

The Inscrutable Question: Essence of Angels: Characteristics of Angels' Bodies

- 30) Thus, angels are spirits, but do these spirits have what we might refer to as bodies. A clue is give to us by Paul in:

1 Corinthians 15:39 - All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men and another flesh of beasts and another flesh of birds and another of fish.

NOTE: This verse confirms the fallacy of the major tenant of the theology of evolution, which is macroevolution. Biology has confirmed the validity of microevolution but this is evident to the casual observer who is familiar with cross breeding within a species.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary:

Species: A category of biological classification comprising organisms potentially capable of interbreeding. [For example, different breeds of dogs can hybrids but a dog and a cat cannot produce offspring.]

Microevolution: Comparatively minor evolutionary changes involving the accumulation of variations in populations usually below the species level.

Macroevolution: Evolution that culminates in relatively large and complex changes as in species formation.

Paul completely discredits macroevolution in verse 39.

v 40 - There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one and the glory of the earthly is another.

v 42a - So also is the resurrection of the dead.

v 44 - It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

v 48 - As is the earth, so also are those who are earthly; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

- 31) This context regards the resurrection bodies of believers but defines those bodies as being spiritual. Heavenly bodies can include the stars, planets, and moons but we perceive these heavenly bodies by means of the light they emanate.
- 32) The presence of deity in the Old Testament was manifest by a light referred to by the Israelites as the Shekinah Glory. As a pillar of fire its brightness illuminated the crossing of Little Bitter Lake, led the Jews throughout the Jornada wanderings, and, when in bivouac, was stationed over the Tabernacle's Holy of Holies.
- 33) We have learned that the angels are spirits and that they have heavenly bodies. Figuratively, the angels are referred to in Scripture as "stars," which are identified by their light.

Job 38:7 - (v. 6: Who laid the earth's cornerstone) when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- 34) The presence of deity is associated with light, e.g., the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2), the pillar of fire in the *Jornada* (Exodus 13:21), and the Shekinah Glory of the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34).

- 35) Further, the angels are able to move at incredible speed. In Daniel 9, Daniel contemplates that the 70 years assigned to Judah for the Babylonian captivity is about over. He then begins a prayer appealing for divine restoration of Jerusalem. As he begins his prayer, the angel Gabriel is dispatched from heaven to personally instruct Daniel about the future of the Jewish people. In this context we see the phenomenal speed by which angels are able to travel.

Daniel 9:21 - [NIV] While I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

v 22 - He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

v 23 - As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.

- 36) Daniel began his prayer in Daniel 9:4. At that point The Lord issued an answer that he commissioned Gabriel to deliver in person. Gabriel is said to have taken “swift flight” and arrived in Babylon with the answer before Daniel finished his prayer. We see the interruption of the prayer in verse 21: “While I was still in prayer Gabriel came to me in swift flight.”
- 37) From this we are able to conclude that spirit beings can travel from the third heaven, which is outside the universe, and arrive on Planet Earth within a matter of minutes.
- 38) In Genesis 6 we learn about the angelic infiltration of the human race, a satanic assault on true humanity and the human life of Christ. These angels cohabited with human women producing a half-angelic, half-human species known as the Nephilim /NEF-e-lem /.
- 39) God stopped this nefarious scheme before it could reach conclusion by means of the universal flood that drowned all these super-human creatures but spared Noah and his family.
- 40) The demons responsible for this unlawful involvement in human sexuality were incarcerated permanently in the Tartarus division of Hades.

2 Peter 2:4 - If God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment ...

- 41) Remember that I have told you there is no “hell” in the Bible. However, the word is used in this verse by the KJV, the NIV, and the NASV. But the Greek word found here is:

τάρταρος / tartaros / - a division of hades.

- 42) Further, they are said to be held there in “pits of darkness.” The word for “pits” is the plural noun:

σειρά / seira / - “chains”

These chains are described by a prepositional phrase:

ζόφος / zophos / - “of darkness”; a darkness so thick that it may be felt; blackness. This word indicates a darkness in which there is absolutely no penetration of light of any kind no matter how faint.

- 43) Further amplification comes from:

Jude 6 -The angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

The word translated bonds is the locative of place from the noun:

δεσμός / *desmos* / - the actual bonds or chains that bind a person. Again these chains are described by the same prepositional phrase as in 2 Peter 2:4:

ζόφος / *zophos* / - “of darkness”; a thick, utter blackness.

- 44) Now what have we learned from all these references?
 1. Angels are spirits according to Psalm 104:4 compared with Hebrews 1:7, 14.
 2. These spirits are supplied with heavenly bodies according to 1 Corinthians 15:37-48.
 3. Angels are figuratively referred to as “stars” in Job 34:7.
 4. Appearances of Jesus Christ in Old Testament theophanies were accompanied by various manifestations of light, e.g., Exodus 3:2, 13:21, and 40:34.
 5. Gabriel was able to move with incredible speed, or “fly swiftly,” from heaven to Babylon in less time than it took Daniel to pray a prayer according to Daniel 9:21-23.
 6. The demons who are incarcerated in Tartarus are said to be held there by “chains of darkness” in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6. The statement indicates they are held by “chains *of* darkness,” not “chains *in* darkness.”
- 45) From all this we are able to deduce that the “heavenly bodies” of the angels were created out of light, clothed in light, or are empowered by light. The passages on the demons in Tartarus indicate that their mobility is totally incapacitated by the absence of light. Remember, the electromagnetic spectrum contains a tremendous number of frequencies of which visible light is only a very small part.
- 46) Other characteristics of angelic essence include:
 1. Great power and strength:

2 Thessalonians 1:7b - ... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty [**δύναμις / *dunamis* /: powerful**] angels in flaming fire.
 2. The physical beauty of angels is compared with the appearance of Stephen when he was under trial before the Sanhedrin in:

Acts 6:15 - Fixing their gaze upon (Stephen), all who were sitting in the Council saw his face like the face of an angel.
 3. David is described with angelic attributes. For example the Philistine king Achish, with whom David found refuge from Saul, said to David in:

1 Samuel 29:9 - “I know that you are pleasing in my sight, like an angel of God.”
 4. The woman of Tekoa compared David’s sense of justice with that of angels in:

2 Samuel 14:17b - “... as the angel of the Lord, so is my lord the king to discern good and evil.”
 5. And finally, the voice of an angel is resonant and captivating beyond anything the human larynx could ever hope to match. This is brought out in:

Ezekiel 28:13c - ...the workmanship of your settings and sockets was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

This passage compares the voice of Lucifer to that of a pipe organ in its beauty and range. We will note this passage in more detail at a later time.