

BEREAN SPIRIT

“... they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
(Acts 17:10-11)

WHO IS MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL?

by Imad Awde



Many answers have been put forward in response to this question. Some believe Michael is a high-ranking angel; others believe He is the first angel created. Still others hold to the belief that Michael is another name for Jesus.

What does the Bible say about the identity of Michael? Does it answer this question, and if so, what does it say?

In this study we will follow the method laid out for us in Isaiah 28:10

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

Let us go through the Scriptures with an open mind, seeking to find an answer to the question at hand.

We will begin our search in the book of Joshua:

Joshua 5:13-15 “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD’S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”

We can see from these verses that the being who stood in front of Joshua with a sword in his hand identified himself as the “captain of the host of the LORD”.

Who is the host of the Lord? We find the answer in Psalms 148:2, 3 “Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.” According to this verse, the angels are the hosts of the Lord.

We find it also in Psalms 103: 20, 21 “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”

From these two verses, it becomes very clear that the angels are the hosts of the Lord.

Now, having proven that from Scripture, we can safely say that the being Joshua saw was the ‘captain’ of the angels of the Lord, or ‘captain’ of all the hosts of the angels.

And here we must ask ourselves a very important question. Is it necessary for the captain of the angels of the Lord to be an angel? In other words, Is this captain of the angels a created being?

We will find our answer in the reaction of Joshua to the words of the one who identified himself as the ‘captain of the hosts’ (angels).

The Bible says in Joshua 5:14, “And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?”

Did you notice that?

Joshua worshipped the captain of the angels, and He accepted the worship.

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Coming Home Ministry

Wenatchee area, WA, USA

Berean Spirit is dedicated to the promotion and restoration of all Bible truths and principles that God has given to His church, especially for the last days of this Earth's history.

Our purpose is to share articles and studies about Bible truths and health to help motivate the readers to be prepared for the coming of the Lord.

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When John in the book of Revelation bowed to worship the angel, it was refused, and John was instructed to worship God alone.

"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." *Revelation 22: 8, 9.*

This verse should be sufficient to understand we can only worship God.

Therefore, we can conclude that the captain of the hosts (angels) of the Lord who accepted the worship of Joshua, was not a created angel, but a divine Being worthy of worship. Not only did this captain accept the worship of Josh-

ua, but he said the ground upon which he stood was "holy" (Joshua 5:15).

This is additional proof that the captain of the host of the Lord was not a created angel. No angel has sanctified the ground on which he stood; only in the story of the burning bush does the ground become holy, and that is because God stood on it.

"And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." *Exodus 3: 4,5*



So we have seen clearly from the Bible, that the captain of the host (angels) of the Lord, is not a created angel, but is equal to God, and worthy of worship.

Let us examine another verse found in Jude 9 to see what else we can learn:

"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

We can see from this verse that the archangel is Michael. It is important to note that archangel is made up of two words:

- Arch meaning chief, ruler, captain
- Angel

The name Michael means "who is like God", so the phrase "Michael the

archangel" means 'the captain of the angels, who is like God'.

In Jude 9, we find Michael contending with the devil when about to raise Moses from the dead. Satan is the one who "had the power of death" (Hebrews 2:14), and Jesus Christ is the One that has "the keys of hell and of death" Revelation 1:18. Christ alone is "the resurrection and the life". John 11:25.

Hence Jude 9 shows us that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ, because Jesus is the only One who has the right and the power to raise the dead, those who are the prisoners of Satan.

Someone might object here and say—if Michael is Jesus, why did He say, "the Lord rebuke thee"? In other words, if Michael is Jesus Himself, why did He not rebuke the devil? Why should the Lord Jesus refrain from rebuking the devil, and refer him to the Father. Does this mean Michael is not Jesus, but a being who is unable to rebuke Satan?

We find the answer to these questions in Zechariah 3:1, 2.

"And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

As you can see, Zechariah tells us "the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee". Here we see two Beings called the LORD. The first "LORD" (Jesus) refrained from rebuking Satan, and instead referred him to the "LORD" (the Father).

Hence, referring Satan to the Father for a rebuke is not conclusive evidence that Michael is a created angel. It is understandable for Michael, the "Captain

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One of the World Healthiest Foods: TURMERIC



Turmeric has a peppery, warm and bitter flavor and a mild fragrance slightly reminiscent of orange and ginger, and while it is best known as one of the ingredients used to make curry, it also gives ballpark mustard its bright yellow color.

Turmeric comes from the root of the *Curcuma longa* plant and has a tough brown skin and a deep orange flesh. Turmeric has long been used as a powerful anti-inflammatory in both the Chinese and Indian systems of medicine as an anti-inflammatory agent to treat a wide variety of conditions, including flatulence, jaundice, menstrual difficulties, bloody urine, hemorrhage, toothache, bruises, chest pain, and colic. Turmeric was traditionally called “Indian saffron” because of its deep yellow-orange color and has been used throughout history as a condiment, healing remedy and textile dye.

According to the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, turmeric contains a wide range of antioxidant, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, anticarcinogenic, antimutagenic and anti-inflammatory properties. It is also loaded with many healthy nutrients such as protein, dietary fiber, niacin, Vitamin C, Vitamin E, Vitamin K, sodium, potassium, calcium, copper, iron, magnesium and zinc. Due to all these

factors, turmeric is often used to treat a wide variety of health problems.

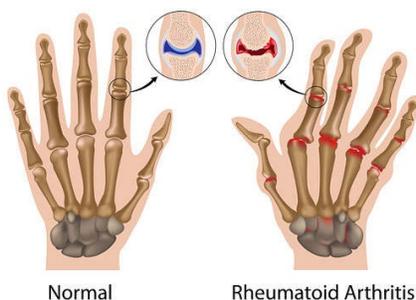
HEALTH BENEFITS OF TURMERIC

1. PREVENTS CANCER

Turmeric can help prevent prostate cancer, stop the growth of existing prostate cancer and even destroy cancer cells. Multiple researchers have found that the active components in turmeric makes it one of the best protectors against radiation-induced tumors. It also has a preventive effect against tumor cells such as T-cell leukemia, colon carcinomas and breast carcinomas.

2. RELIEVES ARTHRITIS

The anti-inflammatory properties in turmeric are great for treating both osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. In addition, turmeric’s antioxidant property destroys free radicals in the body that damage body cells. It has been found that those suffering from rheumatoid arthritis who consume turmeric on a regular basis experience much relief from the moderate to mild joint pains as well as joint inflammation.



3. CONTROLS DIABETES

Turmeric can be used in the treatment of diabetes by helping to mod-

erate insulin levels. It also improves glucose control and increases the effect of medications used to treat diabetes. Another significant benefit is turmeric’s effectiveness in helping reduce insulin resistance, which may prevent the onset of Type-2 diabetes. However, when combined with strong medications, turmeric can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). It is best to consult a healthcare professional before taking turmeric capsules.

4. REDUCES CHOLESTEROL LEVEL

Research has proven that simply using turmeric as a food seasoning can reduce serum cholesterol levels. It is a known fact that high cholesterol can lead to other serious health problems. Maintaining a proper cholesterol level can prevent many cardiovascular diseases.

5. IMMUNITY BOOSTER

Turmeric contains a substance known as lipopolysaccharide, which helps stimulate the body’s immune system. Its antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal agents also help strengthen the immune system. A strong immune system lessens the chance of suffering from colds, flu and coughs. If you do get a cold, a cough or the flu, you can feel better sooner by mixing one teaspoon of turmeric powder in a glass of warm milk and drinking it once daily.

6. HEALS WOUND

Turmeric is a natural antiseptic and antibacterial agent and can be used as an effective disinfectant. If you have a

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“Who Is Michael ... ?”

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of the hosts of the Lord”, who is Jesus Christ the Son of God, to refer Satan to the Father when He resurrected Moses. He had already done so in Zechariah.

Another verse that sheds more light on the identity of Michael is found in Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians:

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” *1 Thessalonians 4:16*.

In this verse Paul tells us that the dead in Christ will rise when they hear the voice or shout of Michael the archangel. In John 5:25 Jesus Christ tells us that the dead will rise when they hear the voice of the Son of God. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”

From these two verses we conclude that the shout, or voice of the archangel, spoken of by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, is none other than the voice of the Son of God. Based on this Biblical evidence, it is very clear that Michael the archangel is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who will raise the dead with His voice.

Furthermore, the Bible tells us in Daniel 12:1 that Michael the great prince is the One who stands for His people in the time of trouble that precedes His second coming.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be

delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” *Daniel 12:1*

It is Jesus (Michael, the great prince) who will stand up for God’s people. Jesus has promised He will never leave us nor forsake us; His promise extends to all eternity, especially during the “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation”.

The Son of God is the only Being in the entire universe who can be worshipped. He alone holds the title ‘who is like God’, because the Scripture tells us He was begotten in the express image of the Father.

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” *Hebrews 1:3,4*

Jesus is the only Being who is the express image of the Father. Nowhere in the Scriptures do we find any other Being described as the “express image” of God the Father.

Below is a comparison between what the Bible has to say about Michael and Jesus:

MICHAEL IS CALLED	JESUS IS CALLED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prince - <i>Daniel 10:21</i> • An Archangel - <i>Jude 9</i> • He is the chief or leader of the angels - <i>Revelation 12:7</i> • “The <u>great</u> prince” - <i>Daniel 12:1</i> • The “protector of your people” - <i>Daniel 12:1 CEV</i> • The “great prince which standeth [represents or intercedes] for the children of thy people” - <i>Daniel 12:1 KJV</i> • Michael is One who is like God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prince - <i>Daniel 9:25</i> • Speaks with the voice of the archangel - <i>1 Thessalonians 4:16</i> • The leader of the angels - <i>Revelation 19:13-16</i> • “The prince of princes” - <i>Daniel 8:25</i> • The Saviour of God’s people - <i>Titus 3:13</i> • Jesus is the only One who intercedes for God’s children - <i>1 Timothy 2:5</i> • Jesus is the express image of the Father - <i>Hebrews 1:2, 3 ; John 1:1</i>

Michael is the name Jesus, the Son of God, had before He was incarnated. He was the Prince of heaven, and Satan was jealous:

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the drag-

on; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were

cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." *Revelation 12: 8-11*

Michael is simply another name for the same divine Being, Jesus the Son of God. Here are some of Christ's names that pertain to the topic we are studying:

The Angel of Jehovah

Genesis 22:15. "And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time"

The Angel of God

Exodus 14:19. "And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:"

The Angel of His Presence

Isaiah 63:9. "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old."

Just because the Bible calls Jesus "the angel of God" does not make Him a created angel. It is the same with "Michael the archangel". It is another description of Jesus. He is not only referred to as

"the Angel of God", but also as "the captain of the host" (of the angels) and "Michael the Archangel".

The Bible clearly reveals the identity of Michael.

It leaves no doubt in the mind of the honest seeker as to the identity of Michael.

He is Jesus, the One who is like God; the One who is the express image of God; and the One who has the form of God.

Michael is the One who is altogether lovely, none other than Jesus Christ our Lord.

Source Material:

<http://revelation1412.org/literature/>

Christ the Archangel

by E. J. Waggoner

In hymns and prayers and exhortations we often hear of "angels and archangels." In the Bible we find no such expression for it is not an admissible one. Archangel means the chief or head of angels. Now while there must necessarily be among the armies of Heaven many angels who are high in authority, there can be but one who is chief of all. The same people who use the term "archangels," often use the term "arch-enemy" or "arch-deceiver." In this case they have reference to Satan, the chief enemy of God and men. Knowing that Satan is the prime instigator of all evil, they do not think it necessary to specify who is meant when they say "arch-enemy." There could be but one. So there could be but one archangel.

The Scriptures enable us to tell with exactness who the archangel is. In 1 Thess. 4:16 Paul says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the

trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." In John 5:26-29 we read the words of Christ. "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth." Here we learn that it is the voice of the Son of God that calls the dead from their graves. The previous text says that it is the voice of the archangel; therefore, the archangel is the Son of God. Then certainly there can be but one archangel; for in all things Christ has the preeminence.

Again we come to the same conclusion by a comparison of Jude 9 and Dan. 10:21. Jude says: "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusa-

tion." In the book of Daniel (chap. 8:16; 9:21) we find that the angel Gabriel was commissioned to interpret the visions of the prophet. In chapter 10:21, before he begins a most important revelation, he says: "There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince." Here the expression, "Michael your prince," has undoubted reference to Christ, but we have already learned (Jude 9) that Michael is the archangel. Dan. 10:13 strengthens the position that Michael, the archangel, is Christ, for we there read (margin) of "Michael, the first of the chief princes." This is in harmony with what was said before, that although the armies of Heaven must have many leaders, there could be but one head over all, and that is Christ.

Source Material:

The Signs of the Times 13, 4; 1887, January 27.

TURMERIC

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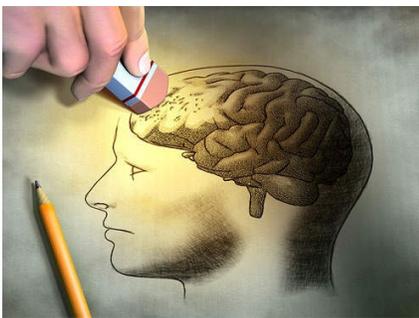
cut or burn, you can sprinkle turmeric powder on the affected area to speed up the healing process. Turmeric also helps repair damaged skin and may be used to treat psoriasis and other inflammatory skin conditions.

7. WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Turmeric powder can be very helpful in maintaining an ideal body weight. A component present in turmeric helps increase the flow of bile, an important component in the breakdown of dietary fat. Those who wish to lose weight or treat obesity and other associated diseases can benefit from having one teaspoon of turmeric powder with every meal.

8. PREVENTS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Brain inflammation is suspected to be one of the leading causes of cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. Turmeric supports overall brain health by aiding in the removal of plaque build-up in the brain and improving the flow of oxygen. This can also prevent or slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease.



9. IMPROVES DIGESTION

Many key components in turmeric stimulate the gallbladder to produce bile, which then improves digestion

and reduces symptoms of bloating and gas. Also, turmeric is helpful in treating most forms of inflammatory bowel disease including ulcerative colitis. However it is important to bear in mind that people suffering from any kind of gallbladder disease should not take turmeric as a dietary supplement as it may worsen the condition. It is best to consume turmeric in raw form when suffering from a digestive problem.

10. PREVENTS LIVER DISEASE

Turmeric is a kind of natural liver detoxifier. The liver detoxifies the blood through the production of enzymes and turmeric increases production of these vital enzymes. These vital enzymes break down and reduce toxins in the body. Turmeric also is believed to invigorate and improve blood circulation. All of these factors support good liver health.

Given the numerous health benefits of turmeric, adding this powerful herb to your diet is one of the best things you can do to improve the quality of your life. You can add turmeric in powder form to curries, stir fried dishes, smoothies, warm milk and even to spicy salad dressings. Turmeric can be taken in pill form also. However, turmeric should not be used by people with gallstones or bile obstruction.

Source Materials:

<http://www.whfoods.com/genpage.php?tname=foodspice&dbid=78>

<http://www.top10homeremedies.com/kitchen-ingredients/10-health-benefits-of-turmeric.html>

Upcoming BIBLE SEMINAR

Everyone is welcome to our fall Bible Seminar which will be held

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2014

The **speakers** of the seminar:

- Nader Mansour and Imad Awde
(from Australia)

Theme: Revive Us Again

Location:

We are currently looking at a Bible camp facility located on the Entiat river. It is a bit rustic but has cabins, dining hall, meeting hall, etc.

We feel that the setting and the ability to all be in one place together throughout the Bible seminar would prove to be a great blessing to all.

Please remember to include this in your prayers that this may work out according to God's will.

If we do not secure this camp, it is our plan to have the meetings in the same location as we have previously been having them.

An update will be sent out prior to September confirming the final location of the Bible seminar. Also visit our website at www.coming-homeministry.org for updates.

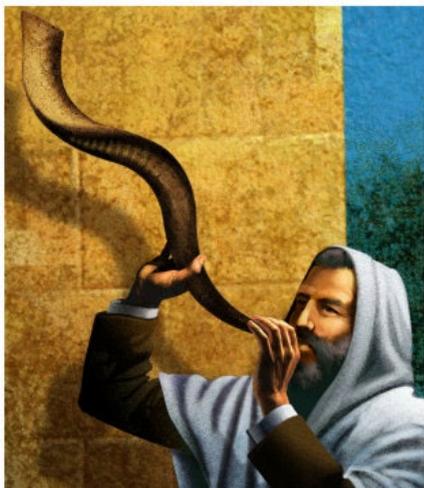
2014 May Bible Seminar—DVD Set

The May Bible Seminar was a real blessing. We thank everyone for coming and give special thanks for the helping hands preparing meals.

All presentations of the Bible Seminar were recorded and will be available on a DVD set. Please [contact us](#) if you wish to receive the DVDs. The presentations will be uploaded also to our Website.

Dangers in Feast-Keeping

by David Clayton



God's people will always walk in harmony with the Ten commandments, because the Ten Commandments are an expression of the will of God for humanity. When the spirit of God dwells in a Christian, that spirit will constrain Him to walk as Christ did, in harmony with the moral nature of God. So, as we walk in Christ we fulfill the righteousness of the law.

But something strange has happened. Among many of us, there is a growing affection for the keeping of the feast-days of the law of Moses. It's no longer just the Ten Commandments which express morality, but the feast days have been added to the "moral law."

By what stretch can the observance of feast-days be regarded as a "moral" obligation? Where is the logic behind feast-keeping?

Besides this, whenever we serve God from motives of obligation, then our works become the basis of our acceptance with God. Those who are righteous in Christ do not keep God's commandments because they are obligated to do so, they keep them because the spirit of Christ in them produces the fruit of the spirit in their lives. They keep the commandments because they are written in their hearts, it is a part of the new nature they have been given.

The keeping of feast-days is not like that. These are not a part of the new nature, they are rituals which must be performed in response to a legal requirement. In order to keep feast days one must respond to a rule (one which has been abolished by the way), and therefore he must serve God on the basis of written law, rather than from the basis of the fruit of the spirit. This is legalism and it boils down to salvation by works. People keep the feast-days because they believe that God requires it, so if they don't observe them, they will lose God's favour. This approach forms the basis of salvation by works.

It is doing what is commanded in order to obtain God's favour.

Another danger I see is that those who practice feast-keeping as a religious necessity have no reason to not keep the rest of the laws of Moses. They are turning from the simple truth that Christ alone is sufficient and are adding the works of the law. Of those who do this, the apostle Paul comments:

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (*Galatians 5:4*)

Jesus is the fulfillment of the law. In Him, all the law finds fulfillment. He is our Passover, He is the fulfillment of all the feasts. To continue to observe them when Christ is the fulfillment is a denial and rejection of Christ. Just as animal sacrifices were abolished when Jesus died and established the Kingdom of God, so all the rituals and ceremonies of the law have found their reality in Him. Let us study the meaning of the feasts and learn how they point to Christ and His work, but let us not reject the reality of that work, by continuing to cling to and practice the shadow and the form when the reality has arrived.



Think about These Things ...

"I would encourage those who assemble in little companies to worship God. Brethren and sisters, be not disheartened because you are so few in number. The tree that stands alone upon the plain, strikes its roots deeper into the earth, spreads out its branches farther on every side, and

grows stronger and more symmetrical while wrestling singly with the tempest or rejoicing in the sunshine. So the Christian, cut off from earthly dependence, may learn to rely wholly upon God, and may gain strength and courage from every conflict."

"May the Lord bless the scattered and lonely ones, and make them efficient workers for Him. Brethren, do not forget the wants of these small and isolated companies. Christ will be found a guest at their little gatherings."

Source Materials:

The Signs of the Times; January 12, 1882

Tasty Vegan Recipes



MAPLE NUT ROLLS

Note: This recipe will make 7 pans of rolls—perfect when you have family or friends over.

Ingredients:

- 5 c apple juice
- 3/4 c Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1/2 c applesauce
- 1/2 c coconut sugar
- 4 tsp salt
- 2 c spelt flour *(or flour of your choice)*

- 5 lbs emer flour *(or flour of your choice)*
- 4 TBSP yeast
- Date jam (recipe below)
- Cinnamon
- Maple syrup
- Pecan halves (or other nuts)

Date Jam

- 6 c date (pitted)
- 2-3 c water

(Pour water and dates in blender. Blend until jam is smooth.)

Method:

1. In a large bowl mix together apple juice, oil, applesauce, coconut sugar, and salt. Add some of the flour. Add more flour alternately with the yeast.

Keep adding flour until you have a soft dough. Let rest approximately 20 minutes.

2. Stretch dough out until it is a rectangle about 1/2-inch thick. Spread with date jam. Sprinkle cinnamon on top of the date jam. Roll up dough and slice into 1 1/2-inch slices.
3. Grease baking pans and pour maple syrup in the bottom. Sprinkle pecan halves on top of maple syrup. Place the rolls about 1/2 inch apart in the pan. Let them rise until double in size. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.
4. Flip the rolls upside down onto a platter immediately after removing them from the oven. Cool and serve with your favorite fruit salad.

Enjoy!