

Revelation 12:7-12
Mt. Zion, October, 2014
Good Shepherd, September, 2022

September 29 is a special day in the Christian church year. That day is the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. So, angels will be the topic of this sermon.

The text begins: There was war in the sky. (Spiritual realms) This was a fight for supremacy. We might call this war a battlefield where the battle for the souls of human beings takes place.

How stupid Satan was at the beginning of time! He thought he could destroy the Triune God! No one is strong enough to defeat God, especially a created being like Satan! What was Satan thinking when he rebelled against God?

The Triune God used His faithful angels to cast out Satan and the demons from the heavens. Michael, the leader of God's faithful angels, defeated Satan who was described as a dragon. The result was –

The Deceiver was Defeated!

The main purpose of angels is to serve the Triune God. But God uses Michael, Gabriel, and the other good angels to serve those who will inherit salvation – that's us! There are times in Scripture when believers were helped by angels. God's angels watch over us. They protect us. You might even meet some angels one day. Scripture says, Do not fail to show love to strangers, for by doing this some have welcomed angels without realizing it.

You remember some of the ways the angels have served us in the past. In the skies over the fields of Bethlehem an angel said, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great

joy... For unto you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Then there was a Sunday morning near Jerusalem when angels appeared to some women and said, Why do you seek the living among the dead? Jesus is not here! He has risen!

Back in time, before the Fall into sin by Adam and Eve, Satan and his followers were defeated by the faithful angels of God, led by Michael. And the faithful angels rejoiced.

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus, the Son of God was born to be our Savior. Some thirty years later, the Son of God died as the Lamb of God, to take away the sins of the world. Once again the faithful angels rejoiced, and now, so do we!

Satan has been defeated!

Satan does not control us any longer. He lies when he accuses us of sin, because Jesus has paid for our sin – it's gone! Since the debt of sin has been paid, death is not something to be feared. Our eternity is not going to be a hot one; it will be “super cool”. We will enjoy an eternity of peace with no threat from Satan.

Remember the promise that God made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin? He said that Satan would strike the heel of the One who would crush Satan's head. Jesus' heel was struck when Jesus suffered and died; Satan's head was crushed when Jesus rose from the dead. Satan has been defeated!

Jesus won. We are forgiven. Satan is the loser. Our eternity will be glorious. But we don't enjoy the full glory that God promised – yet. Satan lost, but he is still out there. We live

in the reality of the Church Militant. Our text says, Rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short.

Satan is here, with us!

Our enemy is not known as a thief, a murderer, a slanderer, or a terrorist. People like this can cause us great harm. Satan is worse!

Paul wrote in Ephesians, We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. Thieves can take your possessions, slanderers can destroy your reputation; terrorists can worry us and murderers can take our lives. But they cannot take away our salvation.

There is still a war in progress. Our enemy is the devil who sneaks around like a hungry lion looking for us as his next victim. Satan has lost. But he is powerful. He wants to destroy us. He tempts us when we are weak and deceives us with lies and shallow promises. Satan shows no mercy. He knows his time is short. The end of the world is coming. Satan accuses us as being the worst of sinners. He wants us to despair. He wants us to forsake our Savior.

This battle occurring in the heavenly realms, is a war that we cannot fight or win on our own. Satan is too strong. We are too weak. But Jesus won the battle. Jesus defeated Satan!

The Lamb of God died for us. We have been redeemed and justified, declared “not guilty” by our heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit worked faith in us and we believe that Jesus is our Savior. The Spirit is still at work strengthening us so that

we do not fall victim to Satan and lose our place in heaven.

Rejoice! Our Savior has won the victory! Jesus' victory over Satan is also our victory over Satan! The gospel message you hear in our church services assures us of that victory.

That's why Christians gather together week after week to hear God's Word. That is why we come to receive the Lord's Supper. The Lamb of God is here! Our heavenly Father is here! The Holy Spirit is here! The angels are also here. We join the angels in praising the Triune God who has done everything to win our salvation.

Don't worry; be happy! Satan is defeated. He lies crushed in the dust under Jesus' feet. Although many people still rage against Christians; although we feel the fury of Satan, do not worry!

Jesus has won our salvation. Heaven is ours! God sends His angels to watch us and help us when we need help. You can be at peace. You can live in peace. You can leave in peace!

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