

The Invocation of Angels

Angels are venerated and honored in the Ethiopian Church. There exists a Holy Book known as the Homilies of the Angels which shows how they are sent by God and come down from heaven to help and guard the faithful and destroy the wicked by divine punishment (.....). From the Homilies of the Angels, we learn how God in His goodness sends His Angels and saves from evil the faithful who fear Him and believe in His name, and guards and helps them in the time of affliction. We pray to God that He will send His holy angels to save us from all evil, and that in times of trouble His angels will help us. They repel the demons from the church and guard the priests lest the devils snatch away the Flesh and blood of our Master. So also when the priests depart, one or more angels remain to guard the church and the Ark (tabot).

There are nine orders of the Angels ascending in the following order: Angels, Archangels, Princedoms, Authorities, Powers, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim. Devoutly are kept the feasts of all Angels including St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. Many churches are built and named after them. The feast of St. Michael is a national and religious celebration on 20th January (Ter 12, Ethiopian Calendar) and follows immediately Epiphany (Timket, the commemoration of the Baptism of Jesus in Jordan). The feasts of Gabriel are on 26th March, 6th June, 26th July, 28th December. There is a celebrated church in Harar named after St. Gabriel; there miracles occur and his feast is celebrated every year on 28th December and attended by thousands of pilgrims. The feast of St. Michael the Archangel is celebrated on the 12th day of each month. Uriel, Regel, Remiel, and Phanuel are other revered angels.