

Christ, Satan, and Michael

Commentary for December 6, 2006 — Correctly Distinguishing between Them

Question: *The Bible says that Satan is a Querubim [cherub] and also a God. So with more reason the Bible calls the only archangel Michael (Jesus) a God either. And if you have the opportunity to read John 1:1 in the original Greek you will realize the difference.*

In Malachi 3:1–3 the Bible said that God will send an angel of the covenant, who is that angel? If that is not Michael (Jesus) who is it?

Daniel 12:1 talks about a great prince and will certainly occur a time of distress such as has not been made to occur since there came to be a nation until that time, and also talks about resurrection made by Michael, that means that Jesus and Michael can both raise people from dead?

And when we go to Apocalypse [the Book of Revelation] Michael destroys Satan, fulfilling the prophecy of genesis 3:15 so that means that Michael (Jesus) is the seed that will destroy Satan. If that is not true then the Bible is lying.

Whatever is the problem, the truth sooner or later will show up.

ANSWER: Thank you for your questions. I certainly agree with you about the truth being known — eventually. I believe that God shall accomplish His will. It is specifically stated that it is God's will for all men **"to come unto the knowledge** [full knowledge, *epignosis* in Greek] **of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4).

Let me take your points somewhat in order.

Satan Is Not a Cherub

Satan **is not** a cherub. Ezekiel chapter 28 does not apply to Satan. That idea is erroneously assumed by many. It is not so stated in the text. You are correct, Satan is an *elohim*, which means "powerful one," because he is said to be a "god" in 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Satan (as the serpent) and cherubs were in the Garden of Eden along with God. Along with Adam, Eve, and the animals, the Garden was a busy place (Ezekiel 28:12–14).

A cherub **is not** a serpent. A cherub does not look like a serpent. A Cherub is never described with serpentine or dragonlike characteristics. A cherub has one of four appearances as described in the Books of Ezekiel and Revelation: a man, a lion, an ox, or an eagle. At times they combine to form a single vehicle.

Satan **is** the serpent, the dragon, the Devil, according to Revelation 12:9, 20:2. Satan definitely has a reptilian aspect to him by virtue of his serpent and dragon shape, form, and description. These are not merely symbols. They are accurate descriptions

of reality. This is a totally different description from a cherub as shown in Ezekiel and Revelation.

Michael Is Not Christ

Michael **is NOT** Jesus Christ. Christ **is not** an angel.

This is certain because no angel can be called a son (Hebrews 1:4–5, 13). Jesus is God's only begotten Son (John 1:14, 18, 3:16–18; 1 John 4:9).

Christ returns **“with the voice of an archangel”** (1 Thessalonians 4:16), but this alone indicates that He is not an archangel. Jesus will also return **“with the trump of God,”** but no one suggests Christ is a trumpet!

There is a being called the Angel of the Lord who was the one representing YHWH in the Old Testament theophanies. He had the authority to use the name YHWH in his pronouncements representing YHWH.

See the ASK website search engine. Type in the words "Angel of the Lord" and read the resulting material, particularly chapter 2 of Dr. Martin's book *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, online. Chapter 2 is titled "[The Law Was Given by Angels.](#)"

Malachi and Daniel

Malachi 3:1–3 refers to someone different from the Messiah. It is not the archangel Michael. Christ said that John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy (Matthew 11:10–11).

Michael does indeed stand up for Israel in Daniel 12:1. However, Michael standing for the living people of God is a different event than the resurrection of verses 2–3. They happen at the same time, but the events are different. Daniel 11:40–12:1 is a single narrative of related times and events. The events of Daniel 12:2–3 talk about age-lasting times and events, different from of time of antichrist. Daniel 12:1 deals with the living while Daniel 12:2 deals with the dead.

Michael defends the physical people of Israel in Daniel 12:1. Those resurrected to life (for the age) in verses 2–3 certainly need no defense. Nowhere does the text say Michael causes the resurrection to occur. Nor should that be implied from the text. And further, beings resurrected to life cannot be harmed by the antichrist, the nations, Satan, evil angels, spirits, or anyone.

Those who receive their resurrection to shame and contempt will be educated after the millennium. Compare Daniel 12:2 with Revelation 20:4-5, 11-15.

Michael, an archangel (Jude 1:9), does not destroy Satan, Michael casts Satan down to earth during the war in heaven (Revelation 12:7). An angel from heaven, apparently different than Michael, chains and imprisons Satan (Revelation 20:2–3, 7). In the end, Satan also will be reconciled to God (1 Corinthians 15:27–28; Philippians 2:9–11).

I hope this information is helpful to your Bible study.

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