



The Message to Mary
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UNFILTERED MESSAGES

Mary's experience:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:26–28 (NRSV)

Elizabeth's experience:

The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news."

Luke 1:19 (NRSV)

- Angels are _____ witnesses.

ANGELOLOGY 101

1. **Myth:** "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings."

Scripture: Angels don't fit one mold (e.g., halo, white gown, wings).

2. **Myth:** Angels have free will.

Scripture: The word *angel* comes from the Hebrew word *mal'akh*, which means "_____."

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

Psalms 103:20 (NRSV)

3. Myth: We don't become angels when we die.

Scripture: Angels are spiritual beings created apart from human beings and with a different purpose.

But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Hebrews 1:13–14 (NRSV)

Two angels specifically named in Scripture: _____ and _____:

What can Gabriel tell us about angels?

When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I tried to understand it. Then someone appeared standing before me, having the appearance of a man, and I heard a human voice by the Ulai, calling, "Gabriel, help this man understand the vision." So he came near where I stood; and when he came, I became frightened and fell prostrate. But he said to me, "Understand, O mortal, that the vision is for the time of the end."

Daniel 8:15–17 (NRSV)

Angels . . .

- _____.
- Remind us that God's work isn't a past one, but a present and future reality.
- Refute the idea that God might _____ us.
- Help us experience God's _____ through them.

What does Gabriel reveal about Jesus?

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:29–33 (NRSV)

- No sooner do angels speak than _____ of God change.
- Angels speak God's truth into our reality.
- Angels restore _____ to Christ when our allegiance is tempted elsewhere.
- *Theotokos* = " _____ "

What does Mary reveal about us?

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 1:34–37 (NRSV)

The danger: Finding ourselves in a place of indifference toward a God of possibility.

The hope: Advent is a story where _____ overcomes indifference.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38 (NRSV)

- Angels give us a language to _____.