

CHRISTMAS: THE MESSIAH, THE MESSAGE, THE MESSENGERS

In many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the Truth] and in different ways God spoke of old to [our] forefathers in *and* by the prophets, ²[But] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of a] Son, Whom He appointed Heir *and* lawful Owner of all things, also by *and* through Whom He created the worlds *and* the reaches of space *and* the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order]. ³He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of [God's] nature, upholding *and* maintaining *and* guiding *and* propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had *by offering Himself* accomplished *our* cleansing of sins *and* riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high, ⁴[Taking a place and rank by which] He Himself became as much superior to angels as the glorious Name (title) which He has inherited is different from *and* more excellent than theirs. **Hebrews 1:1-4 AMPC**

- Jesus the Son of God, the Messiah.
 - Jesus is superior to the old covenant leaders.
 - Jesus is the spokesman in the last days.
 - Jesus is the owner of all things.
 - He created the world, the reaches of space, and the ages of time.
 - He made them and arranged everything in order.
 - Jesus is the exact representation of the Father, the very image of God's nature.
 - He upholds, maintains, guides and propels the whole universe by His mighty Word of power.
 - He sacrificed Himself and cleansed us of all our sins and guilt.
 - He then sat down at the right hand of God the Father.
 - Jesus is superior to the angels.
 - Jesus is the King of kings and angels are to worship and obey Him.
 - His throne is forever and the foundation of His throne is righteousness and justice.
 - He loves what the Father loves and hates what He hates, and He is anointed with joy above all others.
 - Jesus is eternal and timeless and changeless.

- Angels are His servants, ministering spirits to help us who are the heirs of salvation.
- God's message and His messengers.

It is quite interesting to see the central role that angels played in the Christmas Story. We will look at several incidents of angelic involvement and the importance to the outcome of Jesus' birth.

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

⁸Now it happened *that* while he was performing his priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of his division, ⁹according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. ¹¹And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²Zacharias was troubled when he saw *the angel*, and fear gripped him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷It is he who will go as a *forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time." **Luke 1:5-20 NASB**

- The angel Gabriel appears to Zacharias foretelling the birth of John the Baptist, who would be the forerunner for the birth of Jesus. (see **John 1:6-13**)

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. **Luke 1:26-38 NASB**

- The angel Gabriel encounters Mary and tells her about how Jesus would be born.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his

wife, ²⁵but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. **Matthew 1:18-25 NASB**

- An angel speaks to Joseph and informs him about the truth behind the birth of Jesus.

⁸In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men ^[8]with whom He is pleased.” ¹⁵When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” **Luke 2:8-15 NASB**

- An angel appears to the shepherds and tells them about the birth of Jesus and then a multitude of angels proclaiming the good news to the shepherds.

⁷Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” ⁹After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.” ¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He remained there until the death of Herod. *This was to fulfill*

what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” **Matthew 2:7-15 NASB**

- An angel appears to Joseph and instructs him to keep Jesus safe by taking Him to Egypt.
 - Why did God send all these messengers?
 - Why? Because the message was so significant.
 - No angels showed up when Chick Fil A announced a new restaurant on Barry Rd.
 - No angels are booked for my upcoming December birthday.
 - No angels showed up for the Plaza Lights Ceremony.
 - Why no angels?? Because none of these events were important enough to send angels. God sent His messengers multiple times because His message was so significant.
 - It wasn't that the messengers were so important, but what they had to say really mattered. Their message was about Jesus!

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people. ¹¹ For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord! **Luke 2:10-11 AMPC**

I am no angel, but my message is like theirs:

JESUS IS THE ANSWER!