



December 23

## On His Majesty's Service!

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*(Another who obeyed)*

**Reading: Luke 2:1-14**

***"Praise the Lord, all His heavenly hosts,  
you His servants who do His will" (Psa 103:21)***

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It was Angel Gabriel who told Zacharias and then Mary that they would respectively bring forth John and Jesus (Lk 1:19,26,27). But the angel who appeared to Joseph and the shepherds is not named, but introduced as "an angel of the Lord" (Mt 1:20; 2:13,19; Lk 2:9). It could well be Gabriel. Only two angels are named in the Bible. The other one is Michael (Dan 10:13,21; Jude 9; Rev 12:7). Gabriel was often a messenger who communicated God's plan (Dan 8:16; 9:21).

Including the heavenly host, the angels we meet in the Christmas narrative came specifically to earth on assignment. After their job was over they went away "into Heaven" (Lk 2:15). Even today they are "sent forth" by God to serve His people (Heb 1:14). But with the completion of the canon of Scriptures, God's guidance comes to us for all general matters and most of the personal and specific issues through the written Word. Leaving this main and fundamental source of guidance is sure to lead us into deception in the spirit world. Satan is not foolish to come to us in black with horns and a tail. He usually appears in bright white (2 Cor 11:14).

Psalmist David's description of the angels is a challenging call for obedience: "His angels, who excel in strength, who do His Word, heeding the voice of His Word... His hosts... His servants, who do His pleasure" (Psa 103:20,21). By reading the Christmas story in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we can easily imagine the briskness and promptness with which the angels flew between Heaven and earth as God's communicators. The disobedient and the rebellious angels are the ones who joined Lucifer. While referring to head-covering of women as a symbol of "authority" on them, Apostle Paul refers to the presence of watching angels in the Church meetings (1 Cor 11:10). Apostle Peter contrasts the spirits of the "disobedient" people of the days of Noah against the angels who are "subject" to God (1 Pet 3:20,22). He adds that since angels are so desirous to look into the glorious gospel blessings we enjoy, we must walk as "obedient children" with all sobriety (1 Pet 1:12-14). We can constantly enjoy the joy of

angelic presence around us when we walk in submission and obedience before God.  
Angels teach us that obedience is celebration!

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

*(Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, the singer-brother of John Wesley)*

