

The Book of Life Nativity

CAST

Gabriel
Raphael
Michael
Mary
Joseph
Innkeeper
Angel 1 (Gabriel)
Angel 2 (Michael)
Angel 3 (Raphael)
King 1
King 2
King 3
Donkey
shepherds

3 Angels enter 1 by 1 and admire the 'book of life'. First Michael. Then Raphael. Then Gabriel. They all stand round.

Together: I'm so excited!

Michael: Can you believe it's nearly time?

Gabriel: Feels like a gazillion years we've waited for this moment.

Raphael: And finally, it's here!

Together: The Book of life! Shall we?

Together they open it. One blows dust off it. They look at it in awe.

Michael: Everything recorded. Every name, every event. Ever.

Gabriel: And tomorrow we're all gonna be reunited for the best party ever!

They sigh nostalgically.

Michael: There's certainly been some ups and downs. I fought my socks off on behalf of so many.

Gabriel: You were certainly kept busy. Especially on for them lot in that little church on Silk Mill lane.

Raphael: What fun we had. What responsibility. We were sent to do some important jobs.

Michael: What was your fave?

Raphael: Oh! Remember when I rolled the stone away from the tomb. Did you see those guard's faces when it was empty?

Gabriel: All those important messages to pass on. Like when you told Mary and the disciples that the Lord was risen? Best day ever!!

Michael: We've certainly had some good times. But I'm pretty sure there was one particular highlight we can all agree on.

He points at a line in the book.

Gabriel: Oh Yes. The best one of all!

Raphael : And we all played a part in that bit of history.

Michael: Look here you are Gabriel! (they start narrating) God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Mary enters carrying a basket. Angel 1 enters and in response Mary drops her basket.

Angel 1: Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you!

Raphael: Mary was greatly troubled at the angel's words and wondered what this might mean. But the angel said to her;

Angel 1 : Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign on the throne forever and his kingdom will never end.

Mary: How will this be? since I am not yet married.

Angel 1: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the Holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Mary From Now on all generations will call me blessed.

Gabriel: Perfectly done if I do say so myself-

Joseph enters and Mary whispers to him. He expresses surprise. He sits down and falls asleep on a chair.

Michael: Because Joseph was a righteous man he did not want to expose her to public disgrace. After he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said;

Angel 2 – Dear Joseph, Mary is with child.

Michael: Oh he's good!

Angel 2: Joseph, son David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins

Raphael: All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means, God with us."

Angel exits.

Gabriel: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife.

Mary enters, they embrace.

The angels high five.

Mary adds her bump off stage.

Raphael: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.

Mary returns with her bump, Joseph holding a letter.

Joseph: So I know you're nearly due but how do you feel about a few nights on the road?

Mary looks unconvinced at her tummy.

Mary: As long as we're together we'll be fine.

Michael: So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to a place called Bethlehem to because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Gabriel: Let us sing (O little town of Bethlehem)

Michael: After a long and difficult journey to Bethlehem they finally made it and they completed their census. But they weren't the only ones heading there and Bethlehem

was busier than ever. In fact, it quickly became clear the journey wasn't the only difficulty Joseph had to overcome.

Mary: What do you mean there's no rooms left?

Innkeeper: We do have somewhere else actually. I've never let anyone stay there before but as the lady's expecting...

He shows them the stable.

Michael: And while they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

Raphael: Let us sing. (Away in a Manager)

Gabriel: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby keeping watch over their flocks by night. And angel of the Lord appeared to them,

Raphael: That's exactly how it happened!

Angel 3: You have nothing to fear. We have joyful news!

Gabriel: 'And the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them...

Angel 3: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ, the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Michael: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared,

(Angel 1,2 and any others join)

Raphael – Look at us all. We were something to behold!

Michael: Praising God and saying...

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men on whom his favour rest.

Michael: Let's sing (Hark the Herald Angels Sing)

Raphael: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...

Shepherd: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

The angels part revealing the manger

(Shepherds go to manger during song carrying lambs. Proceed one by one to fall down and worship. Mary and Joseph show baby to shepherds and let them hold the baby)

Gabriel: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem.

Kings enter and examine their map..

Wise 1: That star doesn't seem to be on any of our charts.

Wise 2: I've been charting it for months too. What should we do?

Wise3: I know this isn't our usual approach but how about we follow it?

Wise 1: I suppose if we don't we'll never be any the wiser will we?

Wise 2: Wise guy huh?

Wise 3: Let's do it.

Gabriel: Let's sing (We Three Kings)

The kings process.

Gabriel: The kings asked,

King 1: Where is the one who was born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship Him.

Mary points and they place their gifts.

King 1: Gold

King 2: Frankincense

King: Myrrh

Raphael: Let us sing. (Silent Night)

Michael: Yep. That was certainly a highlight in history that can't be beaten. God giving his son for all of humanity.

Raphael: The book doesn't mention it but we were there at the manger too weren't we?

Gabriel: Of course. There we are. How could we miss the greatest moment ever?

Michael: We had a ringside seat with everyone else.

Raphael: All of us. Doing exactly what we were made to do. Worship Him.

Gabriel: Praise him.

Michael: Follow him.

All: Together.