

Shayla: How many archangels are there?

Meforshim:



There are three angels that are specifically given names in the Bible: Michael – who seems to be a warring angel.

- Revelation 12:7 HCSB Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought,
- Daniel 10:12-13 HCSB "Don't be afraid, Daniel," he said to me, "for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard. I have come because of your prayers. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.
- Daniel 10:20-21 HCSB He said, "Do you know why I've come to you? I must return at once to fight against the prince of Persia,

and when I leave, the prince of Greece will come. 21 No one has the courage to support me against them except Michael, your prince. However, I will tell you what is recorded in the book of truth.

- Daniel 12:1 HCSB At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.
- Jude 1:9 HCSB Yet Michael the archangel, when he was disputing with the Devil in a debate about Moses' body, did not dare bring an abusive condemnation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Apparently, Michael is specifically assigned to the task of watching over God's chosen people.

- Daniel 10:21 HCSB No one has the courage to support me against them except Michael, your prince. However, I will tell you what is recorded in the book of truth.
- Daniel 12:1 HCSB At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.

The angel Gabriel is always bringing a message.

- Daniel 8:16-19 HCSB I heard a human voice calling from the middle of the Ulai: "Gabriel, explain the vision to this man." 17 So he approached where I was standing; when he came near, I was terrified and fell facedown. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision refers to the time of the end." 18 While he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me, made me stand up, 19 and said, "I am here to tell you what will happen at the conclusion of the time of wrath, because it refers to the appointed time of the end.
- Daniel 9:21 HCSB while I was praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the first vision, came to me in my extreme weariness, about the time of the evening offering.
- Luke 1:19 HCSB The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and tell you this good news.
- Luke 1:26 HCSB In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

And finally, Abaddon (in Hebrew) or Apollyon (in Greek). He is God's prison warden. He is in charge of Hades (a compartment of sheol) and the abyss or bottomless pit. He is so closely tied to his place of work that sometimes he and his work are treated synonymously.

- Job 26:6 HCSB Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering.
- Job 28:22 HCSB Abaddon and Death say, "We have heard news of it with our ears."
- Job 31:12 HCSB For it is a fire that consumes down to Abaddon; it would destroy my entire harvest.
- Psalms 88:11 HCSB Will Your faithful love be declared in the grave, Your faithfulness in Abaddon?
- Proverbs 15:11 HCSB Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD--how much more, human hearts.
- Proverbs 27:20 HCSB Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and people's eyes are never satisfied.
- Revelation 9:11 HCSB They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

But the Apostle John clearly identifies him as an angelic person.

- Revelation 9:11 HCSB They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

However, the only one who is clearly identified as an "archangel" is Michael.

- Jude 1:9 HCSB Yet Michael the archangel, when he was disputing with the Devil in a debate about Moses' body, did not dare bring an abusive condemnation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Some people believe that, because Gabriel is always announcing things, that he is the archangel Paul mentioned to the Thessalonians. However, that is merely conjecture. There is no clear indication of the name of either Gabriel's or Abaddon's rank.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 HCSB For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

The reason people believe that there are several archangels is because Michael is described as "one of the chief princes."

- Daniel 10:13 HCSB But the prince of the kingdom of Persia opposed me for 21 days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me after I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

However, the phrase there is "Mich'a'el ech'ad rishown sar." The word "sar" is primarily used in the sense of prince, ruler, leader, chief, chieftain, official. It is secondarily a vassal, noble or leader. Its tertiary meaning is captain, general or military commander. Notice that all these words deal with his role and that nearly all of them have military connotations. Add that to the facts that Michael always fights and that he is in charge of other warring angels.

- Revelation 12:7 HCSB Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought

Since neither Gabriel nor Abaddon are military – I don't think they should be listed along with Michael as archangels. Teaching that there are multiple archangels based solely on what is stated in Daniel 10:13 is a bit of a stretch in my opinion.

So to the best of my present (and admittedly limited) knowledge there is only one archangel – Michael.