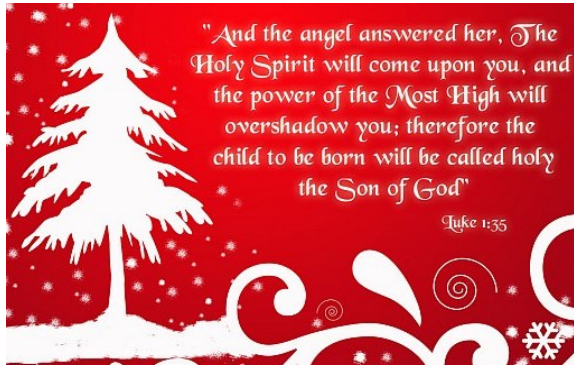


# The Angels

“They Were Told”



*“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, ‘Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.’”*

Luke 2:9-10

The Angels are referenced seventeen times in the New Testament. We usually think of them with visits to Mary and Joseph before the birth of Christ, but there are many other appearances by angels. The angel mentioned by name most is Gabriel. But we also have references to Michael the Archangel who visited Zacharias and told him that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son and his name would be John. That John is John the Baptist who leads the way for Christ in His ministry.

We really don't know much for sure about angels. There has been much written, but there is so much we can't comprehend because we don't know.

Some people believe that each person is assigned a guardian angel. Some feel they are still appearing to people today.

This devotional will focus on the angel(s) that appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The Scripture tells us that the angel of the Lord first appeared to the shepherds. Then after the angel tells them about the birth of a babe in Bethlehem who would be wrapped in clothes which was Christ the Lord the multitude of heavenly hosts appeared and praised God saying “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:14 We take this to mean that the birth of Christ offered peace or delight and kindness to every repentant sinner who accepted Christ as a personal Savior.

The birth of someone of royalty is generally an occasion of public reveling and rejoicing. Christ was certainly the Prince of Peace, but his birth announcement is made in the field to this lowly group of shepherds by an angel. They rejoiced but we don't hear that the people in the street rejoiced even when the shepherds told them what they had heard and seen.

In the book of James, we find a beautiful quote about our salvation and that of the shepherds. *“Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”* James 2:5

It is part of a speech to the people about showing favoritism to the rich and exploiting people. It also includes the



*“Love came down at Christmas  
love all lovely, love divine  
love was born at Christmas  
stars and angels gave the sign.”*

- Christina Rossetti

quote of Christ to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” James 2:8

I wondered what was on the minds of the angels. For a minute I'd like to get outside the usual box and wonder what the angels may have thought before they came to earth to announce the coming of Christ to a world of sinners. Ray Keffer wrote a play that explored these thoughts. Here are a few random quotes from his play “Angels on Alert.”\*

ANGEL 1: "You know that God has tried many times to help those people, don't ask me why, but nothing He has tried has seemed to work. So, God feels that if He sends His Son, Jesus, down to Earth to work with the earthlings for a little while, they maybe would get the message of what God's plan is for them."

ANGEL 2: "That's quite a plan, but do you really think that people on Earth will believe that the Christ Child was born of a virgin, and that Joseph was not the father of the child? Come on . . . ."

ANGEL 1: "This mission by Jesus is really a dangerous one for him. Those earthlings can be cruel. They don't seem to have much regard for the sanctity of human life, let alone a concern for the life of a young virgin woman who is giving birth to a child who is the Son of God! Do you doubt what God's will shall be revealed?"

GABRIEL: "As I understand it, an angel will be sent to talk to a young woman that God has picked out to be the earthly mother of His son, a woman named Mary who is of the house and lineage of David. Jesus will go to earth as a new born baby. As he matures in years, he will work with the earthlings until the time comes for Jesus to begin his ministry to the people. He'll teach the people how they can have eternal life with God and that He was sent to be the means to provide them with eternal life."

ANGEL 1: "Are you willing to go?"

ANGEL 1: "I'm sure it will all work out for the best. We just have to be ready to do our part!"

ANGEL 2: "Yes! I'm ready I'll shout it from the mountain tops! I'll say - 'Hey World - 'For unto you a child is born. Unto to you a Child is given. He shall be called: Wonderful. Counselor. Almighty God. The Everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace. And of His kingdom there will be no end!'" \*

We can all wonder why God was willing to sacrifice His Son for us. Can we be an angel to someone on this earth?

*"The wings of angels are often found on the backs of the least likely people."*

Eric Honeycutt

## *A Song Was Heard At Christmas*

*by Timothy Dudley-Smith*

A song was heard at Christmas  
To wake the midnight sky;  
A saviour's birth and peace on earth,  
And praise to God on high.

The angels sang at Christmas  
With all the hosts above,  
And still we sing the newborn King  
His glory and his love.

*"Jesus humbled Himself.*

*He went from commanding  
angels to sleeping in the straw.  
From holding Stars to clutching  
Mary's finger.*

*The palm that held the universe  
took the nail of a soldier..*

*Why?*

*Because that's what  
love does."*

Max Lucado



Prayer: Father God, I thank You for sending Your Son to earth so that we may have Eternal Life with You. May we know You as our personal "Wonderful. Counselor. Almighty God. The Everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace" today and every day. Amen

1. Do angels have bodies?
2. Are angels still being created?
3. Will you become an angel when you go to your eternal life with God?
4. Are we ready to go and shout it "from the mountaintop"?

\*Look at the complete script found at [www.rgscripts.com](http://www.rgscripts.com). It is free to copy and do for a church service.

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*"The earth has grown old  
with its burden of care, but  
at Christmas it always is  
young, the heart of the jewel  
burns lustrous and fair,  
and its soul full of music  
breaks the air, when the  
song of angels is sung."*

*- Phillips Brooks*

