When were angels created?

Miscellaneous · https://thebiblicalroots.org/answers/when-were-angels-created/

The Bible never gives a specific day or timestamp for the creation of angels, but the text strongly suggests they were created before the creation of humanity and likely before or during the early stages of creation week.

Angels are not eternal beings like God. They are created spiritual beings who serve Yahweh and carry out His purposes (Ps. 148:2–5; Col. 1:16). This means they should never be viewed as divine, semi-divine, or co-eternal with God. Christianity has always maintained a clear distinction between the Creator and His creatures. God alone is eternal and uncreated (Ps. 90:2). Angels, by contrast, were brought into existence by Him and remain fully dependent on Him.

The clearest biblical clue about the timing of angelic creation comes from the book of Job. When God questions Job about creation, He says:

> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth… when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4–7)

Many scholars understand “morning stars” and “sons of God” in this passage as references to angels. If that interpretation is correct, then angels were already present when God laid the foundations of the earth. In other words, they existed before or during the events of Genesis 1.

The Bible also teaches that Jesus Christ created all things, including the angelic realm. Paul writes that by Christ:

> “All things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities” (Col. 1:16).

Those terms (“thrones,” “dominions,” “rulers,” “authorities”) are commonly understood as references to spiritual beings or angelic orders. This is important theologically because it places angels firmly within creation. They are mighty and glorious creatures, but they are creatures nonetheless. They are not rivals to God.

Historically, Christians have generally concluded that angels were created sometime before humanity but have differed on exactly when. Some theologians believe they were created on the first day alongside the heavens (Gen. 1:1). Others argued they may have been created before the six-day creation account formally begins. Because Scripture does not explicitly settle the question, Christians should avoid excessive speculation.

It is also worth noting that Satan himself is a fallen angel, not an evil god opposing Yahweh as an equal force. This is a major distinction between biblical Christianity and various dualistic worldviews. Satan was created good and later rebelled against God (Isa. 14:12–15; Ezek. 28:11–17 are often associated typologically with this rebellion, though interpretations differ). This means evil is not eternal. God alone is eternal.

One final observation: the Bible never encourages believers to become overly fascinated with angels themselves. The focus of Scripture is consistently on Christ, not angelology. Hebrews opens by emphasizing that Jesus is vastly superior to the angels (Heb. 1:1–14). Angels are servants; Christ is the eternal Son.

Key Scriptures to Study

Core teaching passages

- Genesis 1:1–2 — God alone is the Creator of all things.
- Job 38:4–7 — Angels (“sons of God”) appear present at creation.
- Colossians 1:16–17 — Christ created all spiritual powers and authorities.
- Psalm 148:2–5 — Angels are commanded to praise God because He created them.
- Hebrews 1:1–14 — Jesus is superior to all angels.

Supporting theological framework

- Nehemiah 9:6 — God made “the host of heaven.”
- John 1:1–3 — Everything that exists was made through the Word.
- Revelation 5:11–12 — Angels are worshippers around God’s throne, not objects of worship themselves.

Objections & Misconceptions

Common Objection: “Are angels eternal?”

No. Scripture consistently teaches that only God is eternal and uncreated (Ps. 90:2). Angels are part of creation and were brought into existence by God (Col. 1:16).

Common Objection: “Did angels exist before Genesis 1:1?”

The Bible never explicitly says so. Some Christians believe angels were created before the six-day creation account began, while others believe they were created during the opening moments of creation week. Scripture simply does not provide enough detail to be dogmatic.

Common Objection: “Are demons a different kind of being than angels?”

The traditional Christian understanding is that demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God under Satan’s leadership (Rev. 12:7–9). They are not eternal evil beings.

Why This Matters

Understanding that angels are created beings protects the uniqueness and supremacy of God. Scripture never presents angels as independent spiritual powers competing equally with Yahweh. God alone is eternal, sovereign, and worthy of worship.

This doctrine also keeps our focus where the Bible places it: on Jesus Christ. The New Testament repeatedly warns against unhealthy fascination with angels or mystical speculation about the spiritual realm (Col. 2:18). Angels are real, powerful, and active in God’s purposes—but they are servants of the King, not the center of the story.

Recommended Resources

- The Screwtape Letters (C. S. Lewis) — A creative and accessible introduction to spiritual realities and temptation.
- Angels: What the Bible Really Says about God's Heavenly Host (Michael S. Heiser) — A pastoral overview of what Scripture teaches about angels.