

# WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

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LO: To understand the importance of angels in the Christmas story

Today, I would like us to look at the messages that were brought to people by God's special messengers- the angels.



The birth of Jesus was a very special time.

God sent his messengers to many people in order to reassure them, warn them and bring them the Good News.

During Advent, we looked at the Annunciation to Mary.

Angel Gabriel visited Mary in her house to tell her how special she was in the eyes of God and that she had a very important part to play in God's plan.



God also sent his angel to Zechariah,  
Elizabeth's husband and the father of John  
the Baptist



You can read about Zechariah's experience in Luke  
1: 11-22

<sup>11</sup> Then, to the right of the incense altar, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. <sup>12</sup> Zechariah was troubled and overcome with fear.

<sup>13</sup> The angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be your pride and joy, and many people will be glad that he was born. <sup>15</sup> As far as the Lord is concerned, he will be a great man. He will never drink wine or any other liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup> He will bring many people in Israel back to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will go ahead of the Lord with the spirit and power that Elijah had. He will change parents' attitudes toward their children. He will change disobedient people so that they will accept the wisdom of those who have God's approval. In this way he will prepare the people for their Lord."

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "What proof is there for this? I'm an old man, and my wife is beyond her childbearing years."

<sup>19</sup> The angel answered him, "I'm Gabriel! I stand in God's presence. God sent me to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But because you didn't believe what I said, you will be unable to talk until the day this happens. Everything will come true at the right time."

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah. They were amazed that he was staying in the temple so long. <sup>22</sup> When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them. So they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. He motioned to them but remained unable to talk

Joseph was about to become Mary's husband. He was saddened and confused when he found out that Mary was expecting a baby. He didn't know that it was a part of God's plan.

Then, God sent an angel to explain everything to Joseph.



You can find out more about Joseph's dream in Mathew 1:18-25

- <sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about<sup>[a]</sup>: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet<sup>[b]</sup> did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
- <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[c]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."
- <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[d]</sup> (which means "God with us").
- <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus

When little baby Jesus was born, God sent his angels to announce the Good News to the shepherds.



Look at Luke 2:8-15 to find out more about that special night.

<sup>8</sup> AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS LIVING OUT IN THE FIELDS NEARBY, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCKS AT NIGHT. <sup>9</sup> AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE AROUND THEM, AND THEY WERE TERRIFIED. <sup>10</sup> BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, “DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT WILL CAUSE GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. <sup>11</sup> TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD. <sup>12</sup> THIS WILL BE A SIGN TO YOU: YOU WILL FIND A BABY WRAPPED IN CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.”

<sup>13</sup> SUDDENLY A GREAT COMPANY OF THE HEAVENLY HOST APPEARED WITH THE ANGEL, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING,

<sup>14</sup> “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN,  
AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS.”

<sup>15</sup> WHEN THE ANGELS HAD LEFT THEM AND GONE INTO HEAVEN, THE SHEPHERDS SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, “LET’S GO TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS HAPPENED, WHICH THE LORD HAS TOLD US ABOUT.”

God also sent his angel to warn Joseph.  
The angel told Joseph to flee to Egypt to  
avoid king Herod's evil plan.



**MATTHEW 2:13-23**

#### **THE ESCAPE TO EGYPT**

13 NOW AFTER THEY HAD LEFT, 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 ABOUT TO SEARCH FOR THE CHILD, TO DESTROY HIM.' 14 THEN JOSEPH\* GOT UP, TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER BY NIGHT, AND WENT TO EGYPT, 15 AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL THE DEATH OF HEROD. THIS WAS TO FULFIL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN BY THE LORD THROUGH THE PROPHET, 'OUT OF EGYPT I HAVE CALLED MY SON.'

#### **THE RETURN FROM EGYPT**

19 WHEN HEROD DIED, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD SUDDENLY APPEARED IN A DREAM TO JOSEPH IN EGYPT AND SAID, 20 'GET UP, TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, AND GO TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL, FOR THOSE WHO WERE SEEKING THE CHILD'S LIFE ARE DEAD.' 21 THEN JOSEPH\* GOT UP, TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, AND WENT TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL. 22 BUT WHEN HE HEARD THAT ARCHELAUS WAS RULING OVER JUDEA IN PLACE OF HIS FATHER HEROD, HE WAS AFRAID TO GO THERE. AND AFTER BEING WARNED IN A DREAM, HE WENT AWAY TO THE DISTRICT OF GALILEE. 23 THERE HE MADE HIS HOME IN A TOWN CALLED NAZARETH, SO THAT WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS MIGHT BE FULFILLED, 'HE WILL BE CALLED A NAZOREAN.'

For your work today, I would like you to fill in the table to show what were the messages that the angels brought to the people involved in the birth of Christ. In the second column, I'd like you to write what was the response to the received messages.

The first part has been done for you.

### Angels' message

Angels played a very important role in the birth of Jesus. Please complete the table with angels' message and show me how the people involved responded to the message. The first example has been done for you.

	What was the message?	What was the response?
Annunciation to Mary	Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to God's son and that she would name him Jesus.	Initially, Mary was frightened, but she agreed to fulfil her destiny. She said 'yes' to becoming Jesus' mother.
Annunciation to Zechariah		
Joseph's dream		
Shepherds in the field		
Joseph's warning		