

## **The Dispute over the Body of Moses**

Most of the Book of Jude involves eight biblical examples of opponents to the Contenders of the Faith (Jude 4-15).

Today's lesson involves the fourth biblical opponent (Jude 9-10). Michael, the archangel, is engaged in a legal dispute with the devil in the supreme court of heaven over the body of Moses. In Hebrew, Michael means "Who is like God?"

Archangels (ho archaggelos) were members of the God's Supreme Court system in heaven (Job 1-2; Jude 9). The Apocrypha taught that there were seven archangels – "I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels, which represent the prayers of the saints, and which go out before the glory of the Holy One." (Tobit 12:15/ LXX)

Christians are most familiar with **Gabriel** (Luke 1-2) and **Michael** (Jude 9; Rev.12:7). It is the voice of an archangel that will announce the Rapture of the Church.

(1 Thess.4:16) "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the **voice of the archangel** and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

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| <b>This lesson will study NINE aspects of the Michael's dispute with the Devil over the body of Moses.</b> |
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### **1. The devil, ancient Lucifer, held the rank of guardian cherub before his fall (Ezek.28:14; Rev.20:2).**

Therefore the devil has court privileges in heaven as an attorney or adversary until mid-tribulation (Job 1:6-12; 1 Pet.5:8; Zech.3:1; Rev.12:7).

### **2. Michael is the prince angel of the priest-nation of Israel.**

(Dan.10:13, 21; 12:1). The idea of **prince** indicates God has assigned holy angels to client nations (Dan.10:20).

The Devil is **the prince or ruler** of the world (John 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor.4:4).

### **3. Devil is the great deceiver of nations**

(Rev.20:3, 8, 10) "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 John 5:19)

As commander-in-chief of the fallen angels, the devil has divided them into a highly organized army to rule the nations of the world (Eph.6:12). The evidence of this doctrinal principle is the Antediluvian world (Gen.6-9; Jude 6; 2 Pet.2:4-5; 3:5-9). The field commander of the Antediluvian rebellion was Abaddon or Apollyon (Rev.9:1-12/ 11).

### **4. Michael is the commander of the angelic army in heaven.**

(Rev.16:16) "And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war" (Rev.12:7).

(Rev.19:11-20:3). Jesus Christ is the commander-in-chief of the holy angelic army;

(Rev.12:1-6; 6-17) Michael will defeat devil at mid-tribulation in the second war of heaven

**5. Michael was assigned the burial-guard detail of the body of Moses**

(Jude 9; Deut.34:1-12 / 5-7). Note the reference to Zoar in Deut.34:3 (Gen.19:20-22) [Sodom].

Moses was buried on top of Pisgah of Mt Nebo over-looking the promise land (Deut.32:48-52).

**6. Devil challenged the legality of Michael's right to guard the body of Moses.**

**(Jude 9)** "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed (diakrino) with the devil and argued (dialogeo) about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, **'The Lord rebuke you.'**"

**NOTE:** "According to several church fathers, this verse is based on an Apocryphal work called Assumption of Moses." (NIV, Jude)

Other non-biblical references: (Acts 17:28; 1 Cor.15:33; Titus 1:12; Jude 14).

The devil's argument was that he was the prince of darkness and death and should have access to the body of Moses (Acts 26:18; Heb.2:14-15; 1 Sam.28) [the witch of Endor] (Mark 8:26-37) [demoniac in graveyard].

**7. The devil has access to the court system of heaven until mid-tribulation (Rev.12:7-17).**

At mid-tribulation, Michael will defeat the devil and expel him from heaven.

(Rev.12:12) "For this reason, rejoice O heavens and you who dwell in them. **Woe to the earth** and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time."

**8. Michael, the Contender of the Faith, teaches us three important doctrinal principles from his legal dispute before the heavenly Supreme Court.**

**First doctrinal principle involves respect toward divine delegated positions of authority regardless of the evil of the person** (Isa.11:14; Ezek.28:11; Jude 6-10; 2 Pet.2:11; Eccl.5:2). If respect for divine delegated positions of authority is essential for archangels, how much more the Church Age Believer's position in Christ (2 Cor.5:17; 1 Cor.6:3; Jude 10; 2 Pet.2:11).

**Second doctrinal principle is in the phrase - "The Lord rebuke you** (epitimaō) (a.a.opt.3ps) (Zech.3:2) [LXX]." GIVE IT TO THE LORD AND LET HIM DO THE REBUKING (Col.3:22-4:1) [divine chain of command] (1 Cor.11:3).

**The third doctrinal principle involves a promise to the Church Age Believer found in (James 4:7):** "Submit therefore to the God. Resist the devil and **he will flee from you.**"

- Why this legal dispute over the body of Moses?

**9. Many believe that the two prophetic witnesses of the Tribulation are Elijah and Moses because of the description given in (Rev.11:6) (11:1-13).**

Moses will be resuscitated from the Sheol and murdered and left in the Tribulation street for 3 ½ days and resuscitated to ascend into heaven like Elijah (2 Kings 2:11); (Rev.4:1-3; 11:7-12; Luke 16:19-31).