

Christmas

Luke 2:8-20

Title: "Good tidings of great joy" Luke 2:10

INTRODUCTION

1. Few have known "great joy"
2. Shepherding was an old profession
 - a) It was despised by the Egyptians
 - b) It was a job that few would choose
 - i) Long hours
 - ii) Lonely job
 - iii) A demanding job

AN ANGELIC MESSENGER FROM HEAVEN

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.

Luke 2:8-9

1. An angel from the Lord
2. The glory of the Lord was manifested
3. The fear of the shepherds
 - a) A startling experience
 - b) A spiritual experience
 - c) A supernatural experience

THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGEL

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.”

Luke 2:10-12

1. Dispelling of the fear of the shepherds
2. Dramatic announcement of the birth of the Messiah
 - a) In the city of David (Bethlehem)
 - b) A Saviour is born
 - c) He is “Christ the Lord”
3. A Deeply puzzling sign
 - a) The Baby would be wrapped in swaddling cloths
 - b) He would be lying in a manger
 - c) This is the Birth of the Messiah, Christ the Lord!

A MASSIVE HEAVENLY CHOIR

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

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

Luke 2:13-14

1. The Strength of the divine choir
A multitude of the heavenly host!
2. The Song of the Heavenly Choir
 - a) Praising God

- b) Giving glory to God
- c) A message of Peace from God to mankind

MEANING AWAITS

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.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.

²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Luke 2:15-20

1. The angels had done their part

- a) Proclaiming the Birth of the Saviour
- b) Praising God for what He has done
- c) They then returned to heaven

2. The shepherds must decide what they would do next

- a) Meaning of this unique experience awaits
- b) Their decision was to check out what the angel had said to them

3. The Decision the shepherds made

¹⁵ "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.

Luke 2:15-16

- a) To go to Bethlehem
- b) To see the thing that has come to pass
- c) There was acknowledgement that this was indeed a Message from the Lord to them
- d) They went to Bethlehem in haste
- e) They saw the Christ-Child lying in a manger

A MEANINGFUL SHARING OF THEIR NEW-FOUND FAITH

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.

Luke 2:17-18

1. They made widely known what they had experienced
 - a) The Birth of the Saviour
 - b) The significance of the Birth of the Messiah
2. The marvel of all who heard
 - a) They could only marvel
 - b) They did not have the experience of the shepherds

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To read afresh about the Birth of the Saviour
2. To respond as meaningfully as the shepherds of old
3. To discover:

- a) Great Joy personally
- b) A glorious Peace from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ