#### 26 December 2021 | ISSUE 47

# CTODAY UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL

First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUBANG JAYA

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When Mary came to find the tomb of Jesus The stone was moved, the Lord had gone away The angel said "fear not, the Lord is risen Don' seek the living here among the graves

He's gone, the stone is rolled back, He's gone, the tomb is empty He's gone, to sit at the Father's side He's gone, over death triumphant He's gone, sin is defeated He's gone, He lives forevermor

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It was an angel that announced to a bewildered Mary that the Lord Jesus Christ had risen from the dead.

Actually, there were 2 angels. Luke 24:4-6 says, While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Delirious with joy, Mary ran back to tell the other disciples the good news... he has risen!

Interestingly, Luke doesn't mention the word 'angel' but instead described them as 'men'. They were special only in that their clothes gleamed like lightning. The ESV says, dazzling apparel. Aside from their dressing, there was nothing unusual about these men. They looked just like men and didn't have extra appendages like arms, legs, and wings.

A similar account of the resurrection is found in Matthew 28:1-6, After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women,

"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

#### He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

It's only in popular imagery that we find pictures of angels portrayed as men with wings. There was however no such description in the entire Bible, even when referring to the Angel of the LORD (many places in Genesis). In the Bible, messengers (for that is the meaning of the word 'angel') from heaven are never portrayed as having wings. Instead, they're simply mentioned as men (e.g. Genesis 18:2).

Jews first learned about men with wings when they were first exiled in Babylon. Babylonians, like Sumerian Chaldeans, believed that they were descended from beings that came from the sky. As beings from the sky, they must have flown, and thus wings were given to them.

Looking at the images of these Sumerian beings with wings, the wings that they had cannot possibly be used for flight as they were aerodynamically too small, so they must have been used just to show that these early beings had flight.

Take it from me (I have an aviation background), wings are only needed for flight through the air. Coming from heaven and space, real angels do not require wings.

It's interesting that most mythical stories from ancient cultures and civilizations have a common source of titanic or gigantic anthropomorphic ancestors coming from the sky. From this, it's easy to see where images of beings with wings came from.

Non-anthropomorphic creatures like cherubim (cherubs) and seraphim (seraphs) in the Bible are

described as having wings though. What's confusing is that these creatures are often described extra-biblically as 'heavenly' creatures. Many people, especially theologians use this confusion to meld the images of cherubim and seraphim as 'angels' since they're found in the heavenly realms.

The truth is that seraphim (6-winged fiery fluted serpents), cherubim (sometimes called Living Creatures), and angels are 3 different types of beings. Satan is a cherub (Ezekiel 28:14, You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.)

Knowing now that the Bible never mentioned that angels have wings helps you spot spiritual frauds and charlatans.

There are some people who claim spiritual superiority by being able to see angels. Referring to them as frauds, Paul the apostle wrote in Colossians 2:18, Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, (ESV).

Take it from me, you can immediately spot these frauds when they claim to see 'angels' with wings flying about to 'minister' and to bless. You can see angels, but they have no wings. So do not be fooled by these who claim special powers to summon angels. The only thing they have is a fertile imagination.

One more thing... it says in Hebrews 13:2,

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. That's because angels have no wings. If they had, you would immediately know



By Merrill Leong Merrill is a member of FBC and Karis

## PECIAL GIVING CHRISTMAS EDITION



READERS .

FFR.L.D.

Over the past several months, our church have been purchasing and delivering groceries to 16 Zo families in Subang Jaya. The Zo is an ethnic group out of the Chin people of Myanmar.

Members of our church have also been volunteering to teach children at the Rohingya Learning Centre on weekends.

Both of these ethnic groups are refugees here due to persecution in their home country. Please refer to Newsletters Issues No. 41 and 31 for more info.

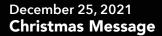
In light of Christmas, and in conjunction with the Special Christmas Giving, the church leadership has committed to set up an education fund of RM60,000 for 13 children from the Zo community, and give Christmas gifts to approx. 58 children from the Rohingya and Zo communities. The cost of the gifts amounts to RM2,083.80, and the gifts consist of various stationery for the children to use in schools, as well as Play-Doh and snacks for the children to enjoy!

The Zo children received their gifts at a Christmas party on 5 Dec 2021 organized by several life groups in partnership with the Zo Baptist Church, and we also organized a small Christmas party with the children at the Rohingya Learning Centre on 11 Dec 2021 and passed the gifts to them at the event.



#### How to Give?

If you'd like to contribute, please give towards the Special Christmas Giving and use the code 'EDU' via DutiNow (ID: BT76).





**PREACHER** Arnold Lim

#### December 26, 2021 Christmas Message



**PREACHER** Arnold Lim



PREACHER Leong Yew Lum

#### January 9, 2021 **Religion vs Faith**

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03-5621 2623

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for Ages 0-12yrs

Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



**PREACHER** Dr. Peter Ng

#### PRAYER SPOTLIGHT New Year Blessing

- **1.** Pray for those who has lost so much in the past years of pandemic, be able to rise up and look forward to a better year in 2022.
- 2. Pray that God will hear the cries of those who are struggling and facing uncertainties. That God will guide them towards His assurance and comfort. For greater things have yet to come, for His plan and direction are meant to prosper us and to harm us. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- **3.** Pray for better future for all ages especially in education where students have to adapt to circumstances and some who has no means to study due to lack of technology. Pray that God will help both the teachers and students to rebuild what was missed and achieved it together patiently.
- **4.** Pray for His people to help those who are less privileged and to bless those who are in need, in terms of emotional support and not just materially, to walk alongside with them as they go through another new year.
- **5.** Pray for those who are down with ailments and illnesses alike will see a breakthrough and be healed in Jesus name.
- Pray that His people will fix their eyes upon Jesus, the author and the perfecter of faith. Pray that His people will not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another–and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)
- 7. As we are approaching year end and in the start of another new year, pray for all to be renewed and refreshed.
  - The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

#### | Upcoming Events



Open for Registration Every Sunday 8:45am (1 Service) Kindly go to www.fbc.com.my to register or <u>CLICK HERE</u>



Daily Prayer Meeting Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm Zoom ID: 929 735 694 Password: pray



Romans From Wretchedness To Righteousness Every Wednesday For more information, contact Church Office at 03-5621 2623



Monthly Prayer Meeting Physical Prayer Meeting 15 January 2022 Saturday 2:00pm Transit Lounge CLICK HERE to register



Is There More to Life Than This? Alpha 21 will begin on 6 January 2022. Every Thursday 8:00pm CLICK HERE to register for the next Alpha program.

More Information on Upcoming Events

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