

# Law & Order, IX

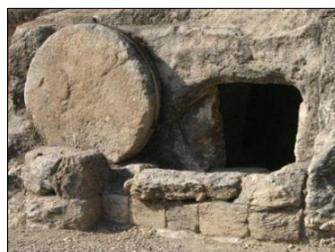
## *The Angel on the Stone*

June 19, 2016

Welcome to where we're coming to learn His Word and to hear His voice.



The Gospels cover the *same events* but *not the same stories*. They're like overlapping news reports from four distinct angles. According to John: Who was the first and only faithful follower to go all alone in the dark, to wait at the tomb?



Mary Magdalene. (John 20:1) But, the stone is tilted, and the body missing. So, she retrieves a *beloved* disciple *and Peter* who look it over *and leave*. But, *Mary stays*. And *she sees the restored tabernacle of David*, (Acts 15:16) with two angels posing (John 20:12) as the cherubim in the Holy of Holies. (Exodus 37:7-8) *Then* she sees Jesus, and *seizes* Jesus.



Jesus said, "**Do not hold on to me**, for **I have not yet returned to the Father**. [He'd risen from the dead, but hadn't risen into Heaven] Go instead to my brothers and tell them, '**I am returning to my Father** and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "**I have seen the Lord!**" [*He has risen from the dead!*] And she told them that **he had said these things to her**. [*He is rising to the Father*] – John 20:17-18 NIV

They don't listen. So, Mary returns at dawn with Jesus' "mom".<sup>1</sup>



... Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord **came down from heaven** [where Jesus was heading after He left Mary] and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to **the women**, [Mary and Mary] "Do not be afraid, for **I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified**. [He also knows that Mary has already seen Jesus, and was told He was rising to God] **He is not here; [Why?] he has risen**, [to the Father] **just as he said [to Mary]**. – Matthew 28:1-6 NIV

[Which is why, soon after, when they see Jesus on the trail, it's now okay that] They came to him, **clapsed** [*haptō: fastened/clung onto*] **his feet** and worshiped him. – Matthew 28:9 NIV

Today we're asking: **Who is the angel on the stone?** And, better yet: **Who isn't the angel on the stone?** *That's the cigar in the brick wall!*

<sup>1</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother (John 19:25); Mary the mother of James and Joseph (Mat 27:56); Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph (Mark 15:40); Isn't [Jesus] Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph (Mark 6:3)



I think Gabriel is the angel on the stone. **He had the honor of announcing to Mary, Jesus' first birth; it seems only fitting he'd return to Mary to proclaim Jesus' last birth.**

And he [Jesus] is **the head of the body**, the church; he is the beginning and the **firstborn from among the dead** ... [In a healthy birth, what comes out first? The head. Same goes for the *dead*] – Colossians 1:18 NIV



The only word for angelic being in the Bible is “Cherub” (the plural is cherubim). Saraph/Seraphim is a *physical* description. In the First/Old Testament, the Hebrew word “mal’ak” (lit. *messenger or representative*) is used for men (102x) and cherubim (111x) alike.

But the [mal’ak] **angel of the Lord** said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Go up and meet the [mal’ak] **messengers of the king** ...” – 2 Kings 1:3a NIV

*This makes the hunt much more interesting!* And, it carries over into the Last/New Testament with the Greek word: “**aggelos**”, which indicates an **ambassador**, or **representative**, or **angel**. Gabriel is an *aggelos*. (Luke 1:26) But, so is John the Baptist. (Mat 11:10)<sup>2</sup>

But, who is **our Great Prince**, who **safeguarded God’s people** until the day **He rose to rescue those found written in the book of truth**; (Dan 10:21; 12:1) **who didn’t love His own life, nor shrink from death**, but **defeated Satan’s forces** by the **blood of the Lamb**, the **Word of God**, and **His own testimony**, and having **ushered in the kingdom of God**, the **salvation of man**, and the **power and authority of Christ**, (Rev 12:7-11) **rules and reigns over every angelos**, men or cherubim? (Jude 1:9)

*Why ... Michael, the archangel*, of course. *I’m just quoting*. But, doesn’t it seem like we’d give our Great Prince a bit more honor? I mean, we don’t hardly even mention Him, *ever!* But, **believers are forbidden from worshipping angelos**, (Col 2:18) whether men or cherubim, because we’re all created beings. (Col 1:16)

I’m finding that **two huge mistakes dominate any discussion regarding Michael looking suspiciously like Jesus**. 1) **That Jesus is the angelic being known as Michael** (as the Jehovah's Witnesses teach). **JESUS IS NOT AN ANGEL!** And, 2) **That Jesus, not being an angel, cannot be Michael**. *Who says Michael is?* Scripture doesn’t.

The three times He’s mentioned by name in the First Testament, (Dan 10:13, 21; 12:1) He’s called **“the One Chief Prince”, “your prince”, and “the Great Prince”**. And, the two times He’s named in the New Testament (Jude 1:9; Rev 12:7), He’s referred to as the **archangel**, which means **Chief of the angels, not Chief Angel**, but overarching Commander of the host.

But even the **archangel** [archaggelos: *Chief/Ruler over the angels (not implying the Ruler is an angel)*] **Michael**, [Michaēl (Heb: Miyka’el): *who is like God; who but God; who except God*] **when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses**, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, **“The Lord rebuke you!”** – Jude 9 NIV

<sup>2</sup> Also see: Luke 7:24, 9:52; Galatians 4:14; and James 2:25

Ever wonder about this dispute? **Nowhere in God's Word is there any back-and-forth regarding the carcass of Moses.** An apologetics site said this is the best proof text to demonstrate that Michael the Archangel isn't Jesus, because the Lord, being the Lord, wouldn't call on the Lord to rebuke Satan. *But, somebody didn't do their seeking and finding!*



That "body" [sōma] of Moses. **One of its chief definitions is a closely united society or family, as in, "the body of Christ".**

[Paul says] ... you also **died to the law** [of Moses] through the **body [sōma] of Christ**, that you might **belong to another [body]** ... – Romans 7:4 NIV

**Jesus replaced Moses as the head of the body of believers.**

... death reigned from the **time [or: age] of Adam** [pre First Covenant] to the **time [or: age] of Moses** [pre Last Covenant] ... For if the many died by the trespass of the **one man**, [the First Adam] how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the **one man**, [the Last Adam] Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! [post Last Covenant] ... **the result** of one act of righteousness was justification that brings **life for all men**. – Romans 5:14 NIV

There it is. **Two bodies. Two Covenants. Moses and Jesus. Law and Liberty. Old and New. First and Last. Death and Life.** When Paul writes about being a prisoner to the Law, he asks ...

Who will rescue me from this **body of death**? Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! – Romans 7:24b-25a NIV

**So, was there ever a dispute with Satan over the cleansing of this body of Moses to transform it into the body of Christ? YES!**

Then he [the angel of the Lord] showed me **Joshua** [Jesus' name in Hebrew] the high priest standing before **the angel** [mal'ak: messenger; representative] **of the Lord**, and **Satan** [there's him] standing at his right side **to accuse him**. [there's the dispute] The **Lord** [Yēhovah] said to Satan, "**The Lord rebuke you**, Satan! [And there's the exact quote attributed to Michael (Who-is like-God), the Ruler of the Host; "*The Lord being the Lord wouldn't call on the Lord,*" eh?] ... **The angel** said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then **he** said to Joshua, "See, **I have taken away your sin** [That's some angel! Actually, a mal'ak/messenger] ... This is what the **Lord** [Yēhovah] **Almighty** [tsaba': army; host (ESV, KJV: Lord of Hosts – a.k.a. *the archangel*)] says: ... 'Listen, O high priest Joshua [Jesus' name in Hebrew] and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring **my servant**, [the angel (not cherub) who's going to take away your sin] **the Branch**.' [Another of His many symbolic names] ... says the **Lord** [Yēhovah] **Almighty**, [of hosts] 'and **I will remove the sin of this land in a single day**.'" – Zechariah 3:1-10 NIV

**Gabriel is the only cherub-angel of God named in scripture.** Michael, the Commander of the heavenly host, is something altogether different, on par with *God* Himself in removing sin.

[Peter writes that] ... [Jesus Christ] has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with **angels, authorities** and **powers** in submission to him. – 1 Peter 3:21b-22 NIV

[After all, it was Peter who cut off that guy's ear; prompting Jesus to say] "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and **he will at once put at my disposal** more than **twelve legions of angels?**" [How do you not know that about Me?] – Matthew 26:53 NIV

"For the **Son of Man** is going to come in his Father's glory with **his angels** ... " – Matthew 16:27 NIV



At the tomb, it's not Michael on the stone; he'd risen to the Father. And maybe took out Satan on His way. In the final hours before the cross, Jesus said:

"Now is the time **for judgment on this world**; [though, it'll be Jesus who is judged on the world's behalf] **now the prince of this world will be driven out**" [by the Great Prince, our Prince, Who-is-like-God; but, out of where?]. – John 12:31 NIV

And there was war in **heaven**. [ouranos: heaven; air; sky. I think this should be translated "air" because Satan is called "the Prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2) Perhaps it's the high place he took Jesus to see his kingdoms (Luke 4:5)] **Michael** [Who-Except-God] and his angels fought against the dragon ... that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan ... "**Now** have come the **salvation** and the **power** and the **kingdom of our God**, [thanks to "our Prince", the "Great Prince", who rose to save those whose names He knows] and the **authority of his Christ** [Anointed]. ..." They overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. [Sure sounds to me like this took place after the cross!] – Revelation 12:7-11 NIV

I don't know exactly when this happened, but I always wondered why Jesus sat this battle out. Turns out, He's leading the charge!

The **armies of heaven** were **following him** ... – Revelation 19:14a NIV

"The **Son of Man** will send out **his angels** ..." – Matthew 13:41 NIV

"And he will send **his angels** with a loud trumpet call ..." – Matthew 24:31 NIV

"... a time is coming and **has now come** when the dead will hear **the voice of the Son of God** and those who hear will live. ... all who are in their graves will hear **his voice** and come out — those who have done good will rise to live ..." – John 5:25-29 NIV

For the **Lord himself** will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the **voice of the archangel** ... and the dead in Christ will rise first. – 1 Thessalonians 4:16 NIV

Ever wonder why a subordinate angel had the honor of telling the Virgin Mary the earth-shattering news? I'm guessing that their Commander was being emptied of glory and placed in her womb. **Today was about seeking His face, and seeing Him in a new light.** Why do you suppose we're given Gabriel's name? Maybe it's just so we'd know it's not Michael ... and hopefully wonder ... and seek. Gabriel's name might as well have been: *Not Michael ... Know Why?*

When the "commander of the army of the Lord" appeared to Joshua, near Jericho, (Josh 5:13-15) **He told Joshua to take off his shoes, because he was failing to treat His presence as holy. Are we?**