

Michael & the Battle Over Moses's Body

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Jude 8-11 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”



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¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.



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Deut 34:5-7 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, ⁶ and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.



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9. What is the origin of this story?

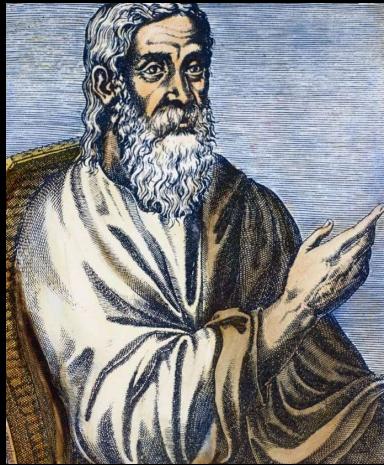


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Zech 3:1-2 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”



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Clement of Alexandria, 2nd cent. Church Father, and Origen, 3rd cent. Church Father, taught that Jude borrowed this story from the *Assumption of Moses*.



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10. The two main characters of the story are Michael & Satan



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Michael

- Archangel – **Jude 9**
- One of the chief princes –
Daniel 10:13; 12:1
- Defender of Israel –
Daniel 10:21; 12:1
- Commander of angels –
Revelation 12:7

Seventh Day Adventists & Jehovah's Witnesses believe Michael is Jesus

Scripture distinguishes Jesus from the archangels - **1 Thess 4:16**



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Devil = evil one

Satan = adversary, accuser

Job 1:10-11; 2:5, Rev. 12:10



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11. What was Satan's argument?



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- He may have challenged God's right to Moses' body due to Moses' sins like murder & striking the rock
- He may have wanted to reveal the body to Israelites, deceiving them into worshipping Moses, a forbidden act

John Calvin: “And the reason for concealing his grave is evident to all, that is, that the Jews might not bring forth his body to promote superstition ... And doubtless we see that Satan almost in all ages has been endeavoring to make the bodies of God's saints idols to foolish men.”



12. How does Michael handle Satan?



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[Michael] did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “**The Lord rebuke you.**”



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13. What are the lessons we can learn from this passage?



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- Serves as a rebuke to those in the modern church who find it so easy to rebuke the devil

James 4:7 submit to God, resist the devil

Jude 8,10 Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ... ¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.



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Thomas Manton, 17th cent. English Pastor
Bible scholar:

“If Michael, so excellent in nature, so high in office, acted with such modesty and awe when he contended with Satan, an impure spirit already judged by God, then what sorry creatures dare despise people invested with the dignity and high rank of magistrate?”

An Exposition, With Notes, Upon the Epistle of Jude, p. 141



- Serves as a rebuke to the modern church's spiritual arrogance

Jude 10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.



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Matt Marino, Instructor of Theology for New Aberdeen College, Charlotte, NC:

"[T]he readiness with which the average churchgoer today will render their judgments on all matter of mysteries is disturbing. There is no fear of God either in worship or in disputation. The language that Jude uses here may seem harsh to our ears, but it must be understood in its strictest analogical sense: 'all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.' He had already denied them any understanding.



But there is more than mere ignorance. More than any other age, ours is teeming with those who are self-taught in the worst sense of the term. Recognition of being out of one's element is almost nowhere to be found. Everyone is an expert by high school and a sage soon after."

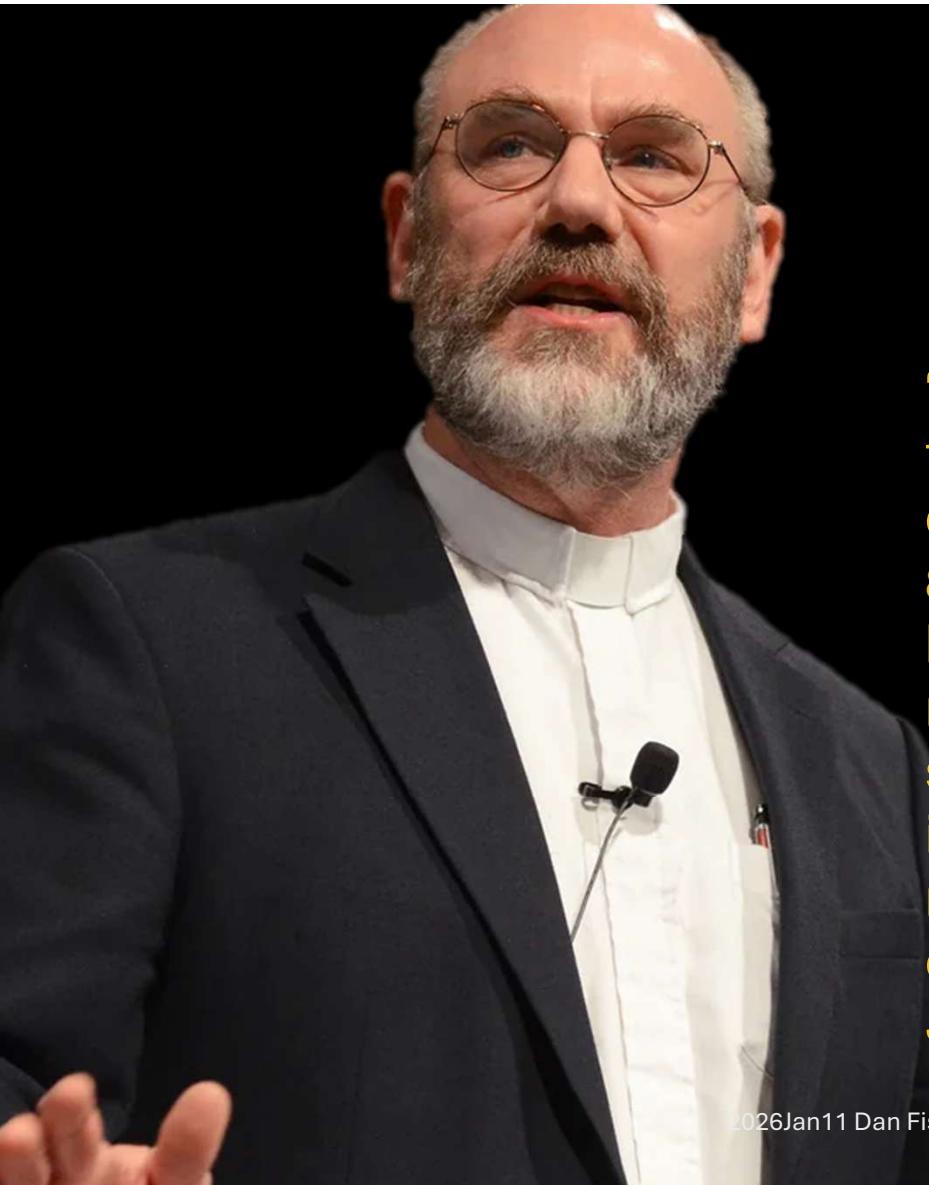
"Michael and the Battle Over the Body of Moses"
<https://www.reformedclassicalist.com/home/michael-and-the-battle-over-the-body-of-moses>



“As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.⁵ The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.⁶ Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.” **1 Tim 1:3-7**

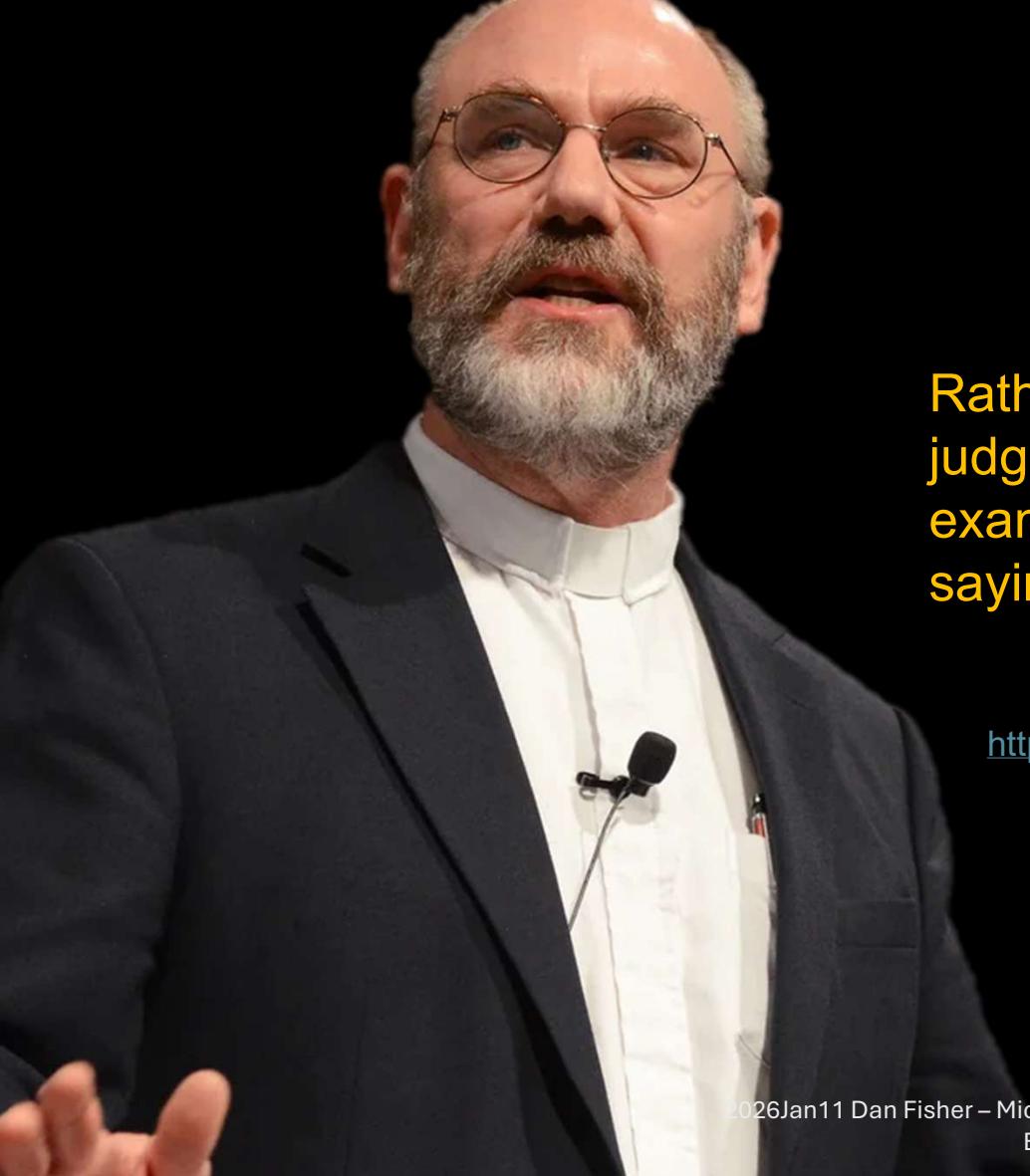


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Peter Leithart is President of Theopolis Institute:

“The context [Jude 8-11] is a discussion of the heretics of the first century Church, who do not hesitate to revile angelic majesties (v. 8) and rebuke Satan. The point is that the heretics are incautious and rash in their response to demonic forces. With all the strange things being reported in the Church, including direct encounters with the devil, rising numbers of deliverances from demons, etc., we should take to heart the caution that Jude encourages.



Rather than rashly pronouncing a railing judgment against Satan, we should follow the example of Michael and appeal to the Father, saying, “The Lord rebuke you!”

“Michael’s Dispute with the Devil”

<https://theopolisinstitute.com/michaels-dispute-with-the-devil/>