



Gabriel

“The Unknown”

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,” Luke 1:26

Has an angel ever appeared to you? It could. Angels are mentioned 117 times in the Old Testament and 180 times in the New Testament. The angel Gabriel who many think was the most important because he was called by name, and because he had an awesome assignment, is probably the one that most people accept or reject.

How do you feel about angels? Are they real? Could one appear today?

The angel Gabriel was sent to earth twice during the lifetime of Daniel. Daniel doubted at first. But, afterward he had time to think things through and realized that it had indeed been an angel sent from God, because only Daniel was able to interpret the vision. The first time is recorded in Daniel 8:15-17 and tells that Daniel saw a vision and saw a person that appeared as a man. He was afraid and fell on his face, but he was told not to fear. That may be easier said than done!

A second time Gabriel appeared to Daniel and told him that he was greatly loved and explained the vision and what it meant for the people.

Then Gabriel was sent again. This time he was sent to Zachariah a servant of the Lord who worked in the temple. Zachariah was paralyzed with fear. The Angel told him to not be afraid. He and Elisabeth were going to have a son, and he will make not only you and your wife, but many people happy. He will be a forerunner of the Christ.

Then Zachariah asked the angel if he expected him to believe that. After all he and his wife, Elisabeth, were old. The angel then told him that his name was Gabriel and because he had doubted he would not be able to speak until his son was born. He told him that God’s will would be accomplished through him in God’s time!!! Was that an honor, or a punishment?

Then Gabriel is sent down a fourth time. The Scripture given above is the one that most people seem to associate with the angel Gabriel. This time he goes to Mary and tells her that she will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be Jesus. She also doubts because she is a virgin and he tells her that the baby will be the Son of God. Can you blame her for not believing at first?

There are many things in life that we don’t understand. I was told that as a child I was very inquisitive. I do remember my grandmother quoting to me that the Bible said “Now we see through a mirror darkly, but then we shall see face to face.” Her interpretation of this was to make me realize that I was not supposed to know everything on this earth, but I was to trust and have faith and everything would be o.k. Her words have come back to me many times.

Did an angel appear to Zachariah and Daniel named Gabriel? I only know that I believe he did. I believe that an angel named Gabriel appeared to Mary. Do I believe that angels can appear to us today? I don’t know of anyone that has had one appear to him/her with wings and robed in white today. But I know that there are people that have been called angels because of the help they have given to others. I believe that God has and will send some of us out to be angels to other people if we are willing to answer the call.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we read your Word, and we wonder. Not because we don’t believe you, but because we are only seeing with our human minds and eyes. Help to realize that you are all knowing and will provide the best for us, and help us to understand if we have faith to listen. Amen

1. Do you believe in angels? Angels were messengers many times in the Bible. Is it the Word of God? Was Gabriel a special angel because of the work he did?
2. Can angels be either male or female? Can a child be an angel?
3. Would you ever want to be an angel to someone else?
4. What does an angel look like?