



Gabriel's Profile

- 1. Gabriel isn't Called an Archangel in the Bible**
- 2. Gabriel Only Speaks to Three Biblical Characters**
- 3. Gabriel First Appears in Daniel's Vision**
- 4. Gabriel May Not Have Had Wings**
- 5. Gabriel's Name Means "God is Great"**
- 6. Gabriel is One of Two Named Good Angels in the Bible**
- 7. Gabriel's Appearance is Rather Terrifying**



Prince

Said the king to the people everywhere:

"Listen to what I say!"

Pray for peace, people everywhere!

Listen to what I say!

The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night

He will bring us goodness and light

He will bring us goodness and light"

The Jesus' birth story is
birthed out of crisis.

God is a giver!

**For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and
only son.**

John 3: 16

The world continues to be crisis!

Why?

**Because we aren't hearing and
adhering to the message of
Jesus.**

I will send my messenger, who will
prepare the way before me.

Malachi 3:1 (430 BC)

The Central message of Malachi:

To confront the people with their sins
and to restore their relationship with
God! **Why?** Because they were a people
in crisis!

“I told you so!”

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

John the Baptist's message
to the world is ...

Do you hear what I hear!

Zechariah's profile:

- He was known as a righteous, blameless man
- He was a priest before God
- He is one of the few people ever to be directly addressed by an angel
- He was the father of John The Baptist
- Zechariah's name means = "God has remembered!"

Elizabeth's Profile:

- Known as a deeply spiritual woman, righteous, blameless
- Showed no doubts about God's ability to fulfill his promise
- The first woman besides Mary to hear of the coming Savior
- She was a descendant of Aaron
- Mother of John the Baptist
- Elizabeth's name means = "My God's Oath"

Opportunity of a life time...
A day you will never forget.

“He was chosen by
lot, according to the custom of
the priesthood, to go into the
temple of the Lord and burn
incense.”

Torn between hope and doubt

The angel said, “**Don’t be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard.**” Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the Lord’s eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:5-17

The promise of the “Spirit” indicates that divine power would be active in John. It was commonly held that there had been no prophets in Israel since the time of Malachi (430 BC). They have been waiting 430 years for a new prophet to come. So the announcement that John would be filled with the Spirit was a signal that the messianic age was dawning.

Interpreters Bible

“Fear not...!”

Freak out or trust in!

Encouraging news

Fear Not!

At this point in your life, what are your greatest fears?

Are you willing to trust in God's command?

I think the riskiest prayer
you can pray...
“Thy will be done!”

**“Your prayers have been
heard!”**

Torn between hope and doubt

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you will name him John.”

John = “*God has shown favor*”

Is this “good news” too good to be true?

Vs. 19

“This is the Lord’s Doing”

“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

“Luke is careful not to dress up the story by making Zechariah a great hero of faith...God regularly works through ordinary people, doing what they normally do, who with a mixture of half-faith and devotion are holding themselves ready for whatever God has in mind.”

-- N. T. Wright

The story before the story

Sarah and Abraham = Zechariah and Elizabeth

Are you kidding me!

Pained laughter of disbelief, ended with joyous laughter.

Isaac = Laughter

25 years passed after God promised Abraham that he would make him a great nation until the birth of the son.

Can you live with hope that, in the end, God's promises will prove true?

Frederic Buechner observed,
that perhaps Sarah laughed
because she wondered how
Medicare would handle her
maternity bills!

Elizabeth's words of assurance for Mary.

Even before Jesus was born, Elizabeth became the first person to call Jesus "Lord".

"Why do I have this honor, that the mother of *my Lord* should come to me?" vs. 43

What first led you to call Jesus "Lord"?

You can't always have it
both ways.