

Remnant Life Church  
December 7, 2014  
“**Godly Messengers**”  
(Second Sunday of Advent)  
Luke 1:11-20

Last week – Zechariah; the first of the players in our 4 part company ushering in the birth of the Savior

This morning – the second player; Gabriel (**READ SCRIPTURE**)

Angel

Definition - God’s messengers or ambassadors

Characteristics:

- They belong to His heavenly court and service
- Their mission in heaven is to praise Him (**Rev. 4:5**)
- They devote themselves to doing His will (**Ps 103:20**)
- In their function they are permitted to behold His face (**Matt 18:10**)

Because heaven can interact directly with earth they also have an earthly mission as well:

- They accompanied God in His work of creation (**Job 38:7**)
  - Although they themselves are created beings by God (**Ps 148:2,5**)
- They assist in God’s order of affairs on earth (**Dan 12:1** – Michael arises to help the people in time of distress)
- Active in God’s work of restoration (first time seen in **Gen 19:1-2** – angels in Sodom and Gomorrah prior to its destruction)
- In fulfillment of their work they declare God’s Word (**Luke 1:26-27** – telling Mary of God’s plan) and do His Work (**Matt 28:2** – the angel rolled back the stone from Jesus’ grave.)
  - Through their presence from the first to the last of Jesus’ ministry we see they are very involved in God’s purposes
  - They were present at the start of the first church
  - They will be very active in the end times events (**Rev**)
  - They will come with God to gather us together in His triumphal return (**Matt 24:31**)
  - We are told to be kind to strangers as we may be showing kindness to an angel without knowing it (**Heb 13:2**)
- Their role is in **no way** connected to the saving grace that only comes from God rather their job is to declare the greatness of God
  - That is not to say that they are not aware of that work
  - They rejoice when a person repents and accepts Jesus Christ into their hearts (**Luke 15:10**)
  - Will be there to listen when Jesus confesses to His Father those who confess Him here on earth (**Luke 12:8-9**)
- Hebrews refers to them as “ministering spirits” (**Heb 1:14**)

- Mighty Ones in **Ps 29:1** and Holy Ones in **Job 5:1**
- Other names used to describe them
  - Seraphs or seraphim (**Isa 6:2**)
    - Living Creatures – found in Ezekiel and Revelations with many wings flying and singing praises to God
  - Cherubim – guarded Eden after Adam and Eve were expelled (**Gen 3:24**)
    - They adorned the Ark of the Covenant (**Ex 25:17-22**)
    - And were seen in the temple of Solomon (**I Kings 6:23-35**)
- Three named angels (canonical scriptures)
  - Michael – “the great prince” – warrior - (**Dan 12:1**)
    - Other angels who follow him denoting order within their numbers (**Rev 12:7**)
  - Gabriel – the messenger of God (**Luke 1:19**)
  - Lucifer – prior to his fall of pride was called the ‘son of morning’ (**Isa 14**)
- The named angels (apocryphal writings)
  - Raphael – Uriel - Jeremiel
  - Note - Every angelic name ended in “el” - the OT root of the name God – also “of God”
- **Gabriel** - 4 times in the Bible:
  - Each time he appears it is on an assignment from God
  1. **Daniel 8:16** – to explain a vision
  2. **Daniel 9:21** – to give instruction
  3. **Luke 1:19** – John’s birth to Zechariah
  4. **Luke 1:26** – Jesus’ birth to Mary
  - In **Luke 1** he has been sent by God (perhaps stopping by on his way to Mary’s house) to announce the coming of John the Baptist who would declare the way of the Lord
- If it is obvious that angels exist according to the Word of God (273 verses) why does the protestant church by and large ignore them?
  1. Because many theologians spent a lot of time in the past examining angels with no real purpose
    - a. How many angels can sit on the head of a pin?
    - b. How much time elapsed from the creation of the angelic host to the time that 1/3 of them were cast out with satan?
    - c. Is there a guardian angel assigned to every child born?
    - d. None of these types of questions serve any purpose for the believer today
    - e. As a result angels have been relegated to the same discussions as ETs, werewolves, and Bigfoot.
  2. Because of fear of being associated with the worship of angels in the Roman Catholic church
    - a. The Catholics worship saints, the apostles, and Mary in addition to God
    - b. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century they have also worshipped angels

- i. Sept 29 is Michaelmas Day in which they focus their worship on the archangel Michael
    - c. **Ex 20:3** – no other god before me
    - d. **Col 2:18** – Paul’s warning against the worship of angels
  - 3. Fear of association with Pagan rites
    - a. Every known religion in the world holds to some sort of belief in angels, demons, and spirits
    - b. Wrong knowledge and understanding however does not negate the right
- What is important for us to know today regarding angels?
  - Interestingly enough the one we look to for this lesson is the one who could not remain one
  - Ezekiel tells us that Lucifer was filled with beauty and wisdom
    - Often characterized as the worship leader of heaven
    - He was so beautiful and charismatic that 1/3 of the angels risked losing paradise to follow him
  - And that is exactly what happen to them all
  - When pride and ungodly ambition take hold of our hearts we risk losing everything
  - The writer of Proverbs (**16:18**) tells us the consequence of pride – destruction and we fall
    - Falling is not just a physical malady
    - It is losing our peace, our joy, our health, our minds and more than all of that a failure of our relationship with God
    - Do all that you can to guard your hearts against pride – (i.e. me, what I want, giving in to the flesh) – in everything you do, do it with humility to God’s glory!