

## Letters to My Jehovah's Witness Friend 7

According to the Jehovah's Witnesses, before Jesus came to earth as a man, He was known as the Archangel Michael. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He resumed this identity as Michael. It is not hard for the Christian to refute this claim. To begin with, there is no Scripture that identifies Jesus as Michael. In fact, Jesus either calls Himself "Jesus" or is called "Jesus" in every post-ascension appearance. The angels call Him Jesus immediately after His ascension in Acts 1:10-11. They announce, "This **Jesus**, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." Would not the angels have known that Jesus was now Michael, the head of the angels?

Additionally, Jesus is known as "Jesus" by Stephen, by the apostle John and by Jesus Himself at each of His appearances after His ascension. At his martyrdom, Stephen saw "the glory of God, and **Jesus** standing at the right hand of God." Stephen does not cry out to Michael, but "with a loud voice" he called out, "Lord **Jesus**, receive my spirit!" (Acts 7:59). Also, when Jesus, speaking to John in Revelation, identifies Himself, He does not use the name Michael. Instead, He says, "I, **Jesus**, have sent My angel to testify to you these things..." (Rev. 22:16). And John, at the end of the book, prays, "Come, Lord **Jesus**" (Rev. 22:20).

Finally, on the Damascus road, Saul of Tarsus is confronted by the risen Christ whom he has been persecuting, hears Jesus' own self-identification—"I am **Jesus** [not Michael] whom you are persecuting (Acts 9:5). Nowhere does Jesus or anyone else name Jesus "Michael the Archangel."

### My Friend

You asked if I have ever been a Jehovah's Witness or studied with them. The answer is, no. We live so far off the road that we have rarely had Jehovah's Witnesses come to our door. The last time they came was six years ago. I asked them to come in because I was curious to find out who they thought Jesus was. They opened up their book and read that Jesus is Michael the archangel. I wrote down the Scriptures for their proof and looked them up. There are five Scriptures that mention Michael. Not one of these Scriptures indicates that Jesus is Michael the Archangel.

In Jude 1:9 Michael's role as an angel is downplayed because, while in heaven, he could not even rebuke Satan. Yet Jesus, even when he was here on earth, could rebuke Satan in the wilderness (Luke 4). And when Satan had used Peter (Mark 8), Jesus says, "Get behind me Satan!" How can Jesus and Michael be equal if Michael could not rebuke Satan in Michael's own domain of heaven, yet Jesus could rebuke Satan while on earth (Satan's domain)? Clearly, Jesus is superior. Additionally, Michael is merely called "one of the chief princes" in Daniel 12:1. Jesus is not one of anything; he is unique (John 1:18).

Furthermore, in Revelation 5:6, 13-16, the four elders bow and worship both God and the Lamb who are sitting on the one throne. Is anyone allowed to bow and worship an angel? John, in the same book tried to. In Revelation 22:8-9, John was forbidden to worship the angel who was showing him the things in the new heavens and earth. It reads, "And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. But he said to me, "Do not do that."

The last point I wish to make comes from the book of Hebrews. There the author asks, "To which of the angels did God ever say, "You are My son" (Hebrews 1:5). The author's implied answer is "no one." Only Jesus is called God's son. Thus, Jesus cannot be Michael, for Michael is an angel. Then, in Hebrews 1:6 God commands that the angels worship Jesus. How can God command His angels to worship Jesus if Jesus were an angel? Hadn't the angel told John that John could not worship him?

Can you not see, my friend, that there are gross contradictions in the Scriptures if you believe that Jesus is Michael the Archangel? Please let me know if you can resolve these contradictions.  
Barbara