

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

GOD'S MESSENGER

BE OUR DEFENSE, SO THAT NO ONE CAN BE AGAINST US.

We are probably most familiar with Archangel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, announcing to her that she was chosen to give birth to Christ. Long before this however, the archangel's presence was made manifest throughout the OLD TESTAMENT. He appeared to Moses while he was tending to Jethro's flocks, revealing to him the story of Creation and other events pertaining to the early history of the world. Inspiring him to write the first five books of the Bible, which are know as the "Pentateuch." He visited the Prophet Daniel and foretold of the tribulations of God's chosen people. It was the Gabriel who came to St. Anna, and shared the news with her that her prayers would be answered, and in her advanced age she would give birth to the Virgin Mary.

The task of being God's primary messenger continues on into the NEW TESTAMENT for the Archangel Gabriel. While Zacharias was praying in the Temple, he received word from Gabriel that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son who would be the Forerunner – John the Baptist. On more that one occasion, the Righteous **Joseph was warned in dreams by the Archangel to flee the wrath of Herod and his successor and protect the Christ-Child. When our Lord Himself prayed with great fevor in the Garden of Gethsemane, Gabriel was sent to comfort Him in His hour of agony. Even the Myrr-bearing Women heard the joyous news of Chris't Ressurrection from this holy messeger.**

Yes, both the Old and New Testaments are filled with marvelous stories of Gabriel's angelic visitations. For this reason, our Orthodox Church calls upon us to pray to the Archange with faith and love.