

- The Minor Festivals of the Church Year -

## St. Michael and All Angels – September 29

People have always been fascinated with the topic of angels. Every year on September 29<sup>th</sup> the Christian Church celebrates the *Minor Festival: St Michael and All Angels*, to praise our God for his gift of angels. It gives us a chance to take a closer look at God's angels - who they are and the purpose they serve.

First of all angels are created beings. They are real, living, and individual beings. God created angels during the six days of creation, perhaps early in the six days for in the book of Job it states the angels laid witness to God's power and shouted for joy at the creation of the world (Job 38:4-7). As created beings, angels are immortal, which means they have a beginning but not an end. Angels do not die, neither are new ones born, and the number of angels has remained fix since the days of creation. Meaning, when God created the angels, he created a set number for his purpose of all time. That set number of angels is very large, in the book of Revelation, we read the number of angels is 1,000s upon 1,000s and 10,000 times 10,000 (Revelation 5:11) - an angel army too numerous to count, vast legions of a mighty brigade.

Angels are spirits, which means they are ageless, genderless, invisible beings, and as such they do not have physical features. "*Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation*" (Hebrews 1:14). As Spirits, they are not bound by time and space, which allows them to freely go between this earthly realm and the realm of heaven. As far as angel ability, angels are very powerful but only God is all powerful (Psalm 8:4,5). They are wise, but only God is all knowing (Daniel 9:22). They are able to be move and be everywhere, but only God is all present and able to be everywhere at once (Jeremiah 23:24).

Even though we live in a world where the evil powers of Satan and the world are at work for our downfall, there is a cosmic and infinite angel army of the Lord fighting for our good. As Psalm 91 reads, "*If you make the Most high your dwelling, then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.*" This is where undoubtably we get our concept of guardian angels. Whether we have one specific angel assigned to us is not known, but maybe more comforting is teaching our children they have the power of limitless angels watching their every step.

Are far as types of angels, there are the Cherubim, as described in Genesis 3:24, Exodus 25:18, Psalm 99:1. There are the Seraphim as described in Isaiah 6:1-6. There also seems to be ranks among the angels, with God's special servant angel Gabriel (Daniel 9:21, Luke 1:19, 1:26), and the archangel Michael (1 Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 1:9). "Angel" means *messenger*. Angels are God's messengers who seek to carrying the word of God to his people, "*Praise the Lord you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his Word, you servants who do his will*" (Psalm 103:20,21).

We might not see these angel forces moving and at work in our lives, and therefore we do not know all the good and protecting angels do. Angels work in our lives behind the scenes but are there to aide us as we seek to carry out the Lord's will. For God gave us the command to "*go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation*" (Mark 16:15), that command was given to us and the angels of God give us the wisdom, strength, and encouragement to carry it out. The mission of the angels is to assist the church of God in preaching the Word of God, so that all might know of their sins, come to repentance, and find forgiveness in Christ their Savior. And when that happens it is written, "*there is great rejoicing with the angels of heaven over one sinner who repents*" (Luke 15:10).

Angels rejoicing, for the angels know as we do, a time is coming when the archangel Michael will blow the final trumpet, and Christ will come. *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26).* Christ will come on the last day with all his mighty angels to judge the world, and at that time the angels of God will carry God’s people home.

Read **Isaiah 6:1-6; I Thessalonians 4:13-18**.... as today’s Scripture Lessons.

Blessings to you and your families,  
Pastor Matthew Guse