*Thursday, February 20, 2014*

**Angels**

Luke 1:26-28 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. (KJV)

We see an angel mentioned above, the angel Gabriel, who came to announce the birth of our Lord. Today we will look at how angels were used not only to announce the birth of our Lord, but His resurrection also.

Matthew 27:50-52 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, (KJV)

I want to discuss the timeline of what took place above, how and when it played out. Many today claim that the veil was torn in two right after our Lord died on the cross. Many also make the statement that our Lord’s work was complete and finished at the cross which is not true either.

Matthew 27:53-54 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, truly this was the Son of God. (KJV)

As we see the veil was not torn from top to bottom until after His resurrection because our Lord spent three days and three nights in hell paying the spiritual price for sin in order for His sacrifice to be complete. Notice the term earthquake being used, because we will see clearly when that takes place.

Matthew 28:1-3 In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: (KJV)

The reality is that this quake took place when the angel descended and rolled back the stone which happened at the end of the Sabbath or the third day after the crucifixion.

Matthew 28:4-6 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come; see the place where the Lord lay. (KJV)

As we see when the keepers or centurions had an encounter with an angel it was quite awe inspiring, to say the least. It was at this time they realized that this truly was the Son of God that they had crucified three days earlier.

Romans 6:22-23 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

The wages of sin is death which was accomplished by our Lord not only on the cross, but also in hell so that we wouldn’t have to suffer the second death, which is spiritual, thus making His sacrifice complete.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.