

THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS  
(Luke 2:8-20)

- I. Unanticipated Recipients of the ANGELS' MESSAGE (Luke 2:8)
  - A. Shepherds were generally DESPISED
    - 1. COMMON shepherds were ceremonially UNCLEAN
    - 2. ALL shepherds were unlearned in the LAW
  - B. THESE shepherds were probably tending the flock for PASSOVER
  
- II. Unlikely Witnesses of the RETURN of God's GLORY (Luke 2:9)
  - A. The GLORY had appeared to ABRAHAM at Ur (Acts 7:2)
  - B. The GLORY had appeared in the TABERNACLE (Ex. 40:34-35)
  - C. The GLORY had appeared in the TEMPLE (1 Kings 8:11)
  - D. The GLORY was seen by Ezekiel DEPARTING from the TEMPLE (Ezek. 10:4, 18-19)
  - E. The GLORY had been ABSENT for FIVE HUNDRED YEARS
    - 1. Not revealed to PRIESTS in the TEMPLE
    - 2. Not revealed to RULERS in the PALACE
    - 3. But revealed to SHEPHERDS in the FIELD
  
- III. Unexpected Message of HOPE (Luke 2:10-11)
  - A. Heard a message of JOY, not of FEAR
  - B. Heard a message to ALL PEOPLE, not just ISRAEL (cf. Gen. 12:3)

- C. Heard a message of the SAVIOR, who is MESSIAH the KING (cf. Isa. 9:6-7; 53:1-12; Ps. 110)
- IV. Unmistakable SIGNS for Identification (Luke 2:12)
- A. The baby was WRAPPED in strips of CLOTH
  - B. The baby was lying in a FEED TROUGH
- V. Unrestrained Expression of JOY (Luke 2:13-14)
- A. GLORY to GOD!
  - B. PEACE to MEN!
- VI. Unhesitating RESPONSE to the Message (Luke 2:15-16)
- A. They BELIEVED the message
  - B. They CONFIRMED the message
- VII. Uninhibited PROCLAMATION of the GOOD NEWS (Luke 2:17-20)
- A. They did not focus on the GLORY revealed to THEM
  - B. They did not focus on the APPEARANCE of the ANGELS
  - C. They proclaimed the TRUTH concerning this CHILD—SALVATION had come!
- VIII. Unavoidable LESSONS for Us
- A. The messenger is INSIGNIFICANT except as a VESSEL for the message
  - B. God did not seek the approval, support, or involvement of POLITICAL leaders nor the RELIGIOUS establishment to spread the GOSPEL
  - C. God does not need BIGGER churches, more TV TIME, or more INFLUENTIAL preachers—He just calls WILLING SERVANTS