



Who Is Michael the Archangel?

Many have puzzled over the question of who the archangel “*Michael*” really is. Many believe that Michael is Jesus Christ. Is that even possible? Isn’t he just a strong angel serving God? “Arch angel” means the head or chief of the angels. Does that mean that “he” is a created angel?

In everything we study, it is important to discover spiritual truths! Here is the first one:

- The name Michael is of Hebrew origin [*miykael*] and means “*He who is assuredly God.*”
- It is taken from the root Hebrew words *miy* (who is), *kiy* (assuredly) and *'el* (God).

Daniel Holds Many Clues about Michael

Daniel 9:25 refers to “*Messiah the Prince.*” In Hebrew, this is a “couplet.” The “*Messiah,*” the Savior Jesus Christ, is also called the “*Prince.*” That prophecy predicted exactly when Christ would be here and die.

- Notice the next chapter: “*But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but **Michael your prince***” (Daniel 10:21).
- Luke even noted: “*Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a **Prince and a Saviour,** for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31).

In Daniel 10 Gabriel is talking to Daniel. The seventy years captivity in Babylon for the Jewish people is about to end. Gabriel is working to influence Cyrus, king of the new world Medo-Persian Empire, to release them.

- But – another “*prince*” is trying to block that from happening.
- Gabriel speaks: “*But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes [‘the chief prince’]¹, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia*” (Daniel 10:13 – NIV).
- Scholars believe this “*prince of Persia*” to be Satan.

Then Michael comes along to help Gabriel (who stands in the presence of God) (Luke 1:19).

¹ Doukhan, Jacques, Jewish scholar.

- Michael is stronger than this highest angel Gabriel.
- Gabriel apparently took Lucifer's place when he was cast out of heaven.
- The record in Daniel is in Hebrew, in which "*Michael*" means the one who "*is assuredly God.*"

This, incidentally, is the third time Gabriel is personally speaking with Daniel.

Note: At this point, the weight of evidence suggests that Michael is Christ!

Daniel isn't finished hearing about Michael:

Daniel 12:1 (NKJV): *"At that time **Michael shall stand up**, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book."*

- This "time" relates to when the antichrist is destroyed (Daniel 11:45 – the previous verse).
- "*Michael*," the "one who is assuredly God," is now called once again a "*prince*" – in fact, a "*great prince.*" That wording began in Daniel 9:25 with "*Messiah the Prince.*"
- Here, another clue is added! Michael protects Daniel's people.
- In fact, at the end of time when they are being persecuted, he rescues them!!!

Standing up is a distinct transition phrase in the plan of redemption!

Looking Now at the New Testament and the Puzzling "Angel" Question

Revelation 12:7-9 (NIV): *"And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."*

- Interesting – Michael is in heaven with his angels.
- Michael is stronger than Satan and all his angels.

Since we know that Satan used to be called Lucifer (Isaiah 14:11-16, Ezekiel 28:1-19) and was the highest angel in heaven, ***who is greater than he?***

Michael, the "one who is assuredly God."

It is most interesting that Jesus had sent out seventy disciples to spread the good news of the Messiah's arrival. When they came back they said: "LORD, even the DEVILS are SUBJECT unto us through THY name" (Luke 10:17).

- What can be done when the Spirit controls?
- What might we soon do if we permit the Spirit to control us?

Who is stronger than Satan/Lucifer? Once again, we find it is Michael, who can only be Jesus Christ the Messiah!

Our last text that gives many challenges to Bible students:

Jude 1:9 (NIV): "But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

The first question we must raise: "Is Jesus ever called an angel?"

- "This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people. He [Moses] was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai [God/Messiah spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai], and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us. But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt" (Act 7:37-39 – NIV).
- "And he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?" (Zechariah 3:1-3).

Virtually all scholars recognize these angels as the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

BUT – Jude says that Michael is the "archangel."

- "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven [His Second Coming] with a shout of command, with **the voice of the archangel**, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (I Thessalonians 4:16 – NET).
- This is one of the wonderful texts discussing the return of Jesus when all the dead in Christ rise to eternal life.

Archangel (*archaggelos* – G) simply means a "being of a higher order."²



² BDAG Lexicon.

- “Therefore God **exalted him to the highest place** and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth” (Philippians 2:10 – NIV).

Going Deeper

Some assume that two voices are sounding in Thessalonians – both Jesus and the archangel. However, if we look at verse 16 we will see that this is probably not an option.

“Because the Lord Himself shall come down from Heaven with a commanding shout of an archangel's voice, and with God's trumpet. And the dead in Christ will rise again first” (Thessalonians 4:16 – Greens Literal Translation).

Now, for a good comparison, let's see what Christ said when He was on Earth.

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when **the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God**: and they that hear shall live.*

*“For as the Father hath life in himself; **so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself**;*

*“And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because **he is the Son of man**.*

*“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice**,*

*“**And shall come forth**; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:25-29).*

Let's look in the Old Testament for some more evidence. In the book of Joshua we see that Joshua also saw Michael the Archangel. This account also presents a strong case showing that Michael is Jesus:

Whose voice do the dead “hear”? Son of God – Son of man – archangel – Michael.

*“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood **a man** over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?*

*“And he said, Nay; but as **captain of the host of the LORD** am I now come. And **Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship**, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?*

*“And the **captain of the LORD'S host** said unto Joshua, **Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy**. And Joshua did so.*

“Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

*“And **the LORD** said to Joshua: ‘See! **I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor**’ (Joshua 5:13-6:2).*

This account in the book of Joshua is very important because we can now “nail down” who Joshua saw. Joshua met the **captain of the Lord’s host**, and then we find that it was the Lord! Joshua worshiped Him, and He did not stop Joshua in his worship. In fact, the Lord actually encouraged Joshua to worship Him! This is very significant. Recall that Michael was head of a retinue of heavenly angels.

In addition, in the next two verses, we see that the “*Captain of the host of the LORD*” is now called “*The LORD*.” The original Hebrew word is “*Yahweh*” (YHWH), which refers to the true God. It is the proper name of the one true God. Thus Scriptures itself identifies this person, the captain of the host of the Lord, as God or Lord.

This being is definitely not a created being! He accepts worship and actually encourages that He be worshipped. In addition, He is identified as the one true God, Yahweh!

In Revelation, when John tried to worship an angel, the angel told him not to do that:

*“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, **See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**” (Revelation 19:10).*

We are not to worship created beings. We are fellow servants with the angels, who serve God. Thus, angels will not accept worship. We are only to worship God!

Conclusion

Michael the Archangel is Messiah the Prince, Jesus Christ. No one else qualifies!