



You Don't Want To Miss This!

Luke 2:1-20 The Lamb of God is Born

- The Word of God:

- ¹ At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.
- ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.
- ⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."
- ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
- ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
- ¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. (Luke. 2:1–20 NLT-SE)

- **The Field...**

- Shepherds are tending their sheep in a field on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Many scholars believe these were the fields where lambs were raised for the Passover celebration. This would be fitting, in that the Passover Lamb was about to be born in Bethlehem.
- Other scholars believe this may have been near Boaz's field or even the field where David tended his sheep. Either way, something remarkable is about to take place in this particular field!

- **The Angels...**

- The shepherds were minding their own business (raising perfect lambs) when suddenly an angel appears before them. His **radiance** (*doxa*; dazzling lustre, a reflection of the glory of God! This is the same word used to describe the light that blinded Paul on the road to Damascus.) lights up the field around them and the shepherds are terrified. This was the same glory that...
 - Filled the **tabernacle** in Ex 40:34, "Then the cloud covered the Tabernacle, and the glory of the LORD filled the Tabernacle."
 - Filled the **temple** in 1 Kings 8:11, "The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of the LORD."
 - Was **prophesied** about by Isaiah in Is 40:5, "Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!"
- The angel, most likely Gabriel, the same angel that appeared to Mary (Luke 1:28) and to Joseph (Matt 1:20), telling them of the Child they had been chosen to bring into the world, tells the shepherds, "Don't be afraid!" Why? Because they were afraid!
- He tells them, "'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.'"
- Just then everything gets crazy! A "vast number" of angels that are known as the "army of heaven" join Gabriel in the field for a little glorified worship.
- Question: If one angel radiates enough glory to light up a field, how bright does that field become when a "vast" number of them show up to worship the birth of the Lamb of God? And these aren't your typical angels, but warring angels who comprise what is referred to as the "army of heaven!"
- So, here's the scene: Some shepherds are in a field near Bethlehem, protecting their sheep. An angel shows up in glory to announce the birth of the Savior of the world, and he's joined by multitude of angel warriors who break into this song..."Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." (v. 14) The peace God gives is emphasized throughout Luke's gospel.
- Then, the angels go back to heaven. Wow! They just leave. Stunned I'm sure, the shepherds look at each other and decide right then and there, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (v. 15)

- Obviously, something has just happened. It's interesting how it is all summed up with "this thing." All the major translation use the same description, "this thing." The greek word that is being translated here is *rhema*, the spoken word.
 - In the NT, there are two word used to describe "word," logos and rhema. In general, **logos** is revelation that comes through Jesus and **rhema** is revelation that comes through the Holy Spirit.
 - They were going into Bethlehem to **see** what the Lord had **said** was going to happen. God **said** something and they decided to **do** something. The same is true for us today. The Lord's desire is to speak to us in a way that elicits a response. Sometimes it is a response from our hearts, causing is to realign our desires or motives. At other times, our response is to go do something. Most of the time the something that we do seems insignificant. But, sometimes that something is extraordinary. Actually, anything we do in response to what the Holy Spirit says is extraordinary.
- **The Manger...**
- Some scholars believe the shepherds that night were near Bethlehem at Migdal Eder, "the watch tower of the flock," the place where the expectant ewes were taken to give birth to the lambs raised for passover. These particular lambs had to be "unblemished, with no bruises or broken bones. To this end, when the lambs were born they were wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a manger in soft hay to keep them from hurting themselves.
 - The "miracle" these priestly shepherds saw was the birth of a baby boy in a manger, wrapped in strips of cloth, where the Passover lamb should be.
- **It's coming...**Something remarkable is about to happen on the earth. Jesus is going to get even more famous than he is now. The Father is about to bring his family home. Holy Spirit is ready to empower signs and wonders on the world. David wrote this about "this thing" that's coming...
- ⁴ Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power. ⁵ I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. ⁶ Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. ⁷ Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness. (Psa. 145:4–7 NLT-SE)
 - ⁸ The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. ⁹ The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. (Psa. 145:8–9 NLT-SE)
 - ¹⁰ All of your works will thank you, LORD, and your faithful followers will praise you. ¹¹ They will speak of the glory of your kingdom; they will give examples of your power. ¹² They will tell about your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of your reign. (Psa. 145:10–12 NLT-SE)

You don't want to miss "this thing!"