

## 22T15 Archangel

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Even if you have been a Christian for a long time, there are some things in the bible and in the traditions of the modern church that are tough to understand. I find many of these downright confusing. Some of these have troubled me for years.

We want to ask those “tough questions” and then do the research to see if we can find or develop a better understanding for these “tough questions”.

Today I want to talk about Archangels. I have heard a lot about this growing up and I was excited to dig into the Bible and discover what and who is an Archangel.

**Let’s pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. If I say anything wrong, please don’t let them remember my errand words but remember what you want them to hear regardless of my words. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

This was an amazing study. What I’m about to share with you is just what I found. Many would argue against many of my points. And I understand that. I’m not saying I’ve found something new, quite the contrary, I just looked at the Bible in English and original language texts that are available. I read them looking for the truth, not the common accepted views. You can always read your viewpoint into a text. It’s much harder to read the text and let it speak to you. I’ve tried to do this, so I’m in my engineering mode of discovery. Let’s see what we can find.

First, who and what is an Archangel. According to the Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church there are three archangels in the Bible, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel.

Raphael is mentioned in the Book of Tobit which one of the Apocrypha books not in the evangelical Bibles. Anyway, Raphael is not described as an archangel. Only church traditions makes him so.

Gabriel is mentioned in only two books of the Bible Daniel Chapter 8 & 9 and Luke Chapter 1. Neither of these accounts describe Gabriel as an archangel. In Daniel Gabriel is delivering messages to Daniel. Angel means messenger. In Luke 1:19, Gabriel first appears to Zacharias to announce John the Baptist is coming to his father. Then, Luke 1:26, Gabriel appears to Mary to announce she’ll be the mother of Jesus. That’s it. So, Gabriel is an angel but no place in the Bible says he is an archangel.

Now Michael. The archangel Michael is mentioned in only three books of the Bible. Daniel 10 & 12, Jude 1:9 and Revelation 12:7.

Daniel 10:13 (NAS) *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in my way for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.* So, here is Michael. Some English translations say Michael one of the archangels and Michael one of the chief princes etc. So, let's look at it closely. "*Michael, one of the chief princes,*" This is translated from four Hebrew words, מִיכָאֵל (*mi·cha·'el*) meaning Who is like God, אֶחָד (*a·chad*) which means one or alone, הַרְאִשׁוֹנִים (*ha·ri·sho·nim*) before, first, chief, first one, and הַשָּׂרִים (*has·sa·rim*) chief, leader or ruler. So the Hebrew text can be paraphrased like, He who is like God, the one, the first or highest ruler. This scripture does not refer to Michael as an angel or archangel. What if Michael is a title instead of a name? The one who is like God, the first and highest ruler. Just think about it.

Next is Daniel 12:1 (NAS) *Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*" So, here is Michael again. Some English translations say Michael the archangel. So, what does the Hebrew say, "*At that time Michael,* the name Michael in Hebrew is מִיכָאֵל or Mikael which literally means "who is like God" This does not necessarily refer to the Archangel Michael although it might. "*The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people*". The Hebrew words are הַגָּדוֹל (*hag·ga·do·vl*) meaning great or greatest or highest, הַשָּׂר (*has·sar*) meaning ruler or leader, יַעֲמֹד (*ya·'a·mod*) there is no perfect English word but it can mean to take a stand or withstand or even fulfill, עַל- (*al-*) meaning upon, above or over, בְּנֵי (*be·nei*) is translated all sorts of different ways in the bible but it could mean son or man or brothers or children or even breed or heir, then עַמְּךָ (*am·me·cha*) which could mean people or every peoples or nation or nations. Okay, most English Bible translations say this is Archangel Michael standing up for Israel, but why? It could just as easily be "the highest ruler" who is "like God" or Jesus. Takes a stand over all people and nations.

So, what about the new Testament starting with Jude 1:9 (NAS) "*But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him an abusive judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*".

Some English translations say, Michael one of the mightiest of angels. So again let's look at the Greek we have, "*But Michael the archangel*". This is two Greek words, Μιχαήλ (*michaēl*) from the Hebrew word מִיכָאֵל or Mikael which literally means "who is like God", and the Greek word ἀρχάγγελος (*archangelos*) meaning ruler of the angels or archangel.

The question that came to me was. Is an archangel even an angel? Does an archangel have to be an angel? The ruler of the angels is Jesus. The leader of the angels is Jesus. The one who is like God is Jesus. Jesus is God, ruler of everything.

Last is Revelation 12:7 (NAS) *And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war.* Wait a second Michael's angels, aren't they God's angels. No mention of archangel here either. Just

the “one who is like God” and His angels. This again could be read as Jesus and His angels.

I was pretty intrigued at this point. There is one other scripture in the New Testament that uses the term archangel in most English translations, 1 Thessalonians 4:16. This is commonly called the “rapture” scripture. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (NAS) *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Read it again, *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel.* Is this saying Jesus will come shouting with the voice of an archangel?? Or is it more like Jesus will come shouting as the archangel. The ruler of the angels. The ruler of everything. It does not require any special interpretation to see the voice and shout as coming from Jesus Himself.

Let's Pray

**Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. we know you know all things. When we see how things fit perfectly in your plan. Wow. Only with God is this possible Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen**

Okay. I don't know if this is true or not. But the Bible does not call archangels angels or the ruler or leader of the angels. Michael is the only archangel in the Bible but it is possible that Michael is a title not a name. That Jesus is the one who is like God and the ruler of the angels.

Interesting thought for sure. But if you disagree with me, that's okay too. Disagreeing about this does not affect how we follow Jesus or reach others for Jesus. If we are both wrong, it won't affect whether we go to heaven or hell. Only following Jesus determines that.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us for the rest of the series about the “Tough Questions” that we struggle with as Christians.

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