

December 24, 2017 - Matthew 1: 18-25 - “God Christmas Angel”

Introduction:

Last week the New York Times reported that a decade ago the Pentagon, at the direction of Congress, quietly set up a multimillion-dollar program to investigate what are popularly known as unidentified flying objects—UFOs. The \$22 million spent on the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program was almost impossible to find. This was how the Pentagon wanted it. For years, the program investigated reports of unidentified flying objects, according to Defense Department officials. It was run by a military intelligence official on the fifth floor of the Pentagon’s C Ring, deep within the building’s maze.

The Defense Department has never before acknowledged the existence of the program, which it says it shut down in 2012. But its backers say that, while the Pentagon ended funding for the effort at that time, the program remains in existence. The program produced documents that describe sightings of UFO including footage from a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet that seemed to move at very high velocities with no visible signs of propulsion, or that hovered with no apparent means of lift.

UFO's are astonishingly angel-like in some of their reported appearances. The fullest description of cherubim given in Ezekiel 1:5-24 and 10:1-22 speaks of them moving very quickly in any direction (1:19-21). When they moved, their wings made a very loud noise (1:24). Ezekiel gave a description of *a wheel in the middle of a wheel*: “Each wheel is composed of two wheels apparently at right angles to each other. This is impossible in reality, but in the vision it enables the chariot to run instantly in any direction without turning.” (Wright) Ezekiel gave a description of their gleaming appearance like of polished bronze, burning coals of fire, or flaming torches (1:7, 13). Our government has spent quite a bit of our tax money investigating what just possibly the bible reveals. Angels are from the heavens, they are not from this world and are not confine by our natural laws. They can appear and disappear at will giving the illusion they travel at unimaginable speeds. God angels are his secret agent as describe by Dr. Billy Graham and the gospels tell us that God sent angels on---

I. A Very Significant Mission

1. The term angel simply means “messenger. It refers to a being whom is sent by another with a commission. The angel Gabriel was a chief messenger of God because he delivered several very important messages from God to human beings. He communicated crucial information concerning the future of Israel and the Messiah to Daniel (Dan. 8:15-27; 9:21-27).

He informed Zacharias the priest that he would be the father of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah (Lk. 1:5-20).

He revealed to the virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah (Lk. 1:26-38) angels are God messengers and do His bidding and are remarkable in how they travel and can mimic

human beings. They are always dispatched by God for significant assignments. In the gospel account we read in Matthew 1: 21 an angel was given a special assignment for the giving....

II A Very Significant Name

1. In Matthew 1: 21 this angel instructed Joseph that the child was to be called Jesus, a name full of meaning, the Greek equivalent of Joshua, meaning that Jehovah saves His people.

Phil 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;

b) Isaiah 7:14 The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

c) I John 5: [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

d) Act 4:12 [12] Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

2. In Matthew 1: 22 the angel instructed Joseph, “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet... the angel instructed Joseph about...”

II A Very Significant Time

1. This was a time when the world wasn't thinking about preparing for the king of kings. Rather they awaited the rise to power of a human Emperor named "Caesar Augustus". He was the great nephew of Julius Caesar. His name was really Octavia. In Julius' Caesar will Octavia was to succeed him in leading the Roman Empire.

2. He was actually the First Roman Emperor of the World Empire and usually the first is the greatest like "Washington" etc. Many historians believe that he was the greatest of all Roman emperors. He brought Rome to a period of peace uniting the empire together. However, to do this you need money and lots of it. So the people of that time were heavily taxed, and faced every prospect of a sharp increase to cover expanding military expenses. To do this Caesar Augustus called for a census "that all the world should be taxed" – Luke 2: 1-3. History confirms this taxation and the timing in history. --- (The Works of Josephus)

3. Yet, it was all in God's timing for He would send His son to redeem the world. **Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

4. And the child who was born was called, among other things, Emanuel - God with us. He was sent by God to be his greatest messenger Jesus, he too is an angel, not a created being but THE angel of the Lord and to convey his greatest message to us of His love. --- John 3:16

III. A Very Significant Angel

1. The angel of the LORD can be more specifically identified with Jesus Christ. There are several reasons for this conviction. It has been concluded that the LORD God who sent the angel of the LORD was the divine Father and that the angel of the LORD was the divine Son. Jesus Christ claimed that God was His and that He Himself was the Son of God (Jn. 5:19-37).
2. The Jews recognized that Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was a claim of equality with God (in. 5:18). The angel of the *LORD* had the same divine nature as the Scriptures indicate that Jesus Christ is the Son whom God the Father gave to the world (Jn. 3:16, Gal. 4:4)

God provided by the incarnation the opportunity for eternal life after death - in heaven. God's gift to us is JESUS! He came to bring us salvation! That is the greatest gift you can receive this year and the greatest you can give!

The only gift Jesus wants to receive this year is: The gift of broken hearts lay at his altar - looking for a Savior to fix them. If you don't get a lot of Christmas gifts this year - don't be discouraged - just remember...

Conclusion:

God has giving a gift that will never stop giving. It is the gift of eternal life. It is a gift that you cannot lose it is a gift that keeps on given. Even now we are given unfathomable gifts. Remember Paul's letter in...

I Corinthian2: [9] But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.