

MAR A

Joseph Obeys

When

ANGES



He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.



"...sending his angel to his servant John"

Revelation 1:1

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the **voice of many angels**, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² **saying with a loud voice**, *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Revelation 5:11-12

Let all God's angels worship him.



Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon.



Fact

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The Bible refers to angels more than 200 times.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph...



...before they came together she was found to be with child...



And her husband Joseph, being a **just man** and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things...

Matthew 1:19-20a

... behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:20b-25

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:20b-25

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20b-25

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be..."



Three angelic messages that steer your life

1) God is beyond us

Christmas demonstrates for us:

• God will go out of his way to come to us.

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God will go out of his way to <u>come to us</u>.
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God will go out of his way to <u>come to us</u>.
God will defy the realm of possibility to <u>be with us</u>.
God will break the rules of nature to demonstrate his <u>love for us</u>.

...she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit...



"Behold, the virgin shall conceive..."



"Behold, the virgin shall conceive..." (angel quoting Isaiah 7:14)



"Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God": 65% of evangelicals agree.



I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me...



Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...



There is no one righteous, not even one. ¹¹ There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away; all alike have become useless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.

> **Romans 3:10-12** (Christian Standard Version)

...discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions...



...those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.



Angelic Message

Jesus made a way because with us there was no way.

Three angelic messages that steer your life

1) God is beyond us 2) God is for us

If God is for us, who can be against us?



"The birth of Jesus was bad news. It wasn't just your typical piece of bad news; it was the worst news ever... God has to invade our world in the person of Jesus because there was simply no other way. And why was there no other way? Prepare for the bad news. There was no other way because our big problem in life is not familial or historical or societal or political or relational or ecclesiastical or financial.

Paul Tripp

"The biggest, darkest thing that all of us have to face, and that somehow, someway influences everything we think, say, and do, isn't outside us; it's inside. If you had none of the above problems in your life, you would still be in grave danger, because of the danger you are to yourself. If the only thing human beings needed were a little external tweaking of their life circumstances, then the coming of Jesus to earth wouldn't make any sense.

Paul Tripp

"But if the greatest danger to all of us lives inside us and not outside us, then the radical intervention of the incarnation of Jesus is our only hope... Jesus didn't come to earth to do a preaching tour or to hang out with us for a while; he came on a radical mission of moral rescue. He came to rescue us because he knew that we couldn't rescue ourselves. He knew that sin separates us from God and leaves us guilty before him."

Paul Tripp "Come, Let Us Adore Him"

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."



...but [Joseph] knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



Michael (מִיכַל) means <u>MI</u> = who <u>CA</u> = like <u>EL</u> =God "who is like God"

Jesus – Hebrew: הושוּע – Yeshua: *"Jehovah who saves"*

Angelic Message

Jesus made a way because with us there was no way.
 Jesus saved us because we could not save ourselves.

"Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."



Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that **he might bring us to God**.

1 Peter 3:18

Life Principle

Good news is only good news if you understand the bad news.

Three angelic messages that steer your life

God is beyond us God is for us God is for us God is in us

Angelic Message

 Jesus made a way because with us there was no way. Jesus saved us because we could not save ourselves. Jesus is with us because we should never be alone.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, **God with us**).



Life Principle

Jesus came to us because we could not go to him.

Jesus was a refugee.



First Team, October 2018

Athens, Greece

12th Team, July 2023





Refugees in Northwest Arkansas



O Holy Night

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Mary's and Joseph's responses:

"...**I am your servant**..." Luke 1:38

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When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife. Matthew 1:24

God's Love Language:

Obedience

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

