

Is Michael, the Archangel, Jesus?

Is the archangel, Michael, an earlier form of Jesus? The Jehovah's Witnesses' claim as much but do so on faulty grounds. In fact, it flatly contradicts some texts, like Jude 9.

“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”

Jude 9

What is obvious here is that the Lord, Jesus Christ, is not the same person as Michael, the archangel; the contrast is clear. This is in direct contrast to the way in which Jesus dealt with the Devil during the temptation.

“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”’” Matthew 4:10

Jesus had no problem rebuking Satan and did so quite forcefully. Michael, as an archangel on the other hand, did not do so of his own authority but relied on the Lord's authority.

Misreading other texts has led some to believe that Michael is an earlier form of Jesus. For instance,

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps all Israel shall neither sleep nor slumber.” Psalm 121:2-4

The argument goes, if Michael is watching over the children of Israel (Daniel 12:1), then he must be the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ. However, to equate Michael as a protector of God's people with Jesus who saved God's people is an unwarranted leap in logic.

We know that an archangel's voice is going to be involved in the final Judgment Day of all creation.

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

It is the Lord who will descend with an archangel (and an unnamed archangel at that), whose voice will be heard, meaning, Jesus will come with power and authority from God the Father.

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Michael is just one of many archangels (Daniel 10:13) and Jesus is totally unique, solitary and singular (John 1:18). The two are not the same person by any means. Michael is a created being (Colossians 1:16) and Jesus is not (John 1:1-4).