

December 10, 2023  
*Reassuring Messengers of God*  
**All About Angels Series**

Text: Selected Scripture

*Introduction: Show Video – Hidden Forces Guiding Our World  
(Episode 3) ~ The Bible Project*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1rai6WoOJU>

This morning we are focusing on the good spiritual beings the Bible refers to as angels, those that are devoted to our Creator God.

What did we learn about angels last Sunday?

- Angels can appear from nowhere.
- Angels can be seen by people.
- The appearance of angels can be frightening.
- Angels can know about our prayers and our troublesome concerns.
- Some angels have names.
- Angels may relay God's will to people.
- Angels can be in the very presence of God.
- Angels do God's bidding.
- Angels can bring consequences into people's lives.

*Reassuring Messengers of God*

I. Reassurance for Joseph. **Matthew 1:18-25**

A. Mary's Miraculous Pregnancy. v. 18

- While betrothed to Joseph, she conceived a child.
- Before they shared their marriage bed, she was expecting this child.

B. Joseph's Justified Intention. v. 19

- Joseph was a just man ~ upright.
- Joseph had compassionate feelings for Mary ~ didn't want her to be put to public shame.

C. An Angel's Reassuring Message. v. 20-21

Note: This angel came to Joseph in a dream, not in person.

- Do not fear marrying Mary in her condition ~ told him of the supernatural conception.
- The baby would be a son.
- Joseph was to name the boy, Jesus (*Savior*), because He would save people from their sin.

D. Matthew's Prophetic Commentary. v. 22-23

- An unwed virgin will become miraculously pregnant.
- The baby will be a boy.
- His name shall be Immanuel ~ *God with us*.

E. Joseph's Righteous Obedience. v. 24-25

- Joseph carried through and soon completed the marriage process to Mary.
- Joseph and Mary did not consummate their vows until after the birth of this child.
- Joseph did name the child, Jesus.

II. Reassurance for Others.

A. Protection and Guardianship. **Psalms 34:7**

Who would know this better than David.

See also **Psalms 91:11-12**; **Matthew 18:10**.

B. Intercessions in the Old Testament.

- Adam & Eve kept out of the Garden of Eden.
- Abraham entertained angels & was restrained by one when offering Isaac.
- Hagar was consoled by an angel concerning Ishmael.
- Eliezer, Abraham's servant, was led to Rebekah by an angel.
- Lot was delivered from harm by angels.
- Jacob was directed by angels.
- Moses was given the law by angels.
- Balaam was reproved by an angel.
- Joshua was encouraged by an angel when taking Jericho.

- Gideon was commissioned by an angel.
- Israel was chastened by angels.
- Elijah was comforted and translated to heaven by angels.
- Elisha was defended by angels.
- Isaiah was commissioned by angels.
- Daniel was ministered to by angels.
- Zechariah was enlightened by angels.

#### C. Intercessions in the New Testament.

##### 1. Healing Waters. **John 5:2-4**

Although some of the earliest manuscripts omit 3a-4, verse 7 confirms that the waters somehow were stirred up with healing for the first person in them.

##### 2. Release from Prison. **Acts 5:19**; 12:7

Peter and John were encouraged to preach the gospel despite opposition.

In Acts 12:7 Peter was released from shackles after being arrested at Herod's command. Herod was soon slain by an angel of the Lord (Acts 12:23).

##### 3. Instrumental in Evangelistic Efforts.

**Acts 10:1-5**; Acts 8:26-29

Cornelius was instructed to send for Peter.

Philip was pointed to the desert to meet an Ethiopian eunuch.

##### 4. Assurance of Safety. **Acts 27:21-25**

Paul believed the angel delivered the will of God.

**So What?**     *What have we learned about angels today?*

- Angels many times convey God's will and plan to man.
- Angels provide protection and offer guidance in this life.
- Angels possess great power.
- Angels can give clarity to confused people.
- Angels are God's ministering spirits. **Hebrews 1:14**

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
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1. Scripture doesn't say very much about Joseph, Mary's intended husband. Do a brief study this week on this man. Matthew described him as a just man or as an upright man. Are there other reasons why he would write this?

2. Consider the angel's message given to Joseph. Would the message have eased all of Joseph's concerns? What might he have considered the best news the angel brought?

3. Two names are given for this son that would be raised by Joseph and Mary: Jesus and Immanuel. Here is an interesting article about the name Jesus ~ [slate.com/news-and-politics/2008/12/was-jesus-a-common-name-back-when-he-was-alive.html](https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2008/12/was-jesus-a-common-name-back-when-he-was-alive.html). A good article on Immanuel is <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-does-Immanuel-mean.html>. Consider reading both articles.

4. Read Matthew 18:10. Many people see this verse as foundational to the belief in guardian angels. What do you know about this subject? Can you find further biblical proof or teachings on guardian angels? (Remember that all ideas on the internet may not have support in the Bible.)

5. Read Hebrews 13:2. What does this verse imply? Can you think of any accounts in the Bible where people entertained men that turned out to be angels? Has this ever happened to you? How did you know it was an angel?

Sermon Topic for December 17:

*Angelic Appearances and Assignments*    Selected Scripture  
We will specifically look at Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel in Luke 2:1:26-38. This is a familiar account, but still ponder a few questions this week: Why would the angel's greeting trouble Mary? What are the awesome things the angel revealed about this baby she would carry? What else did the angel know about that fell into the miraculous realm?