

**ANGEL GABRIEL AND PROPHET ISAIAH REPORT THE NEWS
(2016, Sarah Stauderman)/2024 edits**

The Congregation are invited to hold up their phones and take photos as the “celebrities” are walking the red carpet.

Gabriel: Good morning! Here we are at the Celestial News Network's special red carpet event! I am the Angel Gabriel, and I'm here with our CNN special correspondent, Prophet Isaiah, to bring you this star-studded event. Isaiah?

Isaiah: Well, Gabriel, as I foretold it, there is a real sense of excitement in the air. God has called all the stars together for something we haven't seen yet!

Gabriel: That's right Isaiah, you've provided us with some remarkable information over the years in your role as prophet. What do you see happening?

Isaiah: Well, at this red carpet event, we'll be talking to heavenly bodies about their most important role yet... And, here they come now, the many stars, at light speed. Here comes Sirius, the brightest star in the heavens.

Gabriel: Well, technically that would be the Sun.

Isaiah: Did you say son? Like baby boy? Gabriel, we'll make a prophet out of you yet, but I digress. Mr. Sirius, what are you wearing today?

Sirius: Spectral A1 Hydrogen! Happy to be here... oh hey there's Arcturus and Vega!

Gabriel: Right, so you were saying, Isaiah, something about a son. Tell our listeners more.

Isaiah: Not just a son Gabriel, a Prince of Peace, Emmanuel! A Messiah! Don't forget, I foretold it.

Gabriel: Well that's very interesting indeed. We have some breaking news from the Angel Desk: God has asked Gabriel, that's me, to speak with some newcomers to the red carpet!

Gabriel: Miss Mary of Nazareth and her fiancé Joseph!

Mary: What a turnout, are all the inns packed!

Gabriel: So, this is a very special event with the biggest and brightest stars in the Galaxy. This is your first time on the red carpet, and I understand you have unusual news. Mary, when did you know you were going to be blessed among women, have a baby and call him Jesus and place him in a Manger?

Mary: A MANGER, WHAT?!

Joseph: WHAT?!

Donkey: Hehaw!

Gabriel: Isaiah!

Isaiah: Huh, well that sounds like good news? More news in a few, when we'll be back at the red carpet with the Angel Gabriel and me, your correspondent Prophet Isaiah!

CONGREGATION SINGS: FIRST VERSE OF “AWAY IN A MANGER” (ELW 277)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Gabriel: And we are back at the red carpet after some technical difficulties. Isaiah, what other celebrities does God have planned to attend this event.

Isaiah: Indeed, here's the Heavenly Host Tell me, what are your feelings about today's events.

Angel 1: Well, let me say I'm like always ready for God's call, and I'm like ALWAYS thrilled.

Isaiah: And, what did God say?

Angel 2: God gave us this beautiful music to sing! It's, like, full chorus! Also, don't scare the shepherds, which is totally amazing because I am a big fan of shepherds and cuddly sheep and hey look at ALL THOSE STARS – woah, this is going to be a serious PAR_TAY!

Isaiah: Anything else you would like you want to tell the world?

Both Angels: “Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to God’s People on Earth!”

Gabriel: On this side of the red carpet I’m pleased to be talking to some major characters, the Shepherds and their assorted animals. How did you learn about this event!?

Shepherd 1: ANGELS! Lots of singing Angels!

Gabriel: And what did they tell you to do?

Shepherd 2: We’re supposed to go to Bethlehem, down this red carpet, following the stars and looking for a baby named Jesus. We’re going to worship him, and thank God for all his gifts to us!

Gabriel: That’s good advice for all times and places. I can see things are coming together. We’ll take a break and be right back.

CONGREGATION SINGS: FIRST VERSE OF “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH” (ELW 289)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Isaiah: And we are back at CNN. I’m the Prophet Isaiah -- Don’t forget! I foretold it!

Gabriel: That’s right Isaiah. And I’m the Angel Gabriel. And here we have some Magi. Tell us, where are you from?

Magi1: Farthest east!

Magi2: Farthest south!

Magi3: Farthest west!

Gabriel: Tell us your version of the story!

Magi1: Not long ago Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Joseph of Nazareth went to Judea with Mary, who was expecting a child. While they were in Bethlehem she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

Magi 2: And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them! And they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all my people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Magi 3: My colleagues and I have come asking “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” And thus we have continued on our way and we are now overjoyed to see the child with his mother Mary. We have brought these treasures as gifts.

Isaiah: Don’t forget, I foretold it!

Gabriel: Friends, you’ll never see anything like this again: The mother Mary, father Joseph, Shepherds, Wisemen, and the Stars all in alignment for the Baby Jesus. Can I get an Amen?

Everyone: AMEN.

Gabriel: Signing off for the Celestial News Network, I’m the Angel Gabriel and

Isaiah: I’m the Prophet Isaiah, who told you first.

CONGREGATION SINGS: FIRST VERSE OF “JOY TO THE WORLD” (ELW 267)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

**All credit goes to Sarah
Stauderman for writing this
script. Thank you!**