

December 3, 2023  
*Messengers of God*  
**All About Angels Series**

Text: Selected Scripture

*Introduction:* Show Video – *Elohim • Spiritual Beings Series*  
(Episode 2) ~ *The Bible Project*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5iyUik97Lg>

Briefly recount the narrative:

- During Herod's reign as king of Judea, there lived a couple, Zacharias (or Zachariah) and Elizabeth. He was a priest.
- While serving his duty at the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced that he and Elizabeth would parent a son, John, who was spiritually destined for God's service.
- Because Zachariah questioned the angel, he was made mute.
- Elizabeth conceived shortly after the angel's visit and gave birth to a baby boy.
- At his dedication, she named him John, which was questioned by those present who expected her to name him after his father, and Zachariah interceded and declared that John would be his son's name.
- Zachariah could immediately speak.
- Luke tells us that the *hand of the Lord was with this child*.

This morning we will look at some things we can know about the four major characters in this account. We'll finish today with some further introductory thoughts on the spiritual world of angels.

*Messengers of God*

I. What do we know about this couple? **Luke 1:5-7**

A. Both were descendants of Aaron, God's first High Priest.

David had divided the priestly order into 24 divisions, assigning each division service twice each year in the temple. Having grown up around priests, Elizabeth understood the calling

and responsibilities of the priesthood.

- B. Both were righteous before God and strove to live obediently to His laws.
- C. They had no children but had prayed for an heir – had lived with the social stigma of barrenness for some time.

II. What do we know about the angel of the Lord? **Luke 1:11-20**

A. An Angel of the Lord.

*Strong Man of God* – he is an angel of strength serving his Creator

B. On a Mission for God.

C. Brought Blessing and Rebuke.

Read p. 29, *All the Angels in the Bible*, by Lockyer

III. What do we know about John, the answer to their prayers?  
Luke 1:13-17

A. God-Given Name. v. 13

*John* – Jehovah has shown grace.

B. Effectual Joy. v. 14

His birth would bring immediate joy as well as perpetual joy at the ministry he would accomplish.

C. Dietary Restrictions. v. 15a

Similar to that of a Nazarite although nothing is mentioned about not cutting hair.

Many commentators believe that this indicates that John was a Nazarite, alongside Old Testament characters, Samuel and Samson.

D. Holy Spirit Filled. v. 15b

E. Preacher of Repentance. v. 16

His Message ~ *Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand*.

Matthew 3:2

F. Prophet for the Messiah in the New Testament.

**So What?** What have we learned about angels in this account?

- Angels can appear from nowhere.  
They do not seem to be confined by space. Gabriel permeated the temple walls.
- Angels can be seen by people.  
We are not told what Gabriel looked like. It does appear that all angels may not be dressed in white nor have wings.
- The appearance of angels can be frightening.  
It could be the startling impact or even their actual appearance.
- Angels can know about our prayers and our troublesome concerns.  
God had obviously let God in on the couple's prayers.
- Angels may relay God's will.  
Gabriel showed insight into the situation and informed Zacharias of what God's desires were.
  - Angels have knowledge of the future.
  - This angel knew the Messiah would soon be on the earth.
- Angels can be in the very presence of God.
- Angels do God's bidding.  
Gabriel was sent.
- Angels can bring consequences into people's lives.  
God does not always bring a negative consequence into someone's life when He is questioned, but in this case life in this house became very quiet.

Dr John Owen quote as found in Introduction, *All the Angels in the Bible*, by Herbert Lockyer, p. xiv.

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
*Messengers of God*  
***All About Angels Series***

1. Look over the list of things we learned about angels this week. In what ways are angels different from humans? What truths give you apprehension? Why?

2. The angel in this Sunday's account had a name. How many other angels in the Bible have personal names? Do a brief study and record what you find.

3. Hang out on gotQuestions.org for a few minutes (or more) and just type "angels" in the search bar. You will find many articles of interest with reliable answers. Did you learn anything new?

4. Read Matthew 1:18-2:23. What roles did angels play in this part of the Christmas account? Make a list of things we can learn about angels in these verses.

5. Read Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20. What roles did angels play in this part of the Christmas account? Make a list of things we can learn about angels in these verses.

Sermon Topic for December 3:

*Angelic Appearances and Assignments*    Selected Scripture  
Next Sunday we will consider the different classifications of angels and their roles in Scripture. We will also look at the account of Joseph's dream. If the angel was in a dream, can we consider it an actual angel? Think on these things.