

THE ROLE OF ANGELS IN GOD'S CREATION

The Nicene Creed proclaims that God is the “Creator of Heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.” Just who are these invisible entities created by our Heavenly Father? They are **Angels**. According to the Scriptures and Holy Traditions, the Orthodox Church has provided us with the names of *seven leaders* of the heavenly powers. Perhaps the best known is the **Archangel Michael**. Michael in Hebrew means “**Who is equal to God?**” Of course, no one is like God – that is why he captained the army that drove Lucifer from heaven, for his pride, Lucifer believed himself to be God’s equal. **Gabriel (“power of God”)** is known for being *God’s chosen messenger*. He is best remembered for announcing to the *Virgin Mary* that she was to *give birth to Christ*. **Raphael means “God’s healing.”** For this reason, he is often depicted holding a physician’s jar in his hand. The Fourth angel with which we are familiar is **Uriel – (“light of God.”)** We usually see Uriel holding a sword in his right hand and a burning branding iron in his left. **Angel #5 Jegudiel** – literally means **(one who glorifies God.)** We often find Jegudiel bearing a golden wreath in one hand and a whip in the other. **Barachiel**, another of the angels known by name, is commonly found wearing a white rose on his breast. His name is translated as **(the blessing of God.)** Finally we find the angel **Salathiel – (one who prays with God.)** Fittingly enough Salathiel is depicted in a posture of prayer, with hands folded and head bowed. What purpose do Angels serve? They constantly minister at God’s Holy Throne. They are God’s Messengers, who serve Him in whatever way He desires. Finally, they fill the important role as our protectors and guardians.