

Is Jesus Michael the Archangel?

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Jehovah's Witnesses are taught that before Jesus came to earth He was Michael the archangel, the first and greatest creature Jehovah made. The Watchtower's own study book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* includes an appendix titled "Who Is Michael the Archangel?" that presents this view. If you are a Witness, we are not writing to mock you. We are writing because who Jesus is matters more than anything else, and we invite you to test this teaching against the Bible itself.

1. The Bible never says Jesus is Michael

Michael is named five times in Scripture (Daniel 10:13, Daniel 10:21, Daniel 12:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7). Not one of these passages says that Michael is the Son of God, the Messiah, or the Word. In Daniel 10:13 he is called "one of the chief princes," meaning one among several. Jesus, by contrast, is called the "only begotten Son" (John 3:16), unique and in a category of His own.

The main verse offered for the teaching is 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God." But the same verse also mentions "the trumpet of God." If the archangel's voice makes Jesus an archangel, then the trumpet of God would make Him God. The verse describes what accompanies His coming, not what He is.

2. Hebrews 1 sets the Son apart from every angel

The whole first chapter of Hebrews is an argument that the Son is greater than the angels. If Jesus were the highest angel, the writer's point would collapse.

Hebrews 1:4 "having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

Hebrews 1:5 "For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You'?"

The expected answer is "none." God never said that to any angel, Michael included. Yet He said it to Jesus. So Jesus cannot be one of the angels.

Hebrews 1:8 "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.'"

Hebrews 1:10 "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands."

Verse 10 quotes Psalm 102, a psalm addressed to the LORD (Jehovah), and applies it directly to the Son. The Son is the Creator of the heavens, not a resident of them.

Hebrews 1:13 and 14 "But to which of the angels has He ever said: 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Angels are servants. The Son sits on the throne. And Hebrews 2:5 adds that God “has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.”

3. Angels worship Jesus

Hebrews 1:6 “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him.’”

If Jesus were Michael, then Michael would be commanded to worship himself, and all the other angels would be worshipping a fellow angel. Yet when the apostle John fell down before an angel, he was stopped at once: “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant ... Worship God” (Revelation 22:9). Jesus, on the other hand, received worship and never refused it:

Matthew 14:33 “Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly You are the Son of God.’”

John 20:28 “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

Jesus Himself said, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve” (Matthew 4:10). If He accepted worship, either He is God or He broke His own command. The NWT often softens these verses with “did obeisance,” but the Greek word (*proskuneo*) is the same word Jesus used in Matthew 4:10 for the worship that belongs to God alone.

4. Michael would not rebuke Satan; Jesus did

Jude 9 “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”

Michael did not rebuke Satan in his own authority. He appealed to the Lord. Now compare Jesus:

Matthew 4:10 “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’”

Jesus commanded Satan directly, and cast out demons by His own word (Mark 1:25 and 27). Michael and Jesus do not act like the same person, because they are not.

5. Jesus made all things, so He was not made

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

If Jesus were a created angel, He would have to create Himself, since nothing that was made was made without Him. Colossians 1:16 says the same: “by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.” Angels are among those “thrones” and “powers.” Jesus created them.

6. The Child born is the Mighty God

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Witnesses agree this verse is about Jesus, but say He is “Mighty God” and not “Almighty God.” Yet just one chapter later, the very same title is given to Jehovah: “The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God” (Isaiah 10:21). No angel is ever called Mighty God.

For Christians talking with Witnesses: Be patient and kind. Ask questions rather than lecture. A good one is, “If Hebrews 1:5 asks to which angel God ever said ‘You are My Son,’ and the answer is Jesus, how can Jesus be an angel?” Then let the text do the work. Walter Martin’s *The Kingdom of the Cults* and the resources of Watchman Fellowship are helpful for further study.

Honor the Son as you honor the Father

Jesus said “that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father” (John 5:23). An angel cannot receive the honor that belongs to God. The good news is that the true Jesus, God the Son, became a man, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. He offers eternal life as a free gift to all who repent and trust Him, and you can know you have it (1 John 5:13). Do not settle for an angel. Come to the Lord Jesus Christ.