

December 17, 2023  
*Reassuring Messengers of God ~ Part 2*  
**All About Angels Series**

Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction: Show Video – *Angels and Cherubim (Episode 4) ~*  
*The Bible Project*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bMRxQbLUlg&t=19s>

What have we learned about angels so far?

- Angels can appear from nowhere.
- Angels can sometimes 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 can be in the very presence of God.
- Angels do whatever God asks or instructs them to do.
- Angels can bring consequences into people's lives.
- 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.

We met the angel Gabriel in the account of Zecharias in the temple. He reappears in today's account.

*Reassuring Messengers of God ~ Part 2*

Read **Luke 1:26-38**.

I. What do we learn about Mary? Luke 1:26-30

A. Was living in Nazareth.

Quite far from Jerusalem (hub of worship; on a major trade route, hosting many Gentile merchants and Romans soldiers.

B. Was a virgin.

She had not engaged in sexual intercourse with any man.

This fact was used by an angel who visited Joseph in order to

validate Mary's claim that she had been indeed faithful to her betrothed. Also prophesied by Isaiah (7:14).  
Luke, being a medical doctor, surely knew the definition of virginity. *Would he not have corrected his account if he had any thoughts otherwise?*

C. Was betrothed to Joseph.

Betrothed – TCBL, p. 33 (Luke)

D. Received God's blessing on her life.

*Rejoice!*

*You are highly favored by God!*

A recipient of grace rather than a source of grace.

*The Lord is with you!* You are not on this road by yourself.

*Blessed are you among women!*

This phrase is not found in the oldest manuscripts.

Elizabeth proclaims this truth in 3 ways (verses 42 & 45).

Her cousin didn't feel worthy to be in her presence when Mary came to visit while expecting this angel-announced baby.  
*She had found favor with God!*

Mary was young, poor, female – none of these would have elevated her in man's eyes – unusable for any of God's tasks.

If what the angel was about to tell her was true, she was stepping into a world of probable need, hostility, and anguish.

- If divorced for unfaithfulness, probably unmarried for life.
- If disowned by her father, left to begging or possibly prostitution to survive.

II. What was Mary told about this child? Luke 1:31-33

Unger's Bible Handbook, p. 514     *The eternal Son of God would unite Himself with the miraculously generated human nature in the womb of the virgin. The result was "that holy thing" uniquely unclassifiable – deity and humanity united for the redemption of the fallen race.*

A. Mary's Son's name was to be *Jesus*.

Hebrew *Jeshua* – the Lord is Salvation (Savior)

Same name Joseph was told by an angel in his dream.

B. He will be great. More than excellent and fine.  
He will be “markedly superior in character, quality, or skill”

C. He will be called the Son of the Highest/Son of God.  
*Holy One* – points to Jesus’ sinless nature, His deity.

D. He will reign on the throne of David  
Fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant – **2 Samuel 7:16**  
Isaiah’s Prophecy – **Isaiah 9:6-7**  
His reign and this kingdom will be eternal.

At this point in the account, Mary wanted to know how this would happen – there were too many human impossibilities.  
The angel simply attributed the upcoming act to the Holy Spirit, used her relative’s miraculous pregnancy as confirmation, and Mary submitted.

- She believed God (See **Luke 1:45**).
- Maidservant – humble before the Lord; ready to be faithful and to obediently serve God.
- Accepted God’s call and submitted to His plan.

The Greek form of Mary’s reply implies a desire that these things should happen, not a simple resignation (what will be will be).

**So What?** Mary’s submission to God’s will is commendable.  
Her belief in the angel’s message and her trust in God would guide her through the next nine months.

What have we learned about angels today?

- Angels are sent by God to people.
- Angels understand who they are visiting.
- Angels have been shown future events.
- Angels acknowledge the reality of the triune God.
- Angels proclaim the vast abilities of God ~ *nothing is too difficult for God!*

What would be accomplished by this boy born to Mary?  
Through Christ’s sinless life and sacrificial death:

- Cherubim need not stand guard in the Holy of Holies. In fact, the veil that kept people away from God was torn from top to bottom at His death.

- The promise of eating from the tree of life will be realized in the New Jerusalem.

Communion

Questions to Ponder Through the Week  
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1. Read Luke 1:26-27. What details from these verses are essential to the doctrine concerning Jesus' deity? Why could He only come into this world by a virgin? Why is Joseph's lineage important?
2. Read Luke 1:28. Paraphrase the angel's greeting. Do any of his words indicate that Mary was a woman without sin? Do a brief study, investigating the Catholic doctrine concerning Mary's purity. Is there biblical basis for their belief?
3. Compare and contrast the angel messages given to Joseph (Matthew 1:20-21) and to Mary (Luke 1:31-33, 35-37). Was it the same angel that visited each of them? Are there enough similarities to believe the messages were sent from God?

4. Read Romans 12:1-2. Paraphrase what Paul was asking the Roman Christians to do. How is Mary's response (Luke 1:34-38) a picture of Paul's request? Have you ever been placed in a situation where personal sacrifice was so strongly requested? What was your response?

5. Today we shared the bread and the wine at the Lord's Table. What can a Christian do to extend that worship experience past the 15 minutes that it is? How do you keep Christ's sacrifice ever before you? Do you only express your gratitude when we have a communion service? Spend some additional time in thanksgiving today.

Sermon Topic for December 24:

*Angelic Appearances and Assignments*      Selected Scripture  
We will specifically look at the shepherd's encounter with the angels in Luke 2:8-20. This is a familiar account, but still ponder a few questions this week: If one angel scared the socks off the shepherds, why would God send a multitude? What is significant about the last thing the angels said to the shepherds? Do you think people generally believe in the existence and activity of angels in this world? Why do you say this?