

## Thoughts on the Archangel Michael and All Angels - Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> 2024:-

**Key Reading – Revelation, chapter 12, verses 7 – 12:-** In this reading we hear of one “*who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth and his angels were thrown down with him.*” This is confirmed by our Lord Jesus himself who said “*I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven*”. (**Luke, chapter 10, verse 18**).

As we work through the study this week remember the teaching of the apostle Paul “*For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*”. (**Ephesians chapter 6, verse 12**). Remember also that every time celebrate Holy Communion we celebrate with “*Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven . . .*” joining together in the worship of the Most Holy God.

Throughout the history of God’s people as recorded in scripture, there are many instances of angelic presence to help and support and at times to judge and execute justice. Note that the cherubim were placed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden with a flaming sword to guard the way to the Tree of Life – **Genesis, chapter 3, verse 24**.

According to the **Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 1, verse 14**, angels are “*all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation*”.

**Exodus chapter 23, verse 20:-** At the time of the giving of the Commandments when the people were at Mount Sinai the Lord God promised to “*send an angel before you to guard you on the way*”. The ‘pillar of smoke by day and fire by night’ was a visible sign that the Lord was guiding and protecting his people – e.g. in Exodus chapter 14, verses 19 – 20.

**Joshua, chapter 5, verses 13 – 15:-** A record of the meeting of Joshua, the leader of the people of Israel with “*the commander of the army of the Lord*” (verse 14). There is the instance of the unveiling of the young man’s eyes when Samaria was under siege in **2 Kings, chapter 6, verses 8 – 17**. The words of Elisha were seen to be true - “*those who are with us are more than those who are with them*”.

Traditionally Michael the Archangel is the chief protector of the People of God - see **Daniel, chapter 10, verses 13 and 21**.

In the New Testament there are examples of angelic presence during the ministry of the Lord Jesus. At the end of the Temptations in the wilderness, “*angels came and ministered to him*” **Matthew, chapter 4, verse 11** and in the Garden of Gethsemane in **Luke, chapter 22, verse 43**.

In **Acts, chapter 5, verses 17 – 21** there is the release of the apostles from prison by an angel and in **Acts, chapter 12, verses 6 – 11** the release of Peter from prison in a similar manner.

In all of this remember that we are given “*the whole armour of God*” read **Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 10 – 18**. As Christian believers we can place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ and through Him “*with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*”. **Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 16**.

*Who would true valour see,  
let him come hither;  
one here will constant be,  
come wind, come weather..  
There’s no discouragement  
shall make him once relent  
his first avowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.*

*Whoso beset him round  
with dismal stories,  
do but themselves confound;  
his strength the more is  
No lion can him fright,  
he’ll with a giant fight,  
But he will have a right  
to be a pilgrim.*

*Hobgoblin nor foul fiend  
can daunt his spirit:  
he knows he at the end  
shall life inherit..  
Then fancies fly away,  
he’ll fear not what men say,  
he’ll labour night and day  
to be a pilgrim.*  
John Bunyan (1628-1688)