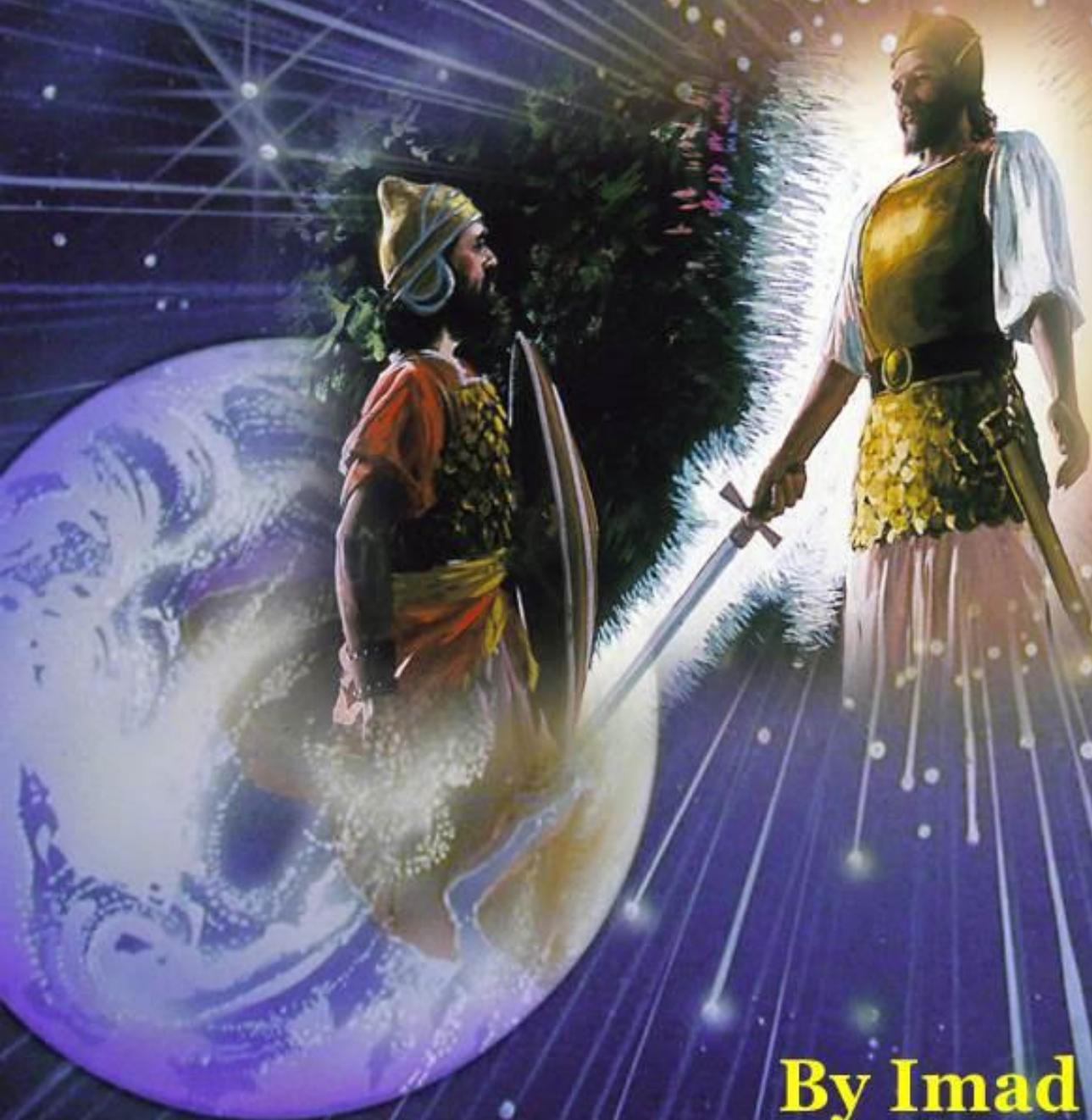


Who is Michael the Archangel?



By Imad Awde

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Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:12

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Who is Michael?

Many answers have been put forward in response to this question. Some believe Michael is a high-ranking angel; others believe He is the first angel created. Still others hold to the belief that Michael is another name for Jesus.

What does the Bible say about the identity of Michael? Does it answer this question, and if so, what does it say?

In this study we will follow the method laid out for us in Isaiah 28:10

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.

Let us go through the Scriptures with an open mind, seeking to find an answer to the question at hand.

We will begin our search in the book of Joshua:

Joshua 5:13-15 *“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.”*

We can see from these verses that the being who stood in front of Joshua with a sword in his hand identified himself as the “*captain of the host of the LORD*”.

Who is the host of the Lord? We find the answer in Psalms 148:2, 3 *“Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.”* According to this verse, the angels are the hosts of the Lord.

We find it also in Psalms 103: 20, 21 *“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”*

From these two verses, it becomes very clear that the angels are the hosts of the Lord.

Now, having proven that from Scripture, we can safely say that the being Joshua saw was the ‘captain’ of the angels of the Lord, or ‘captain’ of all the hosts of the angels.

And here we must ask ourselves a very important question. Is it necessary for the captain of the angels of the Lord to be an angel? In other words, Is this captain of the angels a created being?

We will find our answer in the reaction of Joshua to the words of the one who identified himself as the ‘captain of the hosts’ (angels).

The Bible says in Joshua 5:14, *“And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?”*

Did you notice that?

Joshua worshipped the captain of the angels, and He accepted the worship. When John in

the book of Revelation bowed to worship the angel, it was refused, and John was instructed to worship God alone.

“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.” Revelation 22: 8,9.

This verse should be sufficient to understand we can only worship God.

Therefore, we can conclude that the captain of the hosts (angels) of the Lord who accepted the worship of Joshua, was not a created angel, but a divine Being worthy of worship. Not only did this captain accept the worship of Joshua, but he said the ground upon which he stood was “*holy*” (Joshua 5:15).

This is additional proof that the captain of the host of the Lord was not a created angel. No angel has sanctified the ground on which he stood; only in the story of the burning bush does the ground become holy, and that is because God stood on it.

“And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” Exodus 3: 4,5

So we have seen clearly from the Bible, that the captain of the host (angels) of the Lord, is not a created angel, but is equal to God, and worthy of worship.

Let us examine another verse found in Jude 9 to see what else we can learn:

“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”

We can see from this verse that the archangel is Michael. It is important to note that archangel is made up of two words:

- Arch meaning chief, ruler, captain
- Angel

The name Michael means “who is like God”, so the phrase “Michael the archangel” means ‘the captain of the angels, who is like God’.

In Jude 9, we find Michael contending with the devil when about to raise Moses from the dead. Satan is the one who “*had the power of death*” (Hebrews 2:14), and Jesus Christ is the One that has “*the keys of hell and of death*” Revelation 1:18. Christ alone is “*the resurrection and the life*”. John 11:25.

Hence Jude 9 shows us that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ, because Jesus is the only One who has the right and the power to raise the dead, those who are the prisoners of Satan.

Someone might object here and say – If Michael is Jesus, why did He say, “*the Lord rebuke thee*”? In other words, if Michael is Jesus Himself, why did He not rebuke the devil? Why should the Lord Jesus refrain from rebuking the devil, and refer him to the Father. Does this mean Michael is not Jesus, but a being who is unable to rebuke Satan?

We find the answer to these questions in Zechariah 3:1, 2.

“And he shewed 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?”

As you can see, Zechariah tells us *“the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee”*. Here we see two Beings called the LORD. The first “LORD” (Jesus) refrained from rebuking Satan, and instead referred him to the “LORD” (the Father).

Hence, referring Satan to the Father for a rebuke is not conclusive evidence that Michael is a created angel. It is understandable for Michael, the “Captain of the hosts of the Lord”, who is Jesus Christ the Son of God, to refer Satan to the Father when He resurrected Moses. He had already done so in Zechariah.

Another verse that sheds more light on the identity of Michael is found in Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians:

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

In this verse Paul tells us that the dead in Christ will rise when they hear the voice or shout of Michael the archangel. In John 5:25 Jesus Christ tells us that the dead will rise when they hear the voice of the Son of God. *“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.”*

From these two verses we conclude that the shout, or voice of the archangel, spoken of by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, is none other than the voice of the Son of God. Based on this Biblical evidence, it is very clear that Michael the archangel is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who will raise the dead with His voice.

Furthermore, the Bible tells us in Daniel 12:1 that Michael the great prince is the One who stands for His people in the time of trouble that precedes His second coming.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” Daniel 12:1

It is Jesus (Michael, the great prince) who will stand up for God’s people. Jesus has promised He will never leave us nor forsake us; His promise extends to all eternity, especially during the *“time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation”*.

The Son of God is the only Being in the entire universe who can be worshipped. He alone holds the title ‘who is like God’, because the Scripture tells us He was begotten in the express image of the Father.

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” Hebrews 1:3,4

Jesus is the only Being who is the express image of the Father. Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find any other Being described as the “express image” of God the Father.

Below is a comparison between what the Bible has to say about Michael and Jesus:

Michael is called	Jesus is called
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A prince – Daniel 10:21• An Archangel – Jude 9 • He is the chief or leader of the angels Rev 12:7• “The <u>great</u> prince” – Daniel 12:1 • The “protector of your people” Daniel 12:1 CEV• The “great prince which standeth [represents or intercedes] for the children of thy people” Daniel 12:1 KJV• Michael is One who is like God	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Prince – Daniel 9:25• Speaks with the voice of the archangel – 1 Thessalonians 4:16• The leader of the angels – Rev 19:13 – 16• “The prince of princes” – Daniel 8:25• The Saviour of God’s people – Titus 3:13• Jesus is the only One who intercedes for God’s children – 1 Tim 2:5 • Jesus is the express image of the Father – Hebrews 1:2, 3 ; John 1:1

Michael is the name Jesus, the Son of God, had before He was incarnated. He was the Prince of heaven, and Satan was jealous:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” Revelation 12: 8-11

Michael is simply another name for the same divine Being, Jesus the Son of God. Here are some of Christ’s names that pertain to the topic we are studying:

The Angel of Jehovah

Genesis 22:15. *And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time*

The Angel of God

Exodus 14:19. *And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:*

The Angel of His Presence

Isaiah 63:9. *In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them*

all the days of old.

Just because the Bible calls Jesus “the angel of God” does not make Him a created angel. It is the same with “Michael the archangel”. It is another description of Jesus. He is not only referred to as “the Angel of God”, but also as “the captain of the host” (of the angels) and “Michael the Archangel”.

The Bible clearly reveals the identity of Michael.

It leaves no doubt in the mind of the honest seeker as to the identity of Michael.

He is Jesus, the One who is like God; the One who is the express image of God; and the One who has the form of God.

Michael is the One who is altogether lovely, none other than Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Back](#)

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