

“THE VOICE OF THE ANGEL”  
Luke 2:1-20  
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

The heavens are rejoicing tonight! God, my Master, has delivered hope to the world of men! Jesus, the Prince of Peace, God’s only Son, has made Himself human, and has become like them, being born tonight in human form. The Divine nature of God confined into the physical flesh of a human boy. It is amazing to see what my Master has done for the people of the Earth. There is now reconciliation available to all people who will claim Jesus as their Savior.

My name is Gabriel, God’s chief messenger to the people of Earth. My Master started this whole process a long time ago in human time, when He told the prophets that hope was coming, that God would provide a Deliverer who would provide escape from the punishment of sin and death.

Ever since God created the Earth and all the people on it, there was rebellion among them. No matter what God told them to do, they seemed to find a way to either disobey or outright reject His commands. My Master is very particular to obedience and loyalty, so He does not tolerate rejection or disobedience. Even among our own rank of the angelic hosts, God demands complete loyalty and allegiance. No one is above God’s laws and commands, and He demands that we obey Him, lest we be cast away from Him. He will tolerate no evil or wickedness or pride or self-seeking in His presence.

So that left the people on Earth in such danger. God had created them perfect, in His own image, but when they disobeyed Him, the relationship between them and God changed. No longer could God allow them into His presence, for the sin in their life prevented it. How were they to ever come back into His presence? How could God’s creation ever return to Him? They could not do it on their own, for the Earth was sin soaked and only a perfect sacrifice could atone for that sin. The people used animals to cast their sins upon and gave them up as an offering so that God might be pleased with them again. It was a temporary fix that God allowed. Repentance came through the shedding of the animal’s blood and the giving of the animal’s life. But it was never enough to completely wipe away that sin. How was it possible then, for the people to become pure and holy and be able to stand in God’s presence

once more? My Master developed the perfect plan to bring people of the Earth back into His presence. He would become the perfect sacrifice needed to sanctify all the people of the Earth. He would take the sins of the people upon Himself, pay the price of that sin with His own death, and then release them from the condemnation that sin brings.

Here's how it worked. God, my Master, gave the people His laws to live by. And He gave them the promise that a Savior would come to bridge the gap between the people and their sins and God and His holiness. That Savior, would instruct them in the ways of God once more. He would teach them how to follow the commandments of God, and then, He would willingly take all of their sins upon Himself, and would become the perfect sacrifice demanded for the forgiveness of that sin.

But how could God become human? What could He do to show up on Earth and lead His people back to Him? If He suddenly showed up among the people, they would die of fright because of His radiance and His glory. You remember how the people responded when God talked to them at Mount Sinai? His presence was so overwhelming that the people feared for their lives. They became so afraid that they could not follow Him.

So God, my Master, worked out another way to become present among the people. He decided that He had to become like them in every way, except for sin, so that they could understand Him, and receive Him, and then put their trust and loyalty in Him. So God promised the Messiah to be the one who would deliver all the people of the Earth.

So the first step was to get the people ready for the presence of the Messiah. God, my Master, called me one day and instructed me to go to a very devout couple in Jerusalem to tell them that they would have a son who would go before the people to prepare them for the Messiah. Zechariah, the priest, and his wife, Elizabeth, were chosen. They did not have any children, so God enabled Elizabeth to conceive a special child, whom they would name John, who would become the harbinger of the Messiah. Elizabeth was old, in human standards, but God enabled her to conceive. I had spoken to Zechariah about it, and though he did not initially believe, he was willing to be John's father. I gave

him a sign that helped him to believe a bit better – I took away his ability to speak until John was born and consecrated to God, given the name I had instructed him to give him. Step on complete.

Then, God, my Master, called me again, saying that I should visit a young woman who was not yet married, and inform her of God's plan to use her to bring about His Messiah to the Earth. So I went to a little town called Nazareth, and spoke with Mary, letting her know about God's plan and inviting her to do this great thing. She was confused initially, but I informed her of what God was doing in Elizabeth, and told her that God, my Master, could do anything. After all, He had created the world and the whole universe. Couldn't He allow a virgin to conceive a son when He was the one making it all happen? Certainly He could. There is nothing impossible with God.

Mary conceded to being the Lord God's servant, and said yes to His plan. That's when Jesus, the Son of God, gave up His heavenly glory for a time, allowed God the Father to implant Him into Mary's womb, and then take on the likeness of a human man.

Because He had given up His heavenly glory for a time, Jesus was just like any human baby boy. He was vulnerable, He was unable to care for Himself, just as any human baby. So God had to protect Him. So I was instructed to visit the man that Mary was engaged to be married to, and told him what was going on. Joseph struggled seeing his betrothed become pregnant, knowing that it was not his baby. But I instructed him about God's plan to bring about the Messiah for the Earth, and he understood. He stepped up at that moment to become Mary's husband, claim the baby as his own, and raise Him so that He could fulfill God's plan of Salvation for the world. I gave Joseph the courage he needed to walk with Mary to allow God's plan to be completed.

Those nine months, human time, went quickly and Jesus' human body grew as any child did. So when the time came for the birth of Jesus to happen, all of heaven watched as Mary delivered Jesus into the world. I couldn't help but share the good news with some of the people on earth who needed to hear this great Good News of what God had done. So I visited some shepherds, surprising them a bit, and I told them that their Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in Bethlehem of Judea. I gave them some hints for

them to find Jesus. Because Joseph and Mary were poor, they were in a stable, and Joseph had crafted a manger to become Jesus' bed. Mary had brought along some strips of cloth to cover Jesus when He was born. So I told the shepherds, "...you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

But I wasn't the only one who was excited about Jesus' birth. A whole realm of other angels like me suddenly showed up and began singing to the shepherds. They praised God for all that He was doing for the people of the Earth, so we all sang together, "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased!*" (Luke 2:14).

That sure got the shepherds excited! The whole group left their flocks right there in the fields and all of them went in search of the new-born Savior, Jesus. They hunted through every stable, and finally found Jesus, right where I told them they would. Oh, they were stunned at the sight of Jesus. It was hard for them to understand how a baby could bring salvation to the world, but they were smart enough to know that it was not the baby, Jesus, that would save them, but the grown man, Jesus, who would complete all that was necessary for Salvation to occur. They got so giddy that they went throughout Jerusalem that night waking up everyone by shouting glory to God and singing praises to Him for all that He had done. What a holy and exciting night! God's plan was at work to save His creation from death and eternal destruction.

But there were other forces at work trying to thwart God's Salvation for the world. With the news that the Messiah was born reached those in government, there was an immediate reaction to try to kill Jesus before He could even begin to complete His work. So I was told to go and warn Joseph of what the king was planning. He listened and got Mary and Jesus up and out of Bethlehem to protect them all from the danger that was approaching. I had told them to go to Egypt, and that is where Joseph went. Then when the king died, no longer making a threat on Jesus' life, I guided Joseph and Mary and Jesus back to Nazareth, so that they could be home again for Jesus to grow up there.

Rejoice all you people of the Earth! Your Savior Jesus came to guide you back to God. Trust in

Him, follow Him, obey His teachings, and rejoice in Him as your Savior. God loves you more than you know and has provided you a way back to Him. Rejoice and be glad, for your Savior has come!