

The 
Arch-
Angels



St Augustine said: “Angel’ is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is ‘spirit’; if you seek the name of their office, it is ‘angel’: from what they are, ‘spirit’, from what they do, ‘angel.’”

With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they “always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven” they are the “mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word.”

What is an Archangel?

~ **A**rchangels are any of several chiefs, rulers, or princes of angels in the hierarchy of angels of the major Western religions, especially Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and of certain syncretic religions, such as Gnosticism.

~ **T**he Catholic Church recognizes the existence of only three Archangels, or the three mentioned in the Scriptures: Michael (“Who is like God?”), Gabriel (“God’s Power”) and Raphael (“God’s Doctor”).

~ **I**n the texts of the past, other archangels have been mentioned, the same as the number of sects in the Book of Enoch: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Sariel, Phanuel and Gabriel. The system of seven archangels is in fact an ancient tradition of Judaic origin.

~ **I**t was established in the Middle Ages that the worship and veneration of any of the other archangels mentioned by the Bible apart from Michael, Gabriel and Raphael was forbidden. Even in the past, in the early Church, great efforts were made to prevent the cult of angels, which was influenced by pagan traditions of divine messengers, from leading to a form of idolatry.

~ **I**n 1992, the decree *Litteris Diei* stated that “it is forbidden to teach and use notions about angels and archangels, their personal names and their particular functions, outside of what is directly reflected in the Holy Scriptures; consequently, every form of consecration to the angels, and any practices other than the official customs of worship are forbidden.”

~ **T**he existence of angels is a truth of the faith. Their presence in the Bible is incontrovertible testimony to this. These are incorporeal (not of body) beings, who are spiritual, perfect, created by God at the dawn of time for the purpose of being God’s servants and messengers. They have always and forever contemplated the face of God, are ready to rush to God’s every command, as attentive listeners and executors of God’s Word.

~ **T**hey are therefore spirits that exist for God and in God, who are, however, also close to humans, through the faithfulness between the will of the Most High and his creatures. Angels therefore live in the contemplation of God and act as God’s messengers.

~ **S**ince ancient times, we have considered the fact that the angelic hosts are organized into a sort of Heavenly Court, in which the angels have different ranks and graces. The three Archangels occupy the highest domains of this angelic hierarchy. They too have tasks similar to those of the common angels, but their duties are even higher and more important. They are the task of contemplating God, day and night, glorifying God incessantly by preserving and protecting God’s mystery. Their own names suggest their roles and their nature: all end with “El”, which signifies “God”.

**SACRED SCRIPTURE ATTRIBUTES
A PARTICULAR MISSION
TO EACH ARCHANGEL:**



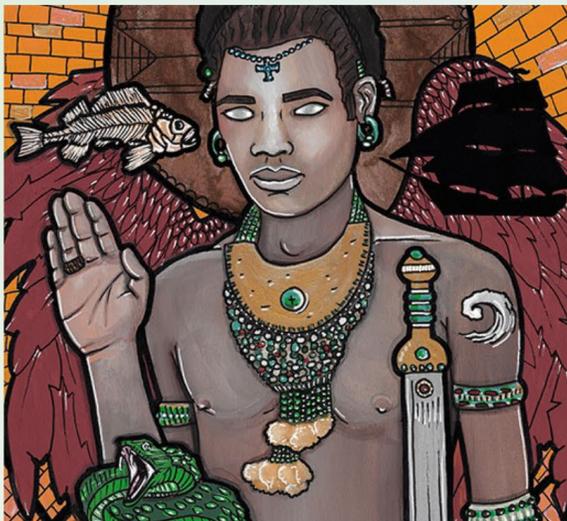
Michael

Michael is the warrior who fights against Satan and his emissaries (Jn 9, Ap 12, 7, cf. Zec 13: 1-2), the defender of those who love God (Dn 10, 13.21), the protector of the people of God (Dn. 12, 1).



Gabriel

Gabriel is one of the spirits closest to God, before his heavenly throne (Lk 1, 19), the one who revealed to Daniel the secrets of God's plan (Dn 8, 16; 9, 21-22), announced to Zechariah the birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1, 11-20) and to Mary that of Jesus (Lk 1, 26-38).



Raphael

Raphael stands before the throne of God (Tb 12, 15, see Rev 8: 2), accompanied and protects Tobias in his perilous journey and healed his father from blindness and his future bride from the influence of evil.

Why are the Archangels celebrated on September 29th?

Originally this feast was only for St. Michael, but then St. Gabriel and St. Raphael were added to the celebration. The feast of St. Michael on September 29 became in the Middle Ages a holy day of obligation, but the designation was eventually removed. After the Second Vatican Council, the Church wanted to further highlight all 3 archangels and grouped them all together on September 29. Previously St. Gabriel and St. Raphael had separate feasts during different parts of the year. Now they are celebrated on a single day, connecting them to the neighboring feast day of the Guardian Angels on October 2.

Scripture on the Angels

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Psalms 91:11

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Revelation 4:6-8

And before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

Psalm 103:20

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

Matthew 26:53

Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

Matthew 25:41

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:31

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Matthew 24:36

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Genesis 3:24

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Revelation 5:11

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

2 Thessalonians 1:7

And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels

Matthew 24:31

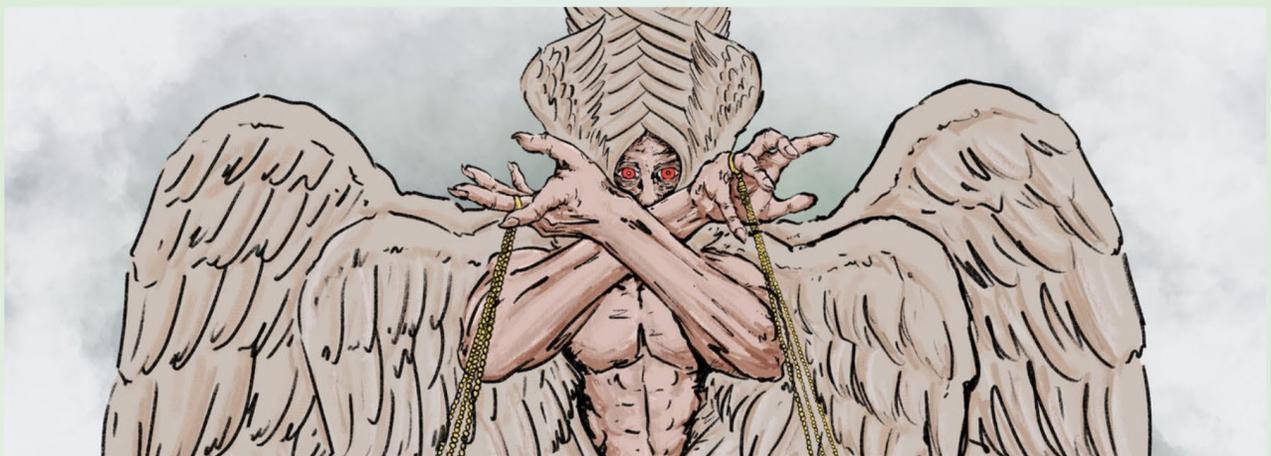
And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Acts 12:23

Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Acts 8:26

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.



5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ARCHANGELS

01 Archangels are the second lowest "rank" of angels

This hierarchy is based on nine names of ranks of angels that are found in the Bible.

02 Archangels are entrusted with delivering important messages to humans

The lowest ranks of angels are the ones who communicate or interact with us.

03 Archangels do not have wings, bodies, or swords

Unlike us, angels are pure spirits and do not possess anything material

04 Archangels can protect us from evil

Saint Michael and the heavenly host has the power to expel Satan from a place.

05 Archangels still exist today

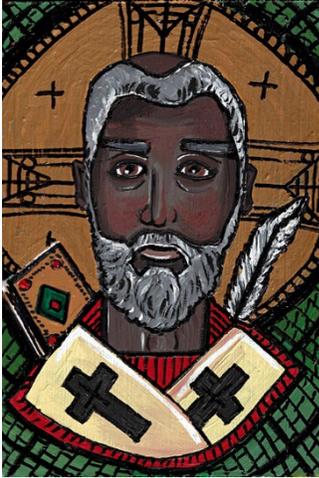
God created their immortal spirits and they will never cease existing for all eternity.

The Arch- Angels



RAPHAEL





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Who is Archangel Raphael?

~ **R**aphael, in the Bible, is one of the archangels. In the apocryphal Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) Book of Tobit, he is the one who, in human disguise and under the name of Azarias (meaning “Yahweh helps”), accompanied Tobias in his adventurous journey and conquered the demon Asmodeus. He is said (Tobit 12:15) to be “one of the seven holy angels [archangels] who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One.” In the pseudepigraphal First Book of Enoch, Raphael is “the angel of the spirits of men,” and it is his business to “heal the earth which the angels [i.e., the fallen angels] have defiled.” The archangels are referred to as numbering seven (e.g., Revelation 8:2 and Tobit 7:15) and are listed in 1 Enoch 1:20 as Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Sariel, Gabriel, and Remiel. Raphael is reckoned among the saints in both Eastern and Western churches, his feast day being October 24. His counterpart in Islam is Isrāfīl. *(from britannica.com)*

~ **T**he name Raphael means "God has healed." This archangel does not appear in the Hebrew scriptures, only in the Septuagint, in the Book of Tobit, where he is mentioned as the traveling companion of Tobias. Disguised as “Azarias, the son of the great Ananias,” Raphael serves as a friend who knows the way. Of the seven "archangels" that appear in the angelology of post-Exilic Judaism, Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael are the

only three mentioned in the canonical scriptures. The patron of healing, medical workers, and travel, Raphael is worth getting to know, especially in this world we live in that needs too much healing for itself.

~ **F**ormer Catholic priest Father Martin Luther blotted out the book of Tobit from the canonical table of contents and so Protestants don't have this book or the six Deuterocanonical Bible books removed by Luther.

Scripture on Archangel Raphael

There is a strong tradition of the Church that the anonymous angel that stirred the waters for healing was Archangel Raphael from Tobit. We know that Raphael doesn't like to reveal his name or identity.

Saint Raphael in the Old Testament

In the divinely inspired book of Tobit, the archangel Raphael first disguised in human form as the travel companion of Tobit's son, Tobias. While in human disguise, Saint Raphael calls himself "Azarias." Saint Raphael protects Tobias and even binds the demon Asmodeus in the desert of Egypt. At the end of the story, "Azarias" reveals himself as "Raphael one of the seven, who stand before the Lord" (Tobit 12:15).

Tobit 12:1-15

When the wedding feast was over, Tobit called his son Tobias to him and said, "My child, make sure to give the man who went with you his wages, and give him a bonus as well."

² Tobias asked him, "Father, how much in wages should I give him? I wouldn't lose anything if I give him half my possessions, which he brought back with me. ³ After all, he has guided me safely, healed my wife, brought the money with me, and healed you. How much of a bonus should I give him?"

⁴ Tobit answered, "It is right, my son, for him to receive half of everything that he had when he came back."

⁵ So Tobit called Raphael in and said, “Take as your wages half of everything you had when you came, and go in good health.”

⁶ Then Raphael spoke to them privately, saying, “Praise God and tell all living beings about the good things he has done for you, praising and singing to his name. Make God’s words known in an honorable way to everyone, and don’t fail to acknowledge him. ⁷ It’s good to hide a king’s secret from view, and good to reveal God’s works and bear witness to them with due respect.

“Do what’s good, and evil won’t overtake you. ⁸ Prayer with fasting^[a] is good, and so is giving to the poor with righteousness. The possession of a little with righteousness is better than much with injustice.^[b] Giving to the poor is better than storing up gold. ⁹ Giving to the poor saves from death, and it washes away every sin. Those who give to the poor will feel satisfied with life, ¹⁰ but those who commit sin and injustice are their own worst enemies.

¹¹ “I will tell you the whole truth, and I will keep nothing secret from you. I have already said to you, ‘It’s good to hide a king’s secret from view, and good to reveal God’s works in an honorable way.’ ¹² So when you and Sarah prayed, it was I who brought the record of your prayer into God’s glorious presence, and likewise when you used to bury the dead, ¹³ and when you didn’t hesitate to get up and leave your dinner to go and bury the corpse. ¹⁴ I was sent to test you then, and at the same time God sent me to heal you and Sarah, your son’s bride.^[c] ¹⁵ I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready and who enter the Lord’s glorious presence.”

Saint Raphael in the New Testament

Tradition identifies the “healing angel” in John 5 to be Saint Raphael. This is manifest when we see that the Gospel lesson for Saint Raphael’s feast day (in the old calendar Oct 24) is this story from John 5 where an angel of the Lord descended at certain times into the pond; and the water was moved. And he that went down first into the pond after the motion of the water was made whole of whatsoever infirmity he lay under” (Jn 5:1-4)

John 5:1-9

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate in the north city wall is a pool with the Aramaic name Bethesda. It had five covered porches, ³ and a crowd of people who were sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed sat there *waiting for the water to move.* ⁴ *Sometimes an angel would come down to the pool and stir up the water. Then the first one going into the water after it had been stirred up was cured of any sickness.* **

⁵ A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, knowing that he had already been there a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir,^[b] I don’t have anyone who can put me in the water when it is stirred up. When I’m trying to get to it, someone else has gotten in ahead of me.”

⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ Immediately the man was well, and he picked up his mat and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

Critical editions of the Greek New Testament do not include the following addition waiting for the water to move. ⁴ Sometimes an angel would come down to the pool and stir up the water. Then the first one going into the water after it had been stirred up was cured of any sickness.

Notes on an icon

- ❖ patron saint of blind and travelers
- ❖ References in book of Tobit and gospel of John for healing
- ❖ In Hebrew means “the god who heals”
- ❖ Azarius was Raphael in disguise
- ❖ Heart and liver of fish burned to cast away demons and evil spirits
- ❖ Fish gall to heal sight of those blind
- ❖ Scales fell from his (Tobias) eyes like St. Paul
- ❖ Gospel of John describes Raphael without mentioning his name
- ❖ an angel disturbed the water in the pool at Bethesda
- ❖ Water healed people from sickness
- ❖ Statue of Raphael in Lisbon at naval museum

- ❖ Sailors of Vasco de Gama in 1497 carried statue of Raphael on their ship instead of Nicholas (patron saint of sailors) and discovered the trade route to India.
- ❖ 1578 Cordova Spain saved from attack of invaders; Raphael is protector of the city there
- ❖ Water, Fish, Smoke, Ships, Travel, Eyes, Young man carrying fish, Statue, Waves
- ❖ Instructor and/or healer and comforter of mankind
- ❖ No relics like human Saints, still exists today
- ❖ We underestimate the Archangel's powers, forgetting there is a real spiritual world just as real as our own world
- ❖ They were created to love, know, and serve us, they are our guardians
- ❖ Nine choirs of angels: seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations, principalities, powers, virtues, archangels, and angels
- ❖ Good angels can inspire man to do the will of God & practice virtue, bad angels can wage spiritual warfare by means of temptation
- ❖ Angels sometimes inhabit bodies to carry out God's command: thus, Raphael appearing to Tobias
- ❖ Raphael healer of earth and people as well as a demon destroyer
- ❖ Tall and adorned in green and gold

Archangel Raphael is referred to as a male and disguised himself as a human to help others, so I depicted him as a man. As opposed to Gabriel who is only ever referred to by name, so I made them androgynous (and how I see angels in general). Raphael is known as a healer, hence the healing hand gesture. He is also known as a killer of demons (serpent and sword), used fish gall (dead fish) to heal blindness (blind eyes), used water to heal (wave tattoo), is the patron saint of travelers (ship), and is represented by the colors green and gold (all his jewelry is green and gold). I kept seeing him as a "tribal healer" so to speak, so I depicted him as dark-skinned.

Prayer to Archangel Raphael

*Raphael of the glorious seven who stand before
the throne of Him who lives and reigns.
Angel of health, the Lord has filled thy hand with
balm from heaven to soothe and cure our pain.
Heal and console the victims of disease and guide our
steps when doubtful of our ways.*

*Holy Raphael, I entreat thee to help me in all my needs
and in all the trials of this life. And since thou art the
“physician” of God, I pray thee to heal my soul of its many
infirmities, and my body of the ills that afflict it, if this
favor be for my greater good.
I plead for angelic purity that I may be fit to be the
living temple of the Holy Spirit.*

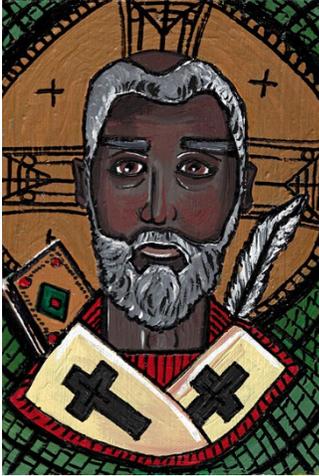
Amen.

The Arch- Angels



GABRIEL





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Who is Archangel Gabriel?

~ **T**he name Gabriel means “Man of God” in Hebrew or “God has shown might.” According to Sacred Scripture, the Archangel Gabriel is the messenger angel who appeared to people in the Old Testament and the New Testament on many different occasions. In some appearances, Gabriel is mentioned by name. On other occasions, Gabriel is thought to be the angel who appeared and made announcements to Moses, the Prophet Daniel, Saints Joachim and Anne, the shepherds at Jesus’ birth, the myrrh bearing women approaching Jesus’ tomb, and to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Gabriel revealed the conception of the Virgin Mary, announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zachariah, appeared to Joseph in his sleep and instructed him not to divorce Mary, and is most celebrated for the announcement to Mary that she would bear a son, who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, and would be called Son of the Most High, and Savior of the World, Emmanuel.

~ **O**n the feast of the annunciation (March 25th), we reflect on the moment the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary and announced she would give birth to a son. She accepted the challenge, and because of her faith in God and the readiness of her soul, 9 months later she gave birth to Jesus. It’s 9 months til Christmas y’all!

Take this time to reflect on moments that you've been asked by God to do something out of your comfort zone. How have you responded? I mean, let's be honest, I don't know about you, but I'd freak out if an archangel showed up and told me I was going to give birth, I'm not sure how I'd respond. Lol. I'm glad that Mary answered that call though. But what are ways you've been asked to step out of that comfort zone? Did you respond with a faith-filled and resounding YES! Or did you have a look on your face of doubt and unbelievability like an archangel just floated into your room and told you impossible news?

Gabriel and the phantom smell

~ **“Gabriel, one of the holy angels, who is over Paradise and the serpents and the Cherubim”** (1 Enoch 20:7)

My husband walked into our art studio and said, “are you burning incense in here?” “No, but I smell it too” I replied. He looked at me completely confused, tilting his head with an inquisitive and concerned look in his eyes.

There is a phenomenon known as “phantosmia,” aka “phantom smell,” or “ol’ factory hallucination.” It’s the smelling of something that’s not actually there. But in the spiritual and religious sense, this is called the “odor of sanctity.” While usually occurring at the presence of a Saints physical body, especially if they sustain the wounds of stigmata, the odor of sanctity can also be experienced while in the presence of, the spiritual presence that is, a Saint or Holy figure. Call me crazy if you must, but I believe what my husband and I experienced was the actual presence of Archangel Gabriel while I was writing this icon. My belief in this encounter was further solidified when a priest friend who I shared this occurrence with informed me that archangel iconography is often depicted with thuribles and incense! While I have personally encountered many a spiritual phenomenon, never have I witnessed someone else, most especially my husband, experience it right in front of and along with me.

As an artist, I have always observed the people of the world in a unique way. Whenever I recognize someone as androgynous or without a

distinguishing gender, I see them as the most beautiful of human species and left in awe and fascination. I see angels as genderless creatures with distinguishable human features, plush feathered wings, surrounded by flora and fauna. So, when it was time for me to write Gabriel's icon, I looked upon all of the androgynous and beautiful people I have witnessed in the world as inspiration.

There are some specific descriptions of Gabriel out there; antennae (always listening), white/blue hair, turquoise eyes, sounds of peace, trumpets (messenger), gold and copper, white fire, lilies, primrose, and hyacinth flowers, the highest calling, divine feminine, white light and warmth, the moon, and feather pens/quills (patron of artists). I took all of these into account as I do with all of the Saints I write. But Gabriel was different; with the initial smell of incense, I knew this wasn't going to be like just any of the other Saints I've had the blessing, privilege, and honor of coming to know. Discovering that Gabriel is venerated cross-religiously, I was immediately fascinated and drawn into this archangel, this "patron of artists," this "messenger" (Christian), this "guardian of the Deacon's doors" (Greek Orthodox), this "guardian of Israel" (Jewish), this "keeper of holiness" (Islam), this "celestial warrior." And I invite you to remember that no matter what you believe when it comes to religion, we best remember that many of our stories, many of our cultures and experiences actually cross religious barriers. We all share in Gabriel's, or Jibril's/جبرائيل (Islam), holiness, and Gabriel wants us to remember that as well.

In Christianity, Gabriel is the angel at the annunciation (Gabriel's feast day), the announcement in the Gospel of Luke (New Testament) delivered to the Virgin Mary that she was conceiving a baby boy who she was to name Jesus. Gabriel, messenger, also came to the elderly Zechariah, foretelling of his thought-to-be-barren wife Elizabeth's (cousin to Mary) conception and coming birth of John the Baptist. In the Hebrew Bible, Gabriel is the interpreter of the prophet Daniel's visions and also appears in the Book of Enoch. Gabriel is venerated alongside Archangel Michael as the "defenders of Israel," protecting the nation from the evils of the world. Even Jewish mysticism has some beautiful beliefs about the significance of Gabriel that I invite you to explore. Islam commends Gabriel, or Jibril/جبرائيل, as the archangel sent to the prophet Mohammad, helping Muhammad overcome

his adversaries significantly during the Battle of Badr and against a demon during the Mi'ra.

I truly hope that everyone can absorb this image of Gabriel as a reminder that the “keeper of holiness” is always near, that this celestial guardian protects us all. Gabriel defends us and delivers important messages of faith and humanity; that we are all one, that we must use our knowledge to better the lives of others and ourselves be messengers of good news.

Scripture on Archangel Gabriel

Saint Gabriel in the Old Testament

Daniel 8:16

And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”

Daniel 9:20-22

While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, “O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding.

Saint Gabriel in the New Testament

Luke 1:11-20

11 An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

13 The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the Lord’s eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. 16 He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. 17 He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers[a] back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

18 Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old.”

19 The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in God’s presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. 20 Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn’t believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen.”

Luke 1:26-38

26 When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, 27 to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” 29 She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. 31 Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. 33 He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

34 Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. 36 Look, even in her old age, your

relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. 37 Nothing is impossible for God."

38 Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Prayer to Archangel Gabriel

O blessed Archangel Gabriel, we beseech thee, intercede on our behalf at the throne of divine mercy in our present necessities, that as you announced to Mary the mystery of the Incarnation, so through thy prayers and patronage in heaven we may obtain the benefits of the same, and sing the praise of God forever in the land of the living.

Amen.

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MICHAEL





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Who is Archangel Michael?

~ Unlike, Archangel Gabriel, the messenger to Mary at her annunciation, there are very few mentions of Michael in biblical text, not necessarily by name (except the Book of Enoch and later the Book of Daniel). He is mentioned explicitly in Revelations as doing battle with Satan and casting him out of heaven. Other texts are believed to be Michael since he is the leader of the archangels. Some theologians believe that Michael the Archangel is really Jesus Christ himself, returning in the form of an angel.

Michael is venerated in Christianity, Judaism, and Islamic traditions. He is also the Guardian of Israel. “Michael” means “who is like the Lord.” And the answer is “no one.” He is often depicted with a dragon (not to be confused with Saint George) because he slayed the seven headed dragon that Satan turned himself into to do battle with the angels (Book of Revelation). He is known as the defender of the church and the prince of the heavenly armies of God (Israel). He is the patron saint of the police, military, mariners, paratroopers, sick people, and grocers. Michael is said to be the patron saint of grocers because during the Middle Ages, soldiers (police officers of their time) had to protect the markets from thieves and violence so the grocers could sell their goods and be protected.

Michael is often depicted with scales, for he is said to weigh the value of our souls before leading us to heaven when we leave our earthly bodies, subsequently, the angel of death, as he’s also said to be the one to lead us

between the veil. He is also the patron saint of Kyiv, so I included a Ukrainian flag. May Michael and all the archangels help fight for justice and peace.

I kept seeing Michael as sort of a Nordic Viking type with a kind-filled face but a badass warrior persona. Like he'd protect the hell out of your heart and totally slay a dragon for you. And the story in Revelations says he does just that - slay a dragon, one that Satan turned himself into with seven heads and ten horns. So of course, Michael had to be carrying that decapitated dragon head under his arm like a trophy.

Scripture on Archangel Michael

Very little is known about Archangel Michael other than what we know from scriptures, which themselves are sparse. In Daniel, Michael is mentioned twice. The first time as one who helped Daniel, and the second time he is mentioned regarding the end times of the world when he will stand for the "children of thy people." His next mention comes in the Epistle of Jude, where Michael is said to guard the tombs of Moses and Eve and has contended with Satan over the body of Moses. The final mention is in Revelation, where Michael and his angels do battle with the dragon.

Saint Michael in the Old Testament

Joshua 5:13-15

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Daniel 12:1

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Daniel 10:13

The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia.

Saint Michael in the New Testament**Jude 1:9**

But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”

Romans 13:4

For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

Revelation 12:1-17

12 Then a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant, and she cried out because she was in labor, in pain from giving birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: it was a great fiery red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. 4 His tail swept down a third of heaven's stars and threw them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth so that when she gave birth, he might devour her child. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child who is to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was snatched up to God and his throne. 6 Then the woman fled into the desert, where God has prepared a place for her. There she will be taken care of for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

7 Then there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but they did not prevail, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 So the great dragon was thrown down. The old snake, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to the earth; and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, “Now the salvation and power and kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ have come.

The accuser of our brothers and sisters,
who accuses them day and night before our God,
has been thrown down.

11 They gained the victory over him on account of the blood of the Lamb and the word of their witness.

Love for their own lives didn't make them afraid to die.

12 Therefore, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them.

But oh! The horror for the earth and sea!

The devil has come down to you with great rage,
for he knows that he only has a short time.”

13 When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he chased the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she could fly to her place in the desert. There she would be taken care of—out of the snake's reach—for a time and times and half a time. 15 Then from his mouth the snake poured a river of water after the woman so that the river would sweep her away. 16 But the earth helped the woman. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon poured out of his mouth. 17 So the dragon was furious with the woman, and he went off to make war on the rest of her children, on those who keep God's commandments and hold firmly to the witness of Jesus.

Prayer to Archangel Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.