

## GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO ZECHARIAH

Gabriel preached the first Christmas sermon to a Spiritually Mature Priest. (Luke 1:6) "Righteous and walking blameless."

Gabriel is one of two archangels mentioned in the Bible. Michael is the other archangel (Jude 9; Rev.12:7-8; Dan.10:13).

"Islam believes he was the medium through whom God revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad." (Wikipedia)

We will learn from our Christmas special this year that **Gabriel** is actually God's messenger of the prophetic message of Christ (Dan.8:15-19, 27; 9:20-23; 10:1-21).

(Dan.9:23b) "I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision."

This year our Christmas special will study **four messages given by the archangel Gabriel** regarding the birth of the messianic Savior of the world.

(Luke 1:19) "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news (euaggelizo / p.m.infin)."

<b>First message</b>	<b>Gabriel to Zachariah</b>	<b>(Luke 1:8-25)</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>(12/13/09)</b>
Second message	Gabriel to Mary	(Luke 1:26-38)	Sunday	(12/20/09)
Third message	Gabriel to Joseph	(Matt.1:18-25)	Wednesday	(12/23/09)
Fourth message	Gabriel to Bethlehem Shepherds	(Luke 2:8-20)	Sunday	(12/27/09)

**We will study four aspects of Gabriel's message to Zachariah.**

**NOTE:** In his prologue to his book, Luke stressed the historical accuracy of the material in his book (Luke 1:1-4) "**So that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.**"

### **1. Gabriel preached his first Christmas sermon to Zachariah while performing his order of priestly service in the temple (Luke 1:8-12).**

We will examine the following seven important appointments regarding Zachariah's priestly service (to hierateuo / p.a.infin) when Gabriel appeared to him.

(1 Cor.13:1) "If I speak with the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love. I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal."

Appointed priestly order	Abijah was the 8 <sup>th</sup> of 24 orders (Luke 1:5, 23; 1 Chron.24:10)
Appointed weekly service	Sabbath to Sabbath / 8 days (1 Chron.23:30; 28:13)
Appointed lot	Morning and evening prayer (1 Chron.25:8; Rev.2:17) [white stone]
Appointed hour	Time of burning fresh incense before the Holy of Holies (; Luke 1:11; Ex.30:1-10)
Appointed prayer	People outside and the priest inside – nation and priests (Luke 1:10; Dan.9:20-23)
Appointed time	Perfect timing in plan and life of Zachariah (Luke 1:13; Eccl.3; Luke 1:36-37)
Appointed life	The message: Your son will be the prophetic forerunner of Christ (Lk.1:13-17)

(Eccl.3:1) "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."

### **2. Gabriel appeared to Zachariah during the time of prayer in Israel and told him that his prayer had been answered.**

(Lk.1:13) "For (dioti / on account of) your petition (he deesis) has been heard (eisakouo / a.p.ind 3ps). And your wife Elizabeth will bear a son."

**Doctrinal principle:** God answers personal, pivotal, and national needs.

(1 John 5:14-15) “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

- For Zachariah and Elizabeth, their child will be the prophetic forerunner of Christ.
- For remnant of believers, it was the time of the Consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25)
- For Israel, it was the time of the First Coming of Christ.

Apparently it came as a shock to Zachariah who thought that this prayer had been answered as **NO!** (Lk.1:18) [In Hebrew, Zachariah means “Yahweh hears and remembers.”]

Again it apparently came as a shock to the Israelites standing outside praying for their nation and the coming of their Savior; since they later crucified Him – “But they kept on calling out, saying, ‘Crucify, crucify Him!’” (Luke 23:21).

**3. When Gabriel spoke to Zachariah, he was standing between the altar of shadow Christology and the golden candlestick of messianic light to the world (Lk.1:11).**

It was at this exact time that Gabriel preached this two points Christmas sermon (Lk.1:13-17).

- First point was directed to the parents about the John (Lk.1:13-14) [note - four wills of God].
- Second point was directed to John about Christ (Lk.1:15-17) [note - five wills of God].

Gabriel was interrupted by a question from Zachariah – “How shall I know this for certain? For I am an Old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” (Lk.1:18) [A sign]

It seems that Zachariah was never able to get past the idea of his prayer being answered “yes.”

**Principle:** False assumptions lead to false interpretations that lead to false expectations that lead to false application.

Zachariah’s human rationale thinks that they are barren, too old, menopausal, and without hope (OM thinking) (read - Luke 1:36-37).

But what did doctrinal rationale say regarding the prophetic forerunner of Christ (Mal.4:5-6; Lk.1:17; Matt.11:13-14)?

Who has the responsibility to bring the word of God to fulfillment? (Rom.4:21) “And being fully assured that what He had promised, he was able also to perform.”

Which one (human rationale or doctrinal rationale) is the ground for the believer’s faith? (Rom.10:17) “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

**Principle:** If you struggle with good news, how will you handle bad news?

**4. As a communicator of God’s word, Gabriel was not distracted by Zachariah’s negative violation and doubt (Lk.1:19-20).**

What sign did Gabriel give Zachariah? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Gabriel give him this sign? \_\_\_\_\_

How was secondary negative violation described? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the people doing outside (Lk.1:21-23) benediction: (Num.6:24-26)? \_\_\_\_\_