

Part 3: Angels: A Song of Glorious Peace



Passage Background: "How amazed the angels must have been when they saw the Creator born as a creature, the Word coming as a speechless baby. The best commentary on this is 2 Corinthians 8:9, and the best response from our hearts is wonder and worship. "Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16).

"The first announcement of the Messiah's birth was given by an angel to some anonymous shepherds. Why shepherds? Why not to priests or scribes? By visiting the shepherds, the angel revealed the grace of God toward mankind. Shepherds were really outcasts in Israel. Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them away from the temple for weeks at a time so that they could not be made clean."¹

Luke 2:8-18 (NKJV); ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 176). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The Angels' Song-A Song of Glorious Peace

1. Common o_____ people experienced an e_____ heavenly scene (v. 8-9).
 - These shepherds were the most ordinary people of their day.

Scripture Insight: *shepherds*. Despite Biblical traditions about Moses and David, most people of status throughout the empire viewed shepherds as lowly and sometimes as rough, unclean or even dangerous.²

- They were faithfully doing their duty.
 - Jesus called Himself the "good shepherd" who gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11).
 - What time of day was it?
2. The message of Christmas is this: Jesus came for _____ - including you-to give you a new kind of _____ (v. 10-11).
 - Friend, there's no reason to fear. Why? Because the message of Christmas...the message of the Gospel is Good News.
 - What was the reassuring Christmas message? **3 Christmas presents:**
 1. G_____ tidings-In a bad news world, we need some good news!

Scripture Insight: "I bring you good news. This translates the Greek verb *euangelizō*, which means to preach the good news. The noun (*euangelion*) is translated by the word "gospel." This verb is found eleven times in the Gospels, and ten of these are found in Luke."³

2. G_____ joy-In a world that is often lacking true joy, Jesus offers us true and lasting joy-joy unspeakable and full of Glory!

² Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

³ Stein, R. H. (1992). *Luke* (Vol. 24, p. 108). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

3. For all p_____ -the Gospel is the universal Gospel which is for all people of all time.

Max Lucado said, " If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Savior."

- The Savior has been born-He's the long-awaited Messiah...the Christ who is the Lord of all creation!

Scripture Insight: "Savior ... Christ ... Lord: These three titles together summarize the saving work of Jesus and His sovereign position. What God was called in [1:47](#), Savior, Jesus is called here. The word Christ means "Anointed," referring to Jesus' royal, messianic position. The word Lord was the title of a ruler. The meaning of the word is defined by Peter in [Acts 2:30-36](#). Jesus is destined to sit and distribute salvation's benefits from God's side, ruling with the Father."⁴

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

3. **If you are looking for a _____, look no further-here is your sign: _____ came on Christmas Day** (v. 12).
- Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes-one day these strips of cloth would eventually be strips of grave cloths.

Isaiah 7:14: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- Jesus was lying in a manger. Jesus was placed in a feeding trough for animals.
4. **Heaven celebrates when God's g_____ is shown from above and when p_____ is known below** (v. 13-14).
- If we could pull back the veil of heaven, we would get this picture: God in all of His glory...the angels in all of their celebration of God....and God's plan for planet earth: To redeem and restore that which was lost in the Fall.

⁴ Quote from NKJV Study Bible.

- Heavenly host—isn't it interesting that "host" is a military term...and here on the first Christmas, the heavenly army was announcing how one could have peace with God through Jesus Christ!
- When God is glorified in the highest, people experience peace and goodwill on earth.
- How can the angels declare peace when there is little peace? A better translation of this verse is: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (ESV)

Scripture Insight: "Peace to those on whom his favor rests. Peace is not assured to all, but only to those pleasing to God—the objects of his good pleasure (see Luke's use of the word "pleased" elsewhere: [3:22](#); [10:21](#); [12:32](#)). The Roman world was experiencing the *Pax Romana* ("Roman Peace"), marked by external tranquillity. But the angels proclaimed a deeper, more lasting peace than that—a peace of mind and soul made possible by the Savior ([v. 11](#)). Peace with God is received by faith in Christ (see [Ro 5:1](#) and note), and it is on believers that "his favor rests."⁵

5. **Your present to Jesus this year: A passionate _____ of our Lord and Savior—Jesus Christ** (v. 15-18).
- Make a pursuing Jesus your top pursuit (v. 15). *Let us go...Let us see...which the Lord has made known to us.*
 - Don't delay in your pursuit of Jesus (v. 16). *They came with haste...*
 - Somebody tell somebody (v. 17). *Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.*

Challenge: Don't just invite someone to our Christmas Eve service but bring them!

- The result of your passionate pursuit: Other will marvel at the grace of God in your life (v. 18).

Take Home Truth: *Peace* is *present* when God's *glory* is *evident* in my life.

My Action Step: Take time today to praise God for His blessings in your life. Invite someone to Church to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30.

Preview for Christmas Eve Service: Jesus the Living Song. Zephaniah 3:17, Luke 2:1-20.

⁵ Quote from NIV Study Bible.