

A background image depicting a scene from heaven. In the center, Jesus Christ stands on a white, billowing cloud. He is wearing a light blue robe and has his arms slightly open. Below him, a vast multitude of angels in white robes are gathered, some with wings spread wide. A set of stone steps leads upwards from the bottom of the frame towards Jesus. The background is a soft-focus blend of blues, yellows, and purples.

Don't Mess with Angels!

#1 Christmas 2019

DAILY NEWS

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DUMB MAN SINGS!

Some months ago, Temple priest Zechariah ben Abijah, was chosen by lot to enter the holy place of Jerusalem's temple. When he emerged, he was struck dumb and so stood down for further duties for a time.

Now reports have filtered through that this man, a first-time father in his old age, was heard singing prophetic praises at the celebration of his son's arrival last week.



Luke 1:11-17 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

“And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

1. The Dream is Reborn

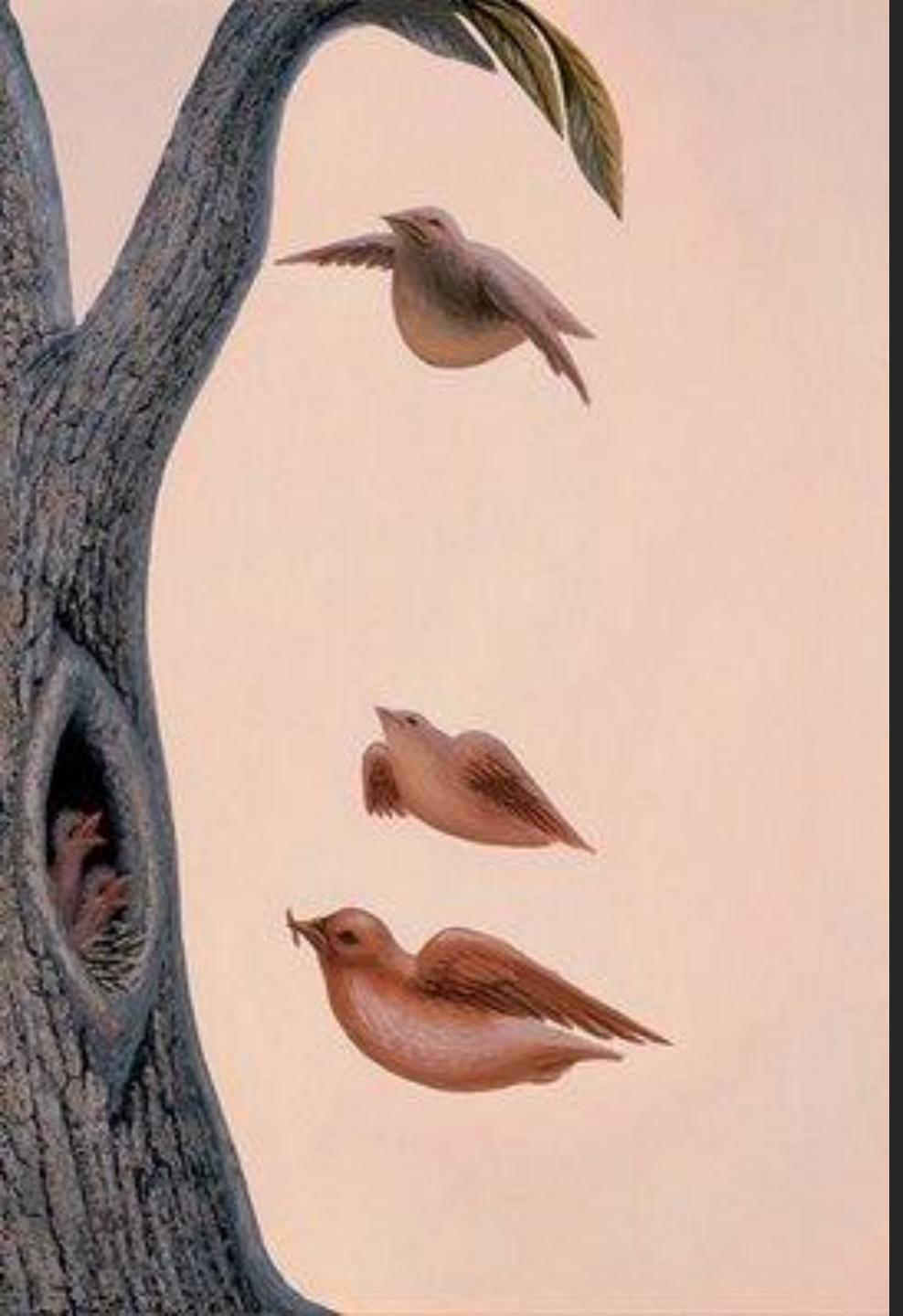
- God listens when we pray
- Prayers from years ago are still to be fulfilled

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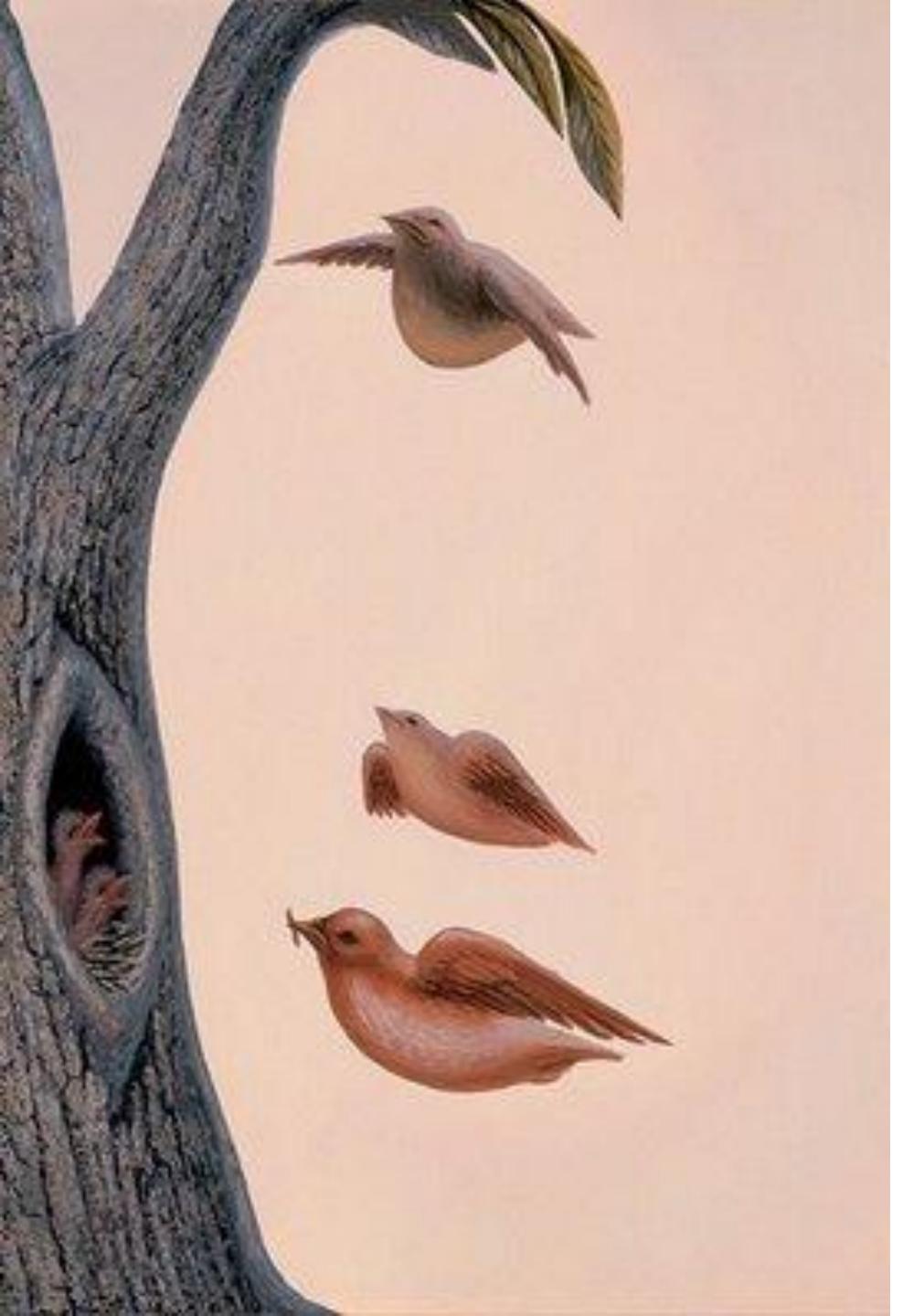
- Zechariah interceded for others.

Matthew 18:19-20 *“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

1 John 5:14 *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*



2. Bending Our Imagination



2. Bending Our Imagination

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen*

- *When God gets your attention – run with it!*
- *If you ask for a sign – expect the unexpected.*
- *God's favour takes away distress.*

3. Seek Him Out

Luke 2:8-14 *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”



KIRK HARMON '11

3. Seek Him Out

- Shepherds were financially poor
- They had a poor reputation
- Good news for all people – regardless of race, culture, class, financial status, education etc
- God is our Saviour



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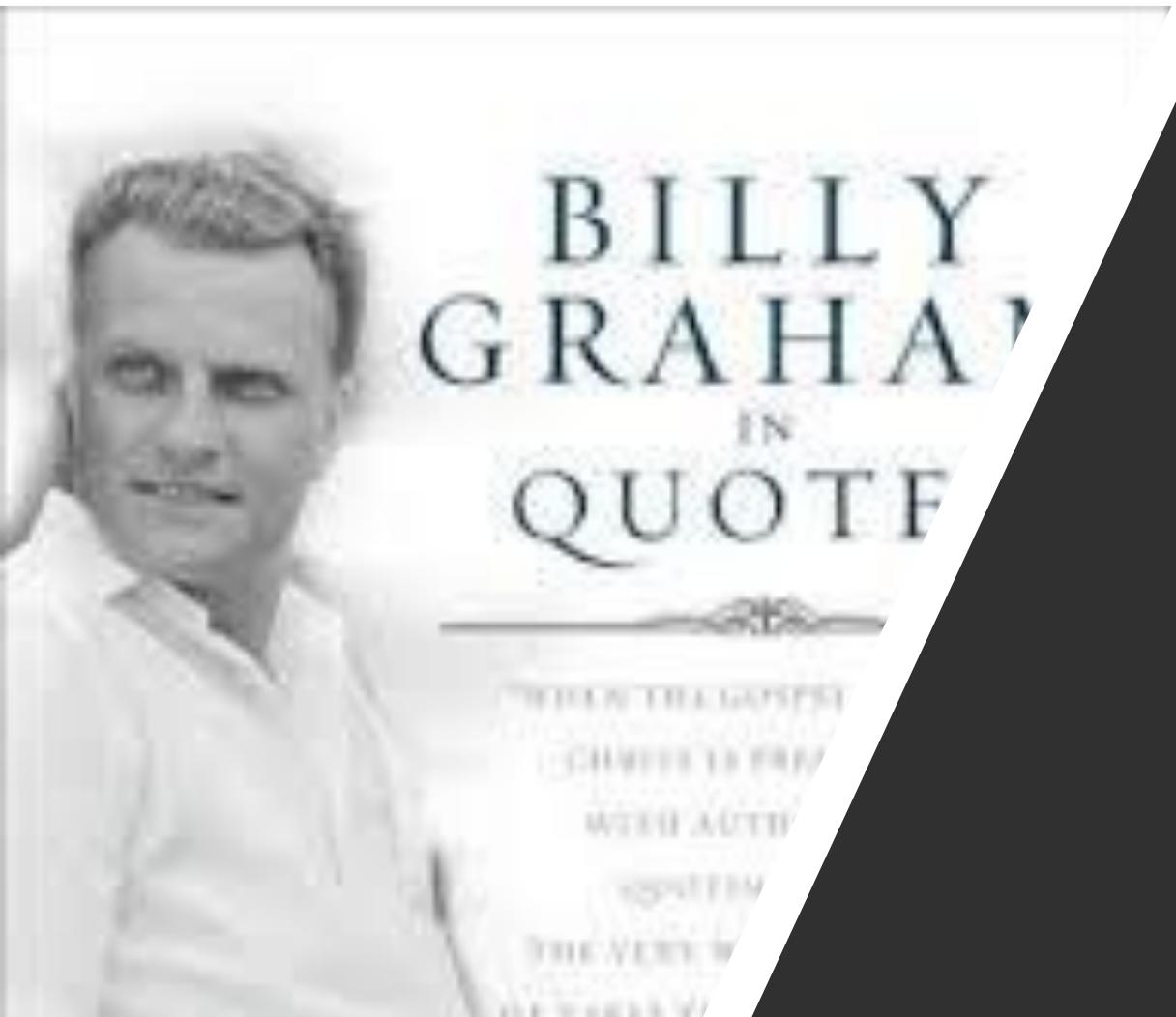
Isaiah 45:21 *Declare what is to be,
present it— let them take counsel
together.*

*Who foretold this long ago, who
declared it from the distant past?*

Was it not I, the LORD?

*And there is no God apart from me,
a righteous God and a Saviour;
there is none but Me.*

3. Seek Him Out



Quote: Billy Graham (May 12, 1966)

If God is dead; if moral values are the pitiful superstitions of a previous unenlightened age; if the soul & spirit are an illusion; if prayer is a childish folly; if immortality is an idiotic dream, then there is nothing left but this physical existence."

Seek Him Out

Philosophy asks
the questions

Jesus gives the
answers