

What Do You Know About Angels?

Sunday, 9/29 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 9/30 at 7 PM

St. Michael and All Angels – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today's topic is angels:

- God created a large number – *probably on day 1 of creation*; angel means messenger; *they are powerful!*
- They were all created holy, *but they had a free will.*
- Sometime – *very shortly after God completed His very good work of creation*, Satan rebelled one-third of the angels in rebellion against God and tempted the woman to disobey God's command.
- Those rebel angels are known as demons/devils, doomed for eternity, and have no opportunity to be saved. *The Son of God came into the world to put on human flesh to save all humans, but not angels.*
- God directs the holy angels to bless us in many ways; for example, they battle against the evil angels who are trying to destroy our relationship with Jesus.

In this sermon, we will consider some additional aspects of angels – based on today's OT, Epistle, and Gospel readings...

1. **Daniel's Terrifying Vision of a Man:** Regarding Daniel chapter 10, Luther wrote: *Daniel writes something special about the angels... that the good angels do battle with the evil angels in defense of men.... Daniel calls also the evil angels princes, as when he speaks of 'the prince of Greece'*

[10:20]. Hence we may understand why things are so wild and [immoral] at the courts of kings and princes, and why they hinder the good and bring on war and unhappiness. For there are devils there... hindering to such an extent that nothing goes as it should” (LW, AE 35:305-6).

- a. Vision and explanation: Early in chapter 10, Daniel was shown an amazing vision of a man who was, *most likely*, the Son of God (cf. Ez. 1:26-28; Rev. 1:13-15). Then a hand touched Daniel who was, *most likely*, Gabriel, one of the greatest angels. Then he told Daniel about a recent battle between himself and a powerful evil angel, *who is referred to as a prince*; he said: ^{10:13} **The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes** [*the only one in the Bible who is referred to as an archangel (Jude 1:9)*], **came to help me... ¹⁴ and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”** // The Son of God appeared over and over again in the OT as *the Angel of the LORD*; also, based on various passages, it seems that *the angel, Michael* must also be the Son of God – since only He has the power to defeat Satan and all of the other evil angels! The Bible says: **“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil”** (1 Jn. 3:8 NAS).
- b. Daniel chapter 12: Now, *jumping ahead*:
- i. Michael and great trouble: ¹ **“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation** [*which was after the time of Noah*] **till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone**

whose name shall be found written in the book. //

There was great trouble ✦ at the time of Antiochus Epiphanes (168/167 BC) and ✦ at the fall of Jerusalem (AD 70), *but the Son of God granted ultimate deliverance to all who were written in God's book!*

- ii. **The end of time:** ² **And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. //** Jesus will raise all when He comes; the repentant to life; the unrepentant to punishment.
- iii. **The blessed eternity for believers:** ³ **And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” //** How can we be wise? *By focusing on and living for eternal things!*

2. **Satan Thrown Down to Earth:** Satan had more freedom in the OT; for example, in the book of Job, *he was in heaven (Job 1:6-7)*. Now, going to Revelation chapter 12:

- a. ⁷ **...war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸ but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have**

conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. // It's hard to say exactly when Satan and the other evil angels were thrown down; they were certainly defeated on Good Friday, *and the fullness of that victory will be clear when Jesus returns!*

- b. **¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!** // The Bible describes Satan as a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (**1 Peter 5:8**), *so it is vital to remain close to Jesus and the Bible!*

3. **The Return of the Seventy-Two:** Upon returning from a short-term missionary trip, *as recorded in Luke 10*, the men said to Jesus: **¹⁷ “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And [Jesus] said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.... [So those who trust in Jesus have been given power over the demons.] ²⁰ Nevertheless, [Jesus said to them] do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”** // Evil angels are many and powerful, yet, *through Jesus, the Christ, we need not fear them!* So, in Christ, we are ♠forgiven, ♠angel-protected, and ♠richly blessed both now and forevermore!

This Week's Challenge: Take 5 minutes to write down anything new you learned today about angels.

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, TY for granting us the amazing gifts of life, forgiveness, angel protection, and heaven!