

St Michael and All Angels

September 29, 2024

Revelation 12: 7-12 & Matthew 18: 1-10

The passage of the Book of Revelation that we read this morning sets the stage for what we are celebrating today, St Michael and All Angels. It reveals the clear separation between two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God, and the kingdom of Satan. We are told that “there was war in heaven”. And this war was between Micheal and his angels and the dragon, meaning Satan.

In Daniel 10, Michael is identified as “one of the chief princes.” In Jude 9, Michael is “the Archangel”. There are three angels that are named in all Scripture. Micheal, Gabriel, and Raphael. In the biblical perspective, Raphael means the “one who heals.” Gabriel means “God is my strength.” And Michael means “who is like God.”

What caused the war between Michael and the dragon?

Nothing but pride, ambition to be great, and misuse of power from Satan. We have an insight into this when we read Isaiah 14 13: “I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God, I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north.”

With this idea of greatness in his heart, Satan drew other angels to himself who also wanted to gain some power for themselves (Revelation 12: 7).

Does all this have any significance for us today?

Well, I have to remind you that Satan is a king of pride, and the fight between pride and humility has been present since the beginning of mankind. Satan is still active since the moment he has been “cast out into the earth” till now. His goal is to destroy as many lives as possible. He is busy doing this everywhere, even in the Church. Yes, make no mistakes, Satan too comes to Church. Do not take my word for it. Here is what we read in Job, “**6** One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Sata also came with them.” (Job 1: 6) In Chapter 2 of Job we read the same thing: “On another day the angels[a] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him.” (Job 2: 1) What this tells us is that Satan is present everywhere and we need to be aware of that fact.

How do we resist the enterprise of Satan?

We need to follow the lesson we learn from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians: “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, ... being found in appearance as a man, ... humbled Himself and became obedient to **the point of death**, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.*” (Philippians 2:5,8).

We Christians, followers of Christ should never forget that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

That is why St Paul is urging us with these words:” *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.* ¹⁴ *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,* ¹⁵ *and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.* ¹⁶ *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.* ¹⁷ *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

¹⁸ *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

May the Lord help us in this battle.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we call on you for help. Rescue us because we love you. Be with us and take us through every trouble that comes our way. Protect us from every harm and secure our life in you as we do put our trust in you. Through Christ our Lord! Amen.