

Saint Michael and All Angels

Sermon Road Map

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Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

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We walk with angels all the way to the Resurrection!

If the global news makes you shake your head and even tremble, God has brought you to the right place at just the right time.

- In Babylon 2,553 years ago - Daniel troubled over current events
- Cyrus sent Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild Yahweh's temple
 - ♦ Progress stopped by local enemies - King distracted - inaction
- After 21 days devoted to meditation God's Messenger arrives
- God peels back the curtains of the invisible behind-the-scenes activity

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- ❖ Meet God's counter-demonic defense force: Michael and all Angels
 - Angels and demons are real, while invisible to us.
 - ♦ Created: holy spirit beings, servants of God (no body, no gender)
 - ♦ Satan, a powerful gifted angel turned against God. Others followed.
 - Rebellion made holy angels into evil angels, confirmed in wickedness
 - Their mission: hate God, oppose his will, rob him of his people
 - Any surprise? Satan assigns a powerful evil angel in the Persian Court
 - ♦ He also places one in the Greek court (Dan. 10:20)
 - ♦ Working in places of power and influence to frustrate God's work
 - Work 24/7 to harm God's people in body, soul, property, and honor
 - ♦ This explains a lot in history and in current events.
 - It's not just wicked and foolish people! There's demonic influence.
 - But be careful! Don't assume **all** government is bad and evil.
 - Knowing government is God's servant to do good (Romans 13:4)
 - It is not godly to call all politicians/government officials corrupt.
 - Pray for good ones. Pray God counters demonic influence.
 - Be clear: demonic influence is **not** possession! Deception...
 - Meet God's counter-demonic defense force: Michael and All Angels
 - ♦ 1 word of God, the breath of his mouth, could deal with demons
 - ♦ But God chooses to counter evil angels with his holy angels!
 - ♦ Daniel's messenger was busy for 21 days - Michael was sent to relieve
 - *Michael, one of the chief princes... Michael, the great prince who protects your people* (believers, God's people)
 - The only Archangel mentioned in the Bible. (*Archangel* - Jude 9)

- ♦ Curious for the details? Could we even understand their work?
 - God tells us all we need to know. They take care of business!
 - Their work: God's counter-demonic defense force

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- ❖ The job is not done until the Resurrection
 - They rejoice over 1 sinner who repents - becomes a child of God. (Lk 15:10)
 - They are assigned in places of power and at our side - walking with us
 - ♦ Believer: when evil lurks - sing verse 4 of CW 431 by Hans Brorson
*I walk with angels all the way; They shield me and befriend me,
All Satan's power is held at bay When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense; All fear and sorrow hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may; I walk with angels all the way.*
 - ♦ How can there be enough angels? You can't imagine. There are!
 - Mature godly Daniel lacked strength to endure. Strength came from God!
 - ♦ God's Word & promises strengthen us - including news of angelic allies
 - Thank and trust God who sends them - **not** the humble angels!
 - ♦ Angels **never** grow old, retire, or die. They live & thrive to serve God.
 - How long can they keep it up? Right up to the end.

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- ❖ The Day of Resurrection - God's angels the harvesters
 - No surprise. The angels took poor Lazarus to heaven. Us too.
 - Michael and all angels **final** mission: deliver the raised to their place
 - Pure good news for **everyone** whose name is written in the book
 - ♦ **Every** believer **will be delivered** from sin, corruption, death
 - ♦ glorified bodies - eternal life
 - ♦ Shining with God's glory - rescued from sin & corruption
 - All who don't want Yahweh to be their God - demons & humans:
 - ♦ **Shame** - no glory, nothing to boast about, beauty & power gone!
 - ♦ **Everlasting contempt** - of self, from others in hell, from God
 - Pure rebellion, resentment, evil, corruption - life misused and lost
 - Sobering. What's your life about? Who will you be?
 - ♦ Not so much about avoiding hell as wanting God - to be free from sin
 - ♦ Glorifying in God, his will, his ways, his righteousness and goodness
 - ♦ Those who do - God worked it in you. He will guard it as...

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