



“The Shepherds”

Part 1

Luke 2:8 - 14

August 1, 2021

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1 Cor 1:26-28

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen,

James 2:5

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

*Moses was keeping sheep, Gideon was threshing wheat, Elisha was ploughing, David was a shepherd.

*Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. Elders in the church are called shepherds.

8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

“in the same region” – close proximity to Bethlehem.

“there were some shepherds” –

- Considered the lowest class, the most despicable group of individuals. Scum. Grouped with tax collectors and lepers.
- Could not be trusted. The Mishna (oral traditions), said that it was forbidden for people to buy any sorts of food or clothing or garments from shepherds because it was thought to have been stolen property.
- Could not testify in a court of law.
- Violated the Sabbath.
- “sheep-stealing” comes from them.
- Here are more ‘nobodies.’
- We would expect the birth announcement of the Savior to go to:
 - Caesar.
 - King.
 - Governors.
 - Rulers and those in authority.
 - High Priest.
 - Sanhedrin
 - Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - Priests.
 - Rabbis.
- Here is the picture of God’s grace. God is coming to the lowly.

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“staying out in the fields” – this is their life – fields.

Shepherds were usually out in the fields from April (Passover) – November. May be an indication of when Christ was born.



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“keeping watch over their flock by night” – shepherds were committed to their flock.

- Sometimes they put them in the “fold” (pen) at night for protection.
- Shepherd would sleep at the door of the fold. Gives meaning to what Jesus said, “I am the door.” Must enter through Him and once in, you are secure.

John 10:1-2

1 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

2 “But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:7,9

7 So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

9 “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.



“Have you ever considered why the text does not read, “Now there were in the same region scribes and Pharisees, keeping watch over their scrolls and religious rituals”? Nor does it say, “There were in the same region kings and princes keeping watch at the palace.”

- Steven Cole

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- 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- 12 "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
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Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia —

Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

"**And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them,**" - Angel may have been Gabriel. It happened suddenly. Can you imagine this happening in the coal-black night?

"**and the glory of the Lord shone around them;**" This is the Shechinah Glory of the O.T. the term used to describe a visible manifestation of God that indicates His presence.

- appeared to Abraham in Ur (Acts 7:2).
- appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai (Exod. 31).
- appeared in the Tabernacle (Exod. 40:34-35).
- appeared at the dedication of Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:11), and that Ezekiel saw depart the Temple (Ezek 10:4, 18-19; 11:22-23).

"**and they were terribly frightened?**" Fear is the natural response when you see an angel or witness the glory of God. (Dan. 8:15-18; 10:7-9, 16-17; Matt. 28:2-4; Luke 1:12, 26-30; Isa. 6:1-5; Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; Matt. 17:5-6; Mark 4:41; 5:33; Acts 9:4; **Rev. 1:17**)

- We see the same response when Gabriel appears to Zacharias, when Gabriel appears to Mary, and now an angel appears to the shepherds — "It's the same sequence - Appearance, fear, comfort, message, sign."

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"**Do not be afraid;**" – wonderful words of comfort to a heart of fear. We need these words when we first come to Christ. He says, "Fear not."

"**I bring you good news of great joy**" –

εὐαγγελίζεσθε – to deliver, to announce, good news; to evangelize.

2 realities of the gospel message: 1. Good news. Must realize bad news first. A baby in a manger is no threat. 2. Brings great joy. Joy comes from assurance and confidence. Does not depend on circumstances.

- This is our message, is it not?

"**which will be for all the people;**" – Jew and Gentile – Jn 3:16.

- You can accept it or reject it.
- But it is here for you.

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"for today in the city of David" – He is here today. Here is where King David was born and it is in David's line that the Messiah would come. Reminds the shepherds of the Messianic promises given to David.

"there has been born for you" – Jesus has come into the world for you.

"a Savior" – one who delivers. Here it refers to One who will save people from their sins.

"We don't need another advisor, a reformer, or a committee, but a Savior." - Dave Guzik

"who is" – the Savior is not just anyone, but is defined by 2 things-

"Christ" – means anointed. In the OT you were anointed for a special office. Jesus would be anointed to serve in 3 offices:

- The Savior is anointed as a **prophet** to preach the gospel.
- He is anointed as **priest** to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sins.
- He is anointed as **king** to reign.

"the Lord" – one who is sovereign, has absolute authority. The Savior is sovereign over the universe. To call the Savior Lord is to call Him God.

12 *"This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

"This will be a sign for you:" - a sign simply points to a greater reality.

"you will find a baby wrapped in cloths" – not in some purple royal garment. Just simply in cloths like other babies.

"and lying in a manger." – this sets Jesus apart. There may have been other babies just born, but not lying in a manger.

So He will not be found in a palace, or with a large crowd of people surrounding Him or with a halo over His head.

13 *And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

"And suddenly there appeared" – again it happens "suddenly."

"with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host"

"Evidently, one angel can bring the news, but it does not suffice for one angel to respond to the news."

- **"multitude"** – πληθος – large number. 10,000?? 1,000,000??
The large number indicates the magnitude of this event.
- **"host"** – στρατια – an army, a band of men. "a band of brothers."

"praising God and saying" – praising is one of the ministries of angels. This is what they love to do. They have never sinned so it is all pure and holy.

"Heaven's choir came down to sing, when heaven's King came down to save."

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"Glory to God in the highest," – here is stated the ultimate purpose of everything – **to glorify God.**

"And on earth peace among men"

Rom 5:1

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

"The most basic need we have is peace with God. This is foundational to all our pursuits of peace. If we don't go here first, all other experiences of peace will be superficial and temporary."

- John Piper

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"with whom He is pleased."

King James - "and on earth peace, good will toward men."

NIV - "... and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

NASB " . . . and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased."

ESV - "... and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

εὐδοκία – to take pleasure in.

- Angels are not rejoicing that some men will earn their salvation through their own works.
- They're glorifying God because, though none can earn salvation, God is pleased to give it by His own good pleasure.
- Salvation peace belongs to those to whom God is pleased to give it
- If you are a person who has been given the gift of salvation, you are a person of His good pleasure.