

Gabriel

"The Faithful"



"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary."

Luke 1:26

Has an angel ever appeared to you? It could. Angels are mentioned 117 times in the Old Testament and 180 times in the New Testament. The angel Gabriel had an awesome assignment. His one assignment, involving the birth of Christ, is probably the one that most people accept or reject.

As a child I sang a song about Jacob's ladder. The Bible tells us that angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Other times we are told they just appeared. They came to the shepherds

and told the message that Christ was going to be born that night. I think that would have been such a wonderful experience for the shepherds, but would anyone believe them. I don't know, but I truly think they did appear and that the shepherds were led to the manger to see the new King.

The angel Gabriel was sent to earth during the lifetime of Daniel to interpret a vision. Daniel doubted at first. But, after he had time to think things through he realized the angel sent from God gave him the ability to interpret the vision.

Another time Gabriel was sent to Zachariah, a servant of the Lord who worked in the temple. Zachariah was paralyzed with fear. The angel told him to not be afraid. He and Elisabeth were going to have a son, and he would make not only Zachariah and his wife happy, but many other people also. Zachariah was told his son would be a forerunner of the Christ. We know the son as John the Baptist.

Then Zachariah asked the angel if he expected him to believe that. After all he and his wife, Elisabeth, were old. The angel then told him that his name was Gabriel and because he had doubted he would not be able to speak until his son was born. He told him that God's will would be accomplished through him in God's time!!! Was that an honor, or a punishment? Don't we often pray for things to be done according to our schedule?

*For He shall give
His angels charge
over thee, to keep thee in
all thy ways.*

Psalms 91:11 KJV

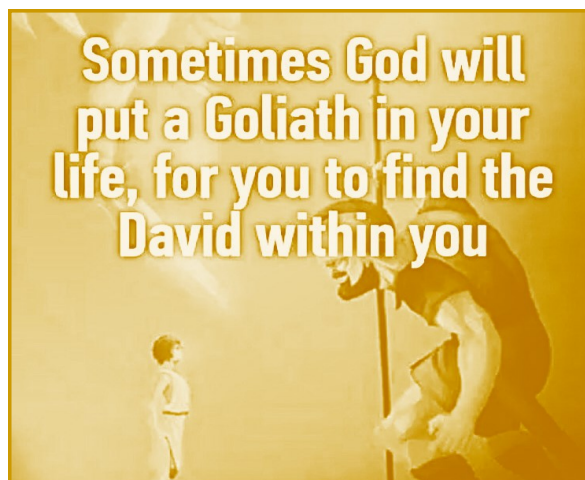
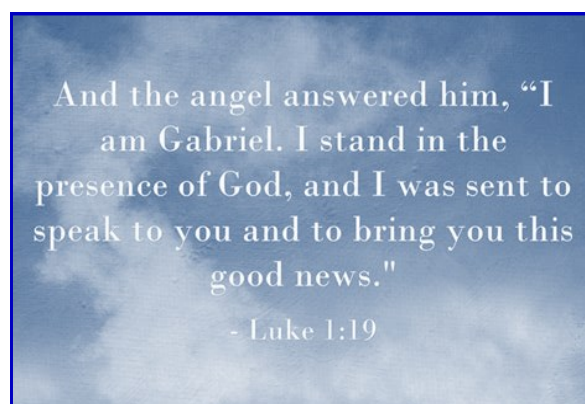
Gabriel is sent to earth a third time. This time he goes to Mary and tells her that she will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be Jesus. She also doubts because she is a virgin and he tells her that the baby will be the Son of God. Can you blame her for not believing at first?

There are many things in life that we don't understand. I was told that as a child I was very inquisitive. I do remember my grandmother quoting to me that the Bible said *"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."* 1 Corinthians 13:12. Her reference of this verse was to make me realize that I was not supposed to know everything on this earth. I was to trust and have faith and everything would be o.k. Her words have come back to me as a security and promise many times.

God knows that we question. Looking at that verse as an adult, I think of the wonderful assurance that God knows me and that someday I will be with Him.

Did the angel Gabriel appear to Zachariah and Daniel? I only know that I believe he did. I believe that an angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary. Do I believe that angels can appear to us today? I don't know of anyone that has had one appear to him/her with wings and robed in white today, but I believe it could happen. I know that there are people that have been called angels because of the help they have given to others. I believe that God has and will send some of us out to be "angels" to other people. We must be ready for the challenge.

How do you feel about angels? Are they real? Could one appear today? The word "angel" actually comes from the Greek word *aggelos*, which means "messenger". Michael is referred to as an archangel. What does that mean? We know that we were created in God's image, but we don't know when angels were created. We do believe that God created everything. Angelic figures appeared as early in the Bible as Genesis, and as late as Revelation. But, they don't appear as little cupids with wings as they are often depicted. That is our human interpretation. Angels are described in the Bible by Peter and Matthew, just to name a couple, as stronger than man, but not omnipotent. What does that mean? Their appearance is distinctive in many places where they are mentioned. Can you be an angel for someone?



Prayer: Heavenly Father, we read your Word, and we wonder. Not because we don't believe you, but because we are only seeing with our human minds and eyes. Help to realize that you are all knowing and will provide the best for us, and help us to understand if we have faith to listen. Amen

1. Do you believe in angels? Angels were messengers many times in the Bible. Is it the Word of God? Was Gabriel a special angel because of the work he did?
2. Can angels be either male or female? Can a child be an angel?
3. Would you ever want to be an angel to someone else?
4. Has someone been an angel to you?
5. What does an angel look like?

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