

Angels appear to different people, giving the glad tidings of Jesus! There are celestial portents, guiding people from afar to Jesus! Such things never happened to anyone else before, and never happened again. Jesus was truly special. Of course He was. He was the Messiah – no else was or would be. He was the Saviour of people from their sins – no one else could be. He is Immanuel - God with us – no else ever will be. Jesus was and remains unique. The angel Gabriel did indeed bring glad tidings of a Holy Son. At this time of the year, we should remember who this Holy Son was, and what He has done for us. For those who place their faith in Him, He is their Saviour from sin – and from eternal damnation. To those like the husband of Mary who experience God's revelation, He is Immanuel - God with us, and like the Magi, we should worship Him – not just at Christmas, but all the year round. The glad tidings the angel brought are not just for Mary, or her husband, or her relatives, or the shepherds, but for everyone, at all times. We need to respond like faithful Mary, Joseph, like the shepherds and the Magi, and have faith in God's message, and worship Jesus. Only He can save us from our sins – that is indeed glad tidings.

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. He came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"*

*But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.*

*The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

*The angel answered 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 called holy--the Son of God. Luke 1:26-35*



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If thou wert in doubt as to what We have revealed unto thee, then ask those who have been reading the Book from before thee....  
(Surah, 10, verse 94)

# THE ANGEL GABRIEL BROUGHT GLAD TIDINGS TO MARY OF A HOLY SON



## GLAD TIDINGS

When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he brought her the glad tidings of a holy son. The news alarmed her, because she was a virgin! What is more, this was to be no ordinary son, because He was going to be the *Messiah* – the heir of King David: “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” (Luke 1.32-33). The angel told her that she, an ordinary young girl would be the mother of the King! Naturally she asked how this would come about, and received the answer “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” (Luke 1:34).

Since the Child was going to be born through a miracle (having no human father), and was the true King, the angel says of Him “the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God.” Luke 1:35. Jesus was always holy, and never sinned at any time – the only human being who lived a sinless life, pleasing to God. That is important, because an angel also appeared to Mary’s future husband, who was naturally disturbed that she was pregnant before marriage. The angel told him: “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.” (Matthew 1:20-21).

Only a sinless, holy person could do what the

angel said Jesus would do – ‘save his people from their sins’. A sinful person could never pay the price for our sins, and all human beings have sinned. That is why God commanded that the Child be called *Jesus*, which in Hebrew is *Yeshua*, which means ‘God saves’. This Child was not only going to be King – He was going to save people from sin. It wasn’t only Joseph who heard this message – an angel appeared to shepherds outside Bethlehem, the night Jesus was born there, and told them that ‘today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord’. The word *Christ* is Greek for *Messiah*, and the angel told them that this Messiah would be their Saviour.

How would He be their Saviour? Not just by giving them good advice or even by giving them revelation – He would have to do something that saved them. At the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, God told the serpent (Satan) that He would put “enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” This prophesies that a man will be born of a woman (nothing is said about male involvement) and that this Deliverer will destroy Satan, but at cost to Himself. This is what happens in the life of Jesus – He casts out Satan, called ‘the ruler of this world’ by dying on the Cross, John 12:21. He gives His life to save us from our sins, and their consequence – Hell, (Mark 10.45.)

It is clear by now that this was no ordinary Child – His coming was prophesied down the centuries, as was the manner of His birth – by a virgin, as Matthew 1.22-23 tells us – “All this took

place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means “God with us”). This Child would not only be Holy, He would be God Himself – dwelling with us. No surprise then, when Magi from another land came to see this Holy Son, they worshipped Him, (Matthew 2.11). What else should we do before God, but worship Him?

A whole series of factors showed that this Holy Son was special. First of all, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah whilst he was performing his priestly duties in the Temple, giving him glad tidings of a son born to him and his wife in their old age, (Luke 1.12-19). This child – John the Baptist – would be the forerunner of Jesus, v17. Zechariah’s wife, Elizabeth, was Mary’s cousin, and when Mary became pregnant with Jesus, she visited Elizabeth, who told her that “when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy”, v44. An angel also appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary had not been immoral, but that the child in her was conceived through God the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 1.20). Later, an angel appeared to shepherds outside Bethlehem to tell them that Christ had been born, and immediately a large company of angels appeared to praise God for this, (Luke 1.8-15). After that, a star miraculously guides the Magi all the way from their land to Jerusalem, and then points out the house where Jesus was staying, Matthew 2.1-11).

Women experience miraculous births!