23)
- "Ministering spirits" (Heb 1:14)

Angelology Broad Overview

NOT called angels specifically but the best option:

1. “Cherubim” (Eden and Ark of Covenant)
2. “Seraphim” (Isaiah 6)
3. “Living creatures”—Ezek 1 and Rev 4

Basic Facts:

- Likely created first day of creation to be witnesses to creation (Job 38:6-7)
- Non-reproducing (Matt 22:28-30)
- Immortal (Luke 20:36)
- Personal beings
- Spirit beings (Heb 1:14) yet can manifest physically (Gen 18:3)
- Powerful (Ps 103:20)
- Arranged in hierarchy—Col 1:16; Jude 6 & 9,
- Holy angels (1 Tim 5:21) vs. fallen angels (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 9:11)

Tasks

- Rejoicing - at creation (Job 38:7)
- Guarding Eden (cherubs - Gen 3:24)
- Visiting patriarchs (Gen 18-19)
- Protecting Israel (Dan 10:13; cf. chaps 8-12)
- Giving the Law (?) (Gal 3:19; Acts 7:53)

Tasks

- Delivering messages (Dan 4, 9; Rev 1:1; Acts 12; 27:23-24)
- Delivering revelation concerning Christ:
 - birth (Luke 1:26)
 - resurrection (Matt 28:5-7)
 - ascension (Acts 1:10)
- Strengthening Christ in wilderness (Matt 4:11) and in Gethsemane (Luke 22:43)
- Army of Christ at his 2nd Coming (Matt 25:31)

Tasks

With Believers:

- Sent to serve (Heb 1:14)
- Protection (Ps 91:11)
- Conducting departed spirit (?) (Luke 16:22)
- Observing Christian experiences (1 Cor 4:9; cf. 1 Pet 1:12)
- Gathering the elect at the end (Matt 24:31)

Satan and Demons: Key Facts

- Satan's name is not Lucifer
- Christian cannot be "possessed"—2 Cor 5:17; Col 1:13
- Don't major on demons
- Don't dabble in anything occult related
- Focus on following Christ
- Our protection is in Christ and in the armor of Eph 6
 - We resist (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9)
 - Trust GOD'S power (1 Cor 10:13)
- Don't UNDER/OVER estimate Satan's power
- Romans 8:31