

Who is “Michael The Great Prince” in Daniel 12:1

Dr. Frances N. Lee Professor-Emeritus of Systematic Theology and Church History, Queensland Presbyterian Theological Seminary, says. “The dominant **Pre-Mediaeval** view was that [Jesus] the Second Person of the Triune God Himself is “The Angel of the Lord”. This mainline traditional view of the Early Church was rediscovered by the **Protestant Reformation** and stressed also by Calvin [Martin Luther], and later by Matthew Henry, Haevernick, Keil, Delitzsch, and Hengstenberg, *etc.*”

Who changed this understanding that Michael is Jesus? Would it be a surprise if I told you it was the Papacy?

Dr Lee also states: “It was only with and after ‘Pope’ Gregory the Great (who died in 604), that later Scholastics such as Thomas Aquinas systematized an alternative view. Thus it became the view of the mediaeval Church that ‘The Angel of the Lord’ was merely a created archangel called Michael - and not the divine Michael-Christ as the one and only Archangel and uncreated Leader of all created angels (as in Daniel 12:1, First Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7f).”

Unfortunately when some groups have taught that Michael is Jesus, they have taught that Jesus was a created angel and not fully God. This is not true. However based on scripture, the early church and many of the reformers taught that Michael is Jesus the always existing creator, 2nd person of the Godhead. This is the view that we take. Lets look at the reasons for that conclusion.

Definitions

Michael means “who is like God” Jesus said “If you have seen me you have seen the Father”

Archangel means “chief or over the angels” (The President is Commander in Chief of the military, but he is not a soldier)

Angel means “messenger from God” and can be divine or created depending on title and context.

Scripture Michael the prince.

“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;” Daniel 12:1. Throughout the book of Daniel we find that we have a Prince who is looking out for us.

In Daniel 10:13 “Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me.”

In Daniel 11:21 “No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.”

In Daniel 9:25-27 Daniel tells us this Prince is the Messiah or Jesus: 25 “Until Messiah the Prince. And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;” 27 Then he (Messiah the prince) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.” This then also makes Messiah the Prince, the prince of the covenant because he is the one who confirms the covenant.

Joshua 5:13-15 “Commander of the Lord’s Army” (Hebrew word sar the same word for prince in Daniel) Accepts worship & tells Joshua to take off shoes for he is standing on “holy ground”

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Angel of the Lord as God

Exodus 3:2-14 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush... God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”... “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.”... And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” (There are many other angel of the Lord/Jesus appearances in the Old Testament) In John 8:58, Jesus himself identifies himself as the I AM/ Angel of the Lord speaking from the bush. “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him.”

Exodus 14:19 “And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. **20** So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness *to the one*, and it gave light by night *to the other*; so that the one did not come near the other all that night.” Paul indicates that it was Jesus with them. 1 Corinthians 10:1 “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, **2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, **3** all ate the same spiritual food, **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

Archangel and Resurrection

John 5:26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself... **28** Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice **29** and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

1 Thessalonians 4:16”For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” So the voice of the archangel and the voice of Jesus are the Same.

Conclusion

Michael is Jesus, the divine messenger, who is like God, for He is God the second person of the Trinity. He is not a created angel but Commander (arch/over) of the angels. He is our Messiah the Great Prince of the Covenant. He is also the creator and life giver the great I AM, who will raise the dead to life at His return.

For further study see www.creation-science-prophecy.com/michael.htm