

Angelic Hierarchy

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7).

I understand the angelic hierarchy order to include different categories of angelic beings.

The Morning Stars

1. Cherubim

Their primary responsibility is, “to cover, to protect, to guard,” the throne of God.

Cherubim with flaming swords were stationed at the entrance of the garden of Eden to prevent Adam and Eve from returning and eating the fruit of the tree of life (Gen. 3:24; cf. Rev 21:12;22:14). They guarded the gates of garden against intrusion.

Their guardianship of God’s throne was illustrated by two golden cherubim figures attached to the ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, during the dispensation of law (Exodus 25:18-20).

Moreover, they are described as being carriers of God's throne (Psalm 18:10). In Ezekiel's visions, the throne of God rests *above* the cherubim (Ezekiel 1:22-26;10:1).

These glorious beings have four wings and four faces. The face of a lion, the face of an ox, the face of an eagle and face of a man make up their head. Their entire bodies, including their backs, their hands, and their wings, are completely full of eyes (Ezekiel 10:12).

God's holy throne is *encircled* by the cherubim (Psalm 80:1). They are the closest of the angelic beings to God Almighty. The closer a being is to the throne, the more exalted the being is. Lucifer, the anointed cherub, was the most exalted of all angelic beings (Ezekiel 28: 11-18).

2. **Seraphim**

The root word for seraph means "to burn." They are creatures of radiant energy. They are vindicators of God's holiness, and their responsibility is worshiping the Creator.

In Isaiah 6, they are seen *above* God's throne. Each having six wings. With two wings they cover their faces, with two they cover their feet, and with the other two, they stand flying.

Incessantly they proclaim God's holiness, one to another by saying, "*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.*"

3. **Living Creatures**

These creatures seem to combine attributes of both the cherubim and seraphim (Rev.4). Each has six wings. One looks like an ox, one like a lion, one like a flying eagle and one has the face of a man.

These mysterious creatures are covered with eyes, in the front and the back. They are covered with eyes all around, even under their wings.

They are in the center, around the throne of God (Rev. 4:6).

The Angels

1. Archangels

Archangels being the chief of the angels. Archangels, like Michel and Gabriel (?), have angels beneath their command.

2. Angels

Apparently, angels are the lowest order of spiritual beings. In Genesis 6:2 and Job 1: 6, they are called sons of God. Daniel is possibly referring to them when speaking of Watchers (Dan. 4:13,17,23 KJV).

Col.1:16, outlines how angelic creatures are well organized, each certainly maintaining an assigned position and function.

- a) **Thrones**—these are those that are in the immediate presence of God.
- b) **Dominions** –these are those next to the thrones.
- c) **Principalities (Rulers)** –who rule over distant peoples and nations.
- d) **Powers (Authorities)**— subordinate angels serving under one of the other orders.

