

Reflection Wednesday Week 26 Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael 2021

Michael: (*one like God*) had four tasks: to fight against Satan; rescue souls from the power of the enemy; be the champion of God's people; and bring people to judgment.

Gabriel: the angel of the Incarnation and Consolation, and in Christian tradition Gabriel is ever the *angel of mercy* while Michael is rather the angel of judgment. At the same time, even in the Bible, Gabriel is, in accordance with his name, *the angel of the Power of God*.

Raphael: the name means "*God has healed*". And that is the role given him as the Angel of the Lord.

Tradition believes Angels are messengers of God. The Archangels were given very specific roles and acted as God's direct representatives. Hence their name ending in *el* a Semitic word for 'god' or 'deity'.

It is helpful to think of the Angels as bridges or liaisons between us and God. The Archangels show us that God wants to protect us, shield us from harm and heal us in mind, soul and body to help us become bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ.

A chosen Messenger *Judith Redmount*

I am not a stranger,
no weapon, no spear no sword.
I am a simple messenger
filled with comfort and joy.

I am an ambassador in Christ,
a temple of the living God
with faith and promise, up-sized

I am confident, walking by faith,
a completely new creation,
a firmament, a handmade.

I am not a prisoner, but
a committed minister of God,
a witness of the Holy Ghost,
a chosen messenger of God!

Creation is also a messenger of God: *The Lord counts the stars and calls them by name. He covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, and makes the grass grow in mountain pastures. He gives food to wild animals... He sends snow like white wool, scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like stones. Who can stand against his freezing cold? At his command it all melts. He sends his winds, and the ice thaws.* Ps 147: