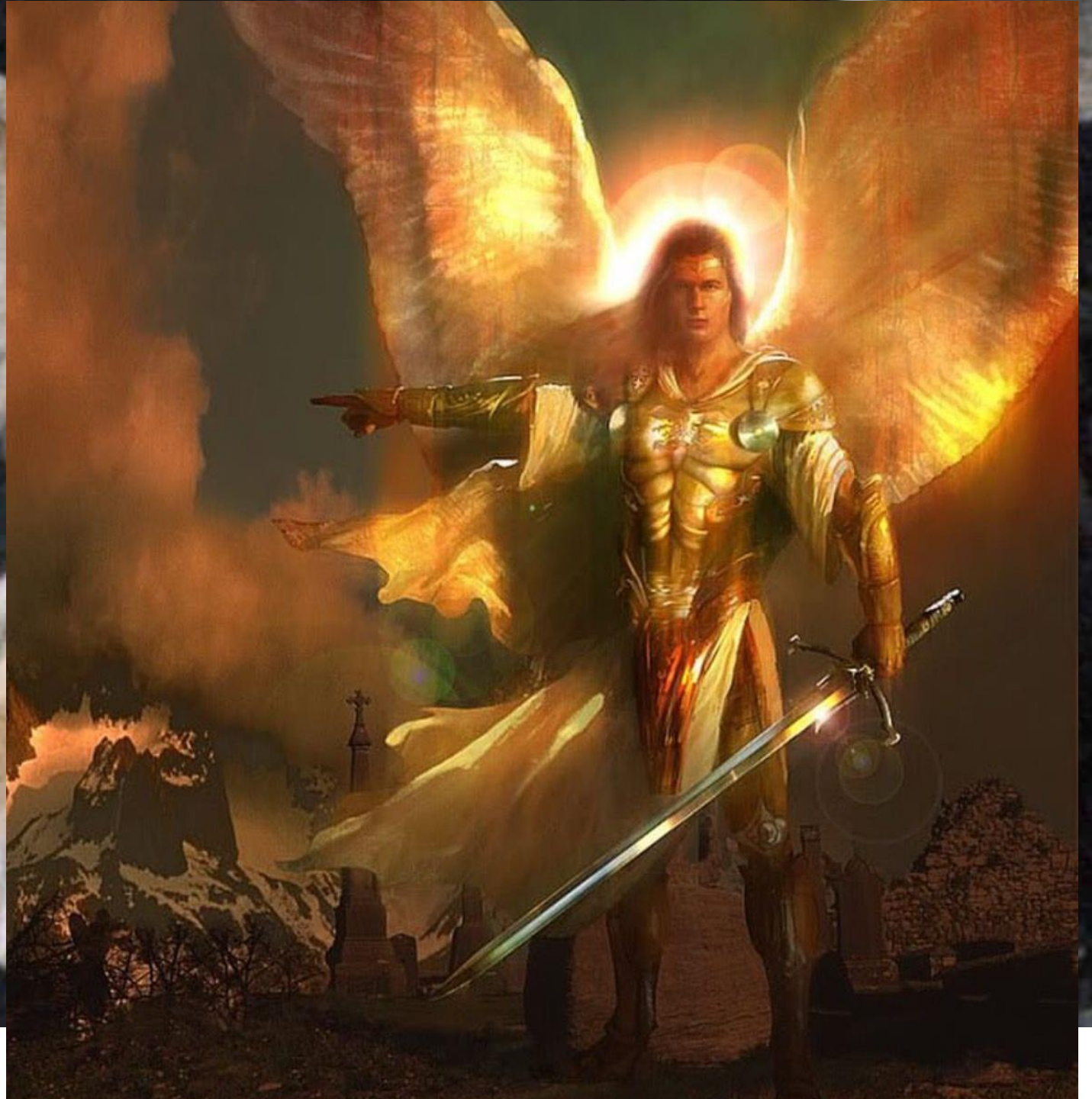


The Angels Of Christmas





8 Angel Appearances In The Nativity

1. Zechariah – Lk.1:11-23 – Gabriel appeared beside the alter
2. Mary – Lk. 1:26-38 – Gabriel was sent to Mary. He didn't identify himself. How did they know it was Gabriel?
3. Joseph – Matt.1:18-25 – An angel appeared to him in dream
4. Shepherds – Lk.2:8-12 – An angel appeared to shepherds
5. Shepherds – 2:13-14 – A multitude of the heavenly host
6. Wisemen – Matt.2:12 – Wisemen warned in a dream. Doesn't say it was angel. Similar MO to Joseph
7. Joseph – Matt.2:13 – Angel appeared in dream to flee
8. Joseph - Matt.2:19 – Angel appeared in dream to return

Who Or What Are Angels?

- This is at the end of 400 years of silence.
- What is an Angel? Distinct order of beings created by God to execute His will and therefore are involved in many universal operations.
- Angel means messenger. Gabriel Lk.1:19, 26; Dan.8:16
- Angels do not have wings.
- They have super human strength, but not omnipotent
- Gabriel and Michael are the only angels named in Bible
- Michael is listed as an Archangel. 1Thess.4:16 uses “an”
- Angels are only 1 type of heavenly being

Who or What Are These Beings?

- Seraphim and Cherubim are beings created to protect the throne of God - Isa.6:2-3; Rev.4:8;
- Root word of both Seraphim and Serpent is *saraph* - Isa.6:2 > Num.21:8,9; Ezk.28:12-16
- Why did Eve not seem freaked out by a talking serpent?
- From the description of Ezk.28, Satan is a crafty enemy.
- These seem to be the only heavenly beings created with wings.

God Was At Work Preparing People

• Notice the similarity of events between Zechariah and Mary		
• Intro of Parent	5-6	26
• Obstacle to child bearing	7	27
• Appearance of Gabriel	8-11	28
• Reaction to Gabriel	12	29
• Response by Gabriel – “Do not be afraid”	13	30
• Promise of a son	13b	31
• Description of Son	13c-17	31b-33
• Objection	18	34
• Sign	19-20	35-38a
• Departure and Response	21-25	38b-39

God's Birth Announcement Of His Son

- Intro of the Shepherds 2:8
- Appearance of the Angel 9
- Reaction to Angel 9
- Response by the Angel – “Fear not!” 10
- Promise of a Saviour 11
- Description of the Saviour 11
- The Sign 12-14
- The Departure and Response 15-20
- Then, 1-2yrs later He brought wisemen. Matt.2:1-3
- Why didn't people remember that 30 years later?

God Protecting His Son

- Herod was troubled.
- Foreign Emissaries come to honour a new king
- Scripture to support their statement.
- True Jewish ancestry, not stolen as his was
- God gave Joseph, Mary and Jesus the needed time to get away.
- Was it an angel that “warned” them not to return to Herod?
- Joe’s dream speaking angel was back telling them you have your ticket, catch the next 737 out of town.
- A few years later ... he speaks in a dream again...

Angels of Advent

1. There is much contemporary confusion about Angels
2. Angels are not to be prayed to
3. Angels, messengers, usually look like ordinary people.
4. Heb.13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
5. There are also other types of heavenly beings
 - Cherubim, Seraphim, and heavenly Princes over nations
6. There is a battle that is raging between the forces of Yahweh and Beelzebub
7. Yahweh will win