**Revelation 12:7-12 (ESV)**

**7** Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, **8** but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. **9** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. **11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. **12** Therefore, 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!”

**“Angels Serve Him”**

 “To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to Jesus Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:5-6.” What is the expanse of the universe? How deep does creation go? Is life greater than what any person can test in a laboratory? Indeed, to celebrate St. Michael and All Angels goes beyond the foolishness of man. It is to humble ourselves like children before God confessing His creation of all things both visible AND INVISIBLE. The angels had to come about some time during that six-day creation. Many figure when God said, “Let there be light.” There was the heavenly glory along with all the angels. Of course, a betrayal against God took place by Lucifer and the angels who followed him. What sounds strange to us still affected humanity. If the Devil could not be God than He would tempt and destroy those made in the image of God. Sin, death, and judgment was the goal all along when Adam and Eve fell.

 God chose war rather than to wipe out His creation and humanity with it. He caused the division and lives with it for His Word said to the Devil, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). The promise of God sending a Savior defused any hostage attempt by Satan. Angels in service to God delivered this good news at times, but especially glorified the coming of Christ. Hebrews tells us, “Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? (1:14). At the same time, if angels are the focus. It might land us in a mess crafted by the Devil. St. Paul warns, “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8). Here is the key for celebrating St. Michael and all the angels. When Christ serves as Savior, be certain the angels follow suite to serve His saints!

1. **The angels saw The Accuser cast out from heaven by Christ.**
2. It was not a peaceful scene, but one of violence in heavenly proportions.
3. “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.”
* There was no “win-win” in this war or political games just God putting the Devil in his place.
1. This purging in heaven had to occur, since Jesus stood on trial for sinners.
2. “And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness…” (Vs. 4-6).
* Heaven has received the just verdict made by the Father in His Son.
1. The Devil is held in contempt and has no place to accuse the saints in glory.
2. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.
* Plenty accusing comes from the Devil in life every day. Yet, there is an end, a peace resting in heaven for all who trust in this Savior.
1. **The angels know there is cause for alarm on earth that needs Christ.**
2. Chaos and wickedness have intensified for the victorious king reigns in heaven.
3. “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world— he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him… Therefore, 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!”
* The goal of this great deceiver is to remove Christ and His Word. (Doubt the promise of what He gives. Denial over what He says to save.)
1. It is the final stretch, the last play, the devil grows in rage watching the clock.
2. St. Paul says, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For 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 the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11-12).
* Holy water or the Word? Morality or what God made you in baptism?
1. We might wonder why God allowed the devil to come down with his rage?
2. An early church Father explains, “Because, for those who are sober and have hope in God, this did not occur for their harm, but rather for their benefit. It trained them, as though by a gymnastics instructor, so that by these trials they might be made more approved and hardened to be like iron.”
* Driven to Christ and His Word only gives more righteousness, peace, and faith in Him.
1. **The angels are active where Christ promises to be for His Saints.**
2. He delivers salvation and not supernatural speculation apart from my life.
3. “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”
* The angels and archangels are present at the Divine Service. (“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth…”)
1. The light of His Word now serves not to deceive, but protect the Saints.
2. “Thy Will Be Done on earth as it is in heaven” is to pray for heavens peace and nothing else.
* The angels help in this so that the plans of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature are broken and hindered repeatedly.
1. Christ is faithful in this world and His work does not fail.
2. Luther declares, “You should be certain that angels are protecting you when you go to sleep, yea, that they are protecting you also in all your business, whether you enter your home or leave your home…Therefore even when you come to die, you should say that Christ will be with you and will have an unnumbered multitude of holy angels with Him. You should know that angels are at your side not only in this life but also in death”(What Luther Says 26:70).
* Grace abounds behind the scenes and above what we see. It remains this way until the Last Day when looking upon angels will be the least of wonder we have before God.

When Christ serves as Savior, be certain the angels follow suite to serve His saints!