

THREE ANGELIC APPEARANCES

Regarding the birth of Christ there were three angelic visitations and announcements:

1) The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to give a special message to a young woman called Mary.

“Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.... Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:28,30,35).

The announcement was that Mary, a virgin, was chosen to bear the Son of God. Jesus is called the Son of Man because He became a man and He is called the Son of God because He has the full nature and attributes of God. Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God; God in human form (John 1:1,14).



2) The next angelic announcement was to Joseph, the man to whom Mary was pledged to marry. When Joseph found that she was already pregnant, he did not want to expose her to public disgrace but had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25).

Joseph was told to give the child the name Jesus, which is the Greek form of Joshua, which means “the Lord saves.” He will save His people from their sins. God alone has the authority to forgive us and save us, yet Jesus is Immanuel—God with us.

3) The third angelic announcement was to some shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests” (Luke 2:8-14). This announcement of the birth of Christ to the shepherds is for all people. It is a sign, and for the last two thousand years the significance of this sign has been proclaimed around the world.

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’ (Isaiah 9:6). Believe in Jesus Christ; God the Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:19).



The message that the angels want us to know about Christmas is very simple. It is that the child conceived by the Holy Spirit is the Son of God. He is the Saviour, Christ the Lord, and He will save His people from their sins. He is

Jesus, the Lord who saves us. He is Immanuel, God with us.

The message of Christmas is a reminder that the Saviour of the world was born among us, and that whoever believes in Him can enter the kingdom of God and have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son' (John 3:16-18).



The birth of a baby more than two thousand years ago was the turning point in world history. The Messiah had arrived on earth. Christ's birth had been foretold by great men of God. Isaiah had prophesied of Christ's birth (Isaiah 9:6). Moses had prophesied of Christ's birth (Deuteronomy 18:15). As did the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2), and the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26,33). In the person of Jesus Christ we find the highest fulfilment of prophecy.

The reason the King of Heaven came to this earth was to provide forgiveness for sinners who would ask Him to be their Saviour. He came into the world to rescue people from the self-destruction of sin by laying down His own life for you and for me. To become a child of God and to enter the kingdom of Heaven you need to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Love Him and adore Him.

'He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God' (John 1:10-13).

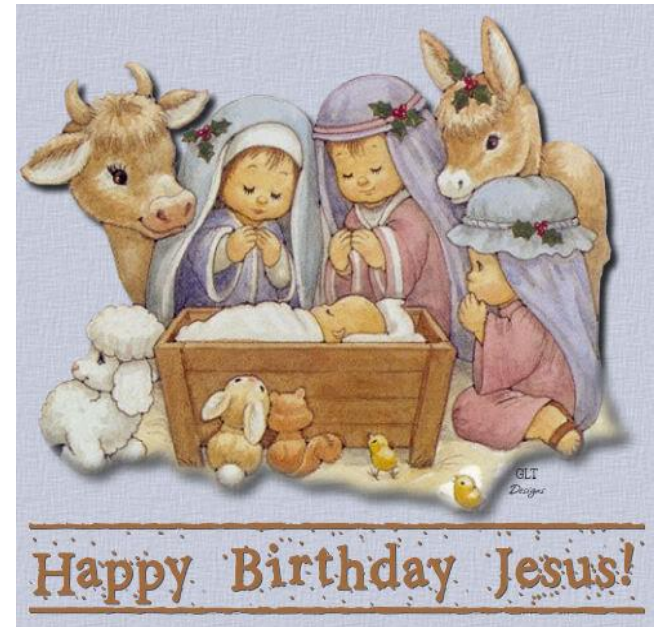
REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND BE SAVED!

'Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God' (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

"Oh Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner. Save me and set me free."

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Merry Christmas



JESUS CAME FOR EVERYONE!