

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E14

Title – A Priest Encounters an Angel While on Duty

Description – The Angel Gabriel appears and speaks to Zechariah. Join us today as we examine this encounter between a Priest in the temple and an Angel sent from God.

Last time we left off, Zechariah was in the holy of holies burning the incense on the altar, and suddenly Gabriel shows up.

The significance of Gabriel showing up is that he's announcing something important from God.

Michael shows up to make war and destroy, if he shows up you've messed up big time. But Gabriel gives good news from the Lord.

Luke 1:8-11

⁸When his division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and overcome with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

V. 11 - standing to the right of the altar of incense, would have been where you would have come out of the most holy place, being in the presence of God.

V. 12 - Why was Zechariah afraid? He was like everyone else when an angel showed up. All the encounters we see with people and Angels in the bible, the people are terrified. So when this Angel shows up, you're thinking either 1. He's here to take me out or 2. I've messed up the offering and I'm being judged immediately.

But remember, Zechariah and Elizabeth were both called blameless before God, yet in the world's eyes they had to be under the judgment of God, because they had no children.

To be blameless didn't mean they were without sin, it meant that when they sinned they knew what to do to be in a right relationship with God again. They knew what offerings to make.

V. 13 - "Do not be afraid, because your prayer has been heard." - How long Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying for a child. Months, years, decades. God hears our prayers. God answers our prayers.

So fast forward a bit to the end of Luke 1

Luke 1:72-76

⁷² He has dealt mercifully with our ancestors and remembered his holy covenant— ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we, ⁷⁴ having been rescued from the hand of our enemies, would serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

V. 72 - “remembered his holy covenant” -

V. 73 - “the oath that he swore to our father Abraham.”

It’s no accident the names that these people have.

Zechariah - “God Remembers”

Elizabeth - “Oath of God / Promise of God.”

John - “God is gracious / God is merciful”

Remember, just because God is silent, does not mean that He is absent.