

MESSAGE NOTES

THE MIRACULOUS ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS



Sunday Worship - 11/27/2022

Message Title:

"Zechariah & the Angel"



Angelic Word:

"I stand in the presence of God"

Series:

"The Miraculous Angels Of Christmas"

#1) The witness of the Angel Gabriel should answer our questions: "Does GOD really still care? Does GOD still do the impossible? Does GOD give revelation even in the silence?"

Luke 1:13-14, 18-22 NIV

13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord ...

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." 19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak

Luke 1:59-66 NIV

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name." 62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

#2) Angels prepare us to hear & answer GOD's question of "what are we doing here?" - In regards to HIS role & mission for our lives?

1 Kings 19:11-13 NCV

11 The Lord said to Elijah, "Go, stand in front of me on the mountain, and I will pass by you." Then a very strong wind blew until it caused the mountains to fall apart and large rocks to break in front of the Lord . But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake, there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire, there was a quiet, gentle sound. 13 When Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his coat and went out and stood at the entrance to the cave. Then a voice said to him, "Elijah! Why are you here?"

#3) Even if you are in a barren, quiet season, the Christmas Angel leads us to share the Hope that the Mighty Messiah's Light is dawning on those who sit in darkness & death's shadow.

Luke 1:67-70, 74-79 TLB

67 Then his father, Zacharias, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: 68 "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has come to visit his people and has redeemed them. 69 He is sending us a Mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, 70 just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago ... 74 and by granting us the privilege of serving God fearlessly, freed from our enemies, 75 and by making us holy and acceptable, ready to stand in his presence forever. 76 "And you, my little son, shall be called the prophet of the glorious God, for you will prepare the way for the Messiah. 77 You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. 78 All this will be because the mercy of our God is very tender, and heaven's dawn is about to break upon us, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, and to guide us to the path of peace."

Christmas Angels

Devotional & Gift Bag

(For the Week of 11/27/2022)

THE MIRACULOUS ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS



Angels are not unique to the Christmas story. They appear throughout the Bible during significant moments in the history of God's people. However, their role as God's messengers of hope, peace, salvation, direction, warning, and especially of Jesus's identity, make their words in the birth narratives of Jesus messages we all need to hear, heed, and claim today in this season of Advent.

- Sun 10a • 11/27 • "Zachariah & the Angel"
- Sun 10a • 12/4 • "Mary & the Angel"
- Sun 10a • 12/11 • "Joseph & the Angel"
- Sun 10a • 12/18 • "Shepherds & the Angels"
- Sat 7pm • 12/24 • "Magi, Joseph & the Angel"
- Sun 10a • 12/25 • "Christ & the Angels"

1st Week Daily Opening Prayer:

O God, at this time every year, we prepare ourselves in mind and spirit to be ready for the arrival of the Christ Child and what your remarkable intervention into human history meant and still means for our world. Kindle in us a spirit such that our preparations are not simply superficial, not simply going through the motions. Help us change our hearts to make them a welcoming place where you can always stay. And help us to be more aware of and attentive to the messengers you send throughout our lives—the angels that are among us always. Amen.

Read This Text: LUKE 1:8–15, 18–20

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord ... 18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." 19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Journal & Discussion Questions:

- How might you need to be spiritually “refurbished” to be ready for the Christ Child?
- Describe times and places where you have felt God’s presence strongly. What senses or emotions did you feel?
- What do you think creates opportunities for feeling God’s presence? Does it have more to do with the place and time, or with you?
- Luke wants us to know that “the whole assembly of the people”—a term used in the Old Testament to describe all of the tribes of Israel (see Deuteronomy 5:22; 1 Chronicles 29:10; 1 Kings 8:22)—is praying outside the Temple when Gabriel appears to Zechariah inside the sanctuary (Luke 1:10). Why do you think Luke includes this detail?
- How was God answering the prayers of the people in the birth of John the Baptist?
- When have you seen “the prayers of the people” answered?
- When have your prayers been answered that resulted in a blessing for others as well?

1st Week Daily Closing Prayer:

Lord, this season reminds us that you came to dwell with us, not just as a visitor but to experience life as one of us and to live in our hearts forever. Help us to be welcoming hosts for you by seeing you in everyone we meet and treating each person as we would treat you. And help us not only to hear the message of the angels but to spread to others the message that they are important and they are loved. Amen.

Key Memorization for the Week :

“I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news” – Luke 1:19

Christmas Angels

Devotional & Gift Bag



ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

SAINT GABRIEL

Gabriel's name has many meanings: "Strength of God," "Hero of God," and "God has shown Himself Mightily". These variations can be summed up in one definition, "God is My Strength". Gabriel is God's holy messenger and traditionally he has been revered as the Archangel of Wisdom, of Revelation, of Prophecy, and of Visions

Everyone in attendance for each Advent Worship Service will receive an "Advent/Christmas Angel Devotional Gift Bag" w/a different Archangel Charm, Devotion & Prayer (Collect and Use All Seven for your Advent Devotion)

*For Every Sunday of our Advent/Christmas Season
Get Your Unique*

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