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A Heavenly Visitor (Gabriel) and Jesus' Birth

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

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THE PHYSICAL BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST A HEAVENLY VISITOR (GABRIEL) AND JESUS' BIRTH

THE GABRIEL FILE

STATISTICS ON GABRIEL

Nature: Angelic (non-human nature)

Origin: Created, not born, by God

Co-Laborer: Michael the Archangel (Jude, vs. 9)

Rank: Possibly also an archangel (see 1 Thess. 4:16)

First mention: Daniel 8:16

Final mention: (by name) Luke 1:26

Most common title: The Angel of the Lord

Note: If this title refers to him, Gabriel is also to be seen in the following passages:

1. He assures Joseph concerning the purity of Mary

*"But while he thought on these things, behold, **the angel of the Lord** appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Mt. 1:20).*

2. He warns Joseph about the plot of Herod

*"And when they were departed, behold, **the angel of the Lord** appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him" (Mt. 2:13).*

3. He tells Joseph about the death of Herod

*"But when Herod was dead, behold, **the angel of the Lord** appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt" (Mt. 2:19)*

4. He announces the birth of Christ to the shepherds

*"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" (Lk. 2:9).*

5. He strengthens Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane

*"And there appeared **an angel** unto him from heaven, strengthening him" (Lk. 22:43).*

6. He rolls the stone back at Christ's resurrection

*“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for **the angel of the Lord** descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it” (Mt. 28:2).*

7. He frees the apostles from prison

*“But **the angel of the Lord** by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth” (Acts 5:19).*

8. He sends Philip to the desert of Gaza to meet the eunuch

*“And **the angel of the Lord** spake unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert” (Acts 8:26).*

9. He instructs Cornelius to send for Peter

*“He saw a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day **an angel of God** coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius” (Acts 10:3).*

10. He frees Peter from prison

*“And, behold, **the angel of the Lord** came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands” (Acts 12:7).*

11. He executes wicked Herod for blasphemy

*“And immediately **the angel of the Lord** smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost” (Acts 12:23).*

12. He assures Paul on the deck of a sinking ship

*“For there stood by me this night **the angel of God**, whose I am, and whom I serve” (Acts 27:23).*

13. He will sound the trumpet at the Rapture

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with **the voice of the archangel**, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thess. 4:16).*

Meaning of his name: “The mighty one of God”

Death: Gabriel will never die

Important fact about Gabriel: He is more involved regarding the incarnation than any other individual, including angels and humans.

REFLECTIONS FROM HIS MINISTRY

I still vividly recall that event, a game-changing one to say the least! Michael and I were conferring on just how we might improve our daily praise services in order to make the worship of Jesus even more meaningful.

After all, this is why we were created in the first place—*“But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him’”* (Heb. 1:6).

Suddenly a special angelic messenger rushed in and informed us that the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:9) desired to see us right away. Soon we were standing before His magnificent throne (Isa. 6:1; Rev. 4:2, 3) listening intently.

“Faithful servants,” He began, “both you, along with the millions of other angels (Rev. 5:11) were present when the foundations for the earth were laid (Job 38:4). Now here is the reason you have been summoned. It has been determined by us (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to populate this beautiful but lifeless planet with a special kind of intelligent beings called humans. These creatures will, like yourselves, be made in the image of God, but unlike yourselves, will be born—not created—and possessing flesh and bone bodies.

“Two groups will be involved—one belonging to a nation to be known as Israel, the other to an institution known as the Church.

“Now for your special assignments: You, Michael, will protect and preserve the first group (Dan. 10:13; 12:1). As for you, Gabriel, your duties will be similar, dedicated to the second group. Go now, with the assurance that I personally will guide you every step of the way!”

Well, even now, eons later I still marvel in regard to our glorious God, both *who* He is, and *what* He does. Surely Michael and I can add a hearty amen to King David’s psalm of praise—*“Bless the LORD, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word”* (Psa. 103:20).

But wonder of wonders, I now learn that God not only chose me to announce His Son’s first coming, but to proclaim His second coming also: *“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord”* (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).