**Milton, *Paradise Lost* Book 2**

**Wesley Advocates 15 March 2020**

**Traditional Tiers of Angels** (Greek *aggelos* = messenger, one who announces;

*Euaggelos*=messenger with good news, evangelist)

*First Sphere*

seraphim: burning ones, caretakers of God’s throne, those who continuously

shout praises, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts”; fiery, six-winged

beings with two wings to cover faces, two to cover feet, two to fly with

cherubim: guardians of the way to the Tree of Life, each with four conjoined

wings covered with eyes, a lion’s body, feet of oxen; each with four

faces—man, ox, lion, eagle (later adopted as symbols for four evangelists)

thrones: the elders, symbols of God’s justice and authority; wheels and many-

eyed ones who listen to the will of God and present the prayers of men

*Second Sphere*

dominions: those regulating the duties of lower angels; rarely making them-

selves physically known to human beings; each with pairs of feathered

wings and wielding light orbs fastened to heads of their scepters or

pommels of their swords

virtues, or strongholds: those through which signs and miracles are made in

the world; brilliant or shining ones; angels of miracles with unshakable

virility)

powers, or authorities: those supervising movements of heavenly bodies and

keeping cosmos in order; warrior angels who oppose evil spirits; each wearing armor and helmets and using weapons such as shields and

spears

*Third Sphere*

principalities, or princes: those guiding and protecting nations, groups of

peoples, and institutions such as the church; those presiding over bands

of angels and charging them with fulfilling divine ministry; each wearing

a crown and carrying a scepter

archangels: chief angels; guardians of countries and nations, concerned with

politics, military matters, commerce, trade; seven representing days of

week—Michael for Sun, Gabriel for Mon, Raphael for Tues, Uriel for Wed,

Selaphiel for Thurs, Raguel for Fri, Barachiel for Sat

guardian angels: messengers, envoys, those most frequently recognized and

most concerned with affairs of men