

## Saint Michael and All Angels

September 29

Sermon Road Map

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Revelation 12:7-12

September 30, 2018

### Wake up. The war rages. See the reality - our enemies and allies.

- Luther: *...if there were as many devils as Worms as tiles on its roofs, I would enter*
  - ♦ Do you know people who talk that way today? Today most people dismiss this as a part of Luther's Medieval (outdated) mindset.
  - ♦ If we scoff, we scoff not just at Luther, but Scripture.
  - ♦ This generation either scoffs *or* wildly speculates about angels
  - ♦ Here in Revelation 12 God opens a peephole to this reality.

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- ❖ These behind-the-scenes invisible players are real!
  - Michael and his angels - God's holy angels - created spirit beings
    - ♦ *Michael* means *Who is like God?*
    - ♦ *Michael, one of the chief princes* of God's angels... Daniel 10:13
    - ♦ *the archangel Michael*... Jude 1:9 The only one called archangel.
  - *The dragon and his angels* - his rebellious wicked spirit servants *...ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.* v. 8
    - ♦ *Serpent* - who led Adam & Eve astray and their offspring
    - ♦ *Devil* - deceiver/slanderer - liar - slanders God (*Did God really say...*)
    - ♦ *Satan* - Accuser (advisory, enemy)
      - Tempts to sin, then prosecutes in the court of God & our conscience
  - Since we can't see this we need to be reminded of this reality.
    - ♦ The Festival of St. Michael and All Angels - End Time reality review
    - ♦ Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers: *Let your holy angel be with me that the wicked foe have no power over me. Amen.*
- ❖ John reports on **The War in the Sky**. When?
  - This is **not** the war of Satan's rebellion right after Creation! - Context
  - The visions/revelations God gave John covers the New Testament era.
    - ♦ A war after the birth of Jesus Christ (woman is the Church, not Mary)
    - ♦ 72 return - Jesus: *I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.* Lk 10:18
    - ♦ *The sky* better than *heaven* - *the ruler of the kingdom of the air*... Eph 2:2
    - ♦ *They conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony.* Revelation 12:11
    - ♦ Connected to Jesus taken up into heaven - the Ascension of Our Lord
    - ♦ A war waged during Jesus' earthly ministry. Victory - Christ Exaltation

*...woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.* Rev. 12:12b

- ❖ Warning! We live in the final theater of war.
  - People, the Devil is real! A very real danger. Really scary.
    - ♦ He's a dangerous, powerful, invisible, cunning, experienced predator
    - ♦ He's on a mission with a time limit and he knows it.
    - ♦ 2 dangers:
      - **Dismiss** (naturalism) or **Ignore**: know, but think it's not importance
      - Find Satan intriguing (deceived) Wiccan, pagan, witchcraft, New Age
  - Ignore this warning - you're at grave risk of being a casualty of this war
    - ♦ It's not hopeless! Lift up your eyes to see your triumph in Christ.

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- ❖ Alert and active with hope and comfort
  - The Accuser faces defeat daily. Thank God!
    - ♦ When he tempts and deceives you to sin dear Christian...
      - Satan rushes off to God's court to tattle-tail, accuse, and prosecute
        - *Look God at this so-called child of God. Look at the stench!*
        - When Satan turns to point to you - he's shocked, again!
        - There you stand cleansed & wearing Christ's robe of righteousness.
        - Satan leaves God's court raging all the more.
    - ♦ We **triumph over him because of the blood of the Lamb**.
      - Jesus atoning cleansing blood - word and sacraments - silences the Accuser's appearance in the court of each believer's conscience.
    - ♦ We **triumph over him because of the word of their testimony**.
      - The witness of the gospel - shared among us - triumphs
      - *One little word can fell him.* CW 200:3
      - *Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*
        - Belt of truth (testimony) - Sword of the Spirit (testimony)
        - Shield of the Faith extinguishes Satan's flaming arrows.
  - **Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah.**
  - Under Christ, mortals and angels are allies in ministry - allies in this war
    - ♦ Michael and the angels who won the War of the Sky
    - ♦ How blessed we are to ally with them as we stand steadfast to the end!

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