

Luke 2:8-20 – The Birth of Jesus Christ, Part 3

Introduction:

1. God sent an angelic Choir not to Caesar Augustus, Herod the Great, Quirinius, or a High Priest – but to shepherds
2. The ultimate outcome of the news of Jesus Christ demanded an army of angels declaring peace with God

Main Idea: Our praise and worship of God depends on the reconciling peace the Gospel provides in the revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The Angels' Radiant Recital (vv 8-14)

1. Opening Scene is Not Extraordinary – Shepherds in a field
 - a. No expectation, No preparation – How could they be
2. An angel appears announcing the Birth of Jesus
 - a. The shepherds were filled with great fear
 - b. *Fallen creatures are always terrified when Heaven's presence makes itself known*
 - i. Most are afraid of the Gospel of Christ
 - ii. Sinful man wants to silence the name of Jesus
 - iii. **DO NOT FEAR** – *Humanity has nothing to fear when God moves in Grace*
 - iv. God moves in Grace providing us His Son
 - c. Jesus is for All People – not just the elite, or Jewish peoples, but also Gentiles – every tribe
 - d. Unto YOU is Born this day! Christian, the birth of Christ was for YOU!
 - e. Born in the City of David, Bethlehem in fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy
 - f. Three Titles Given to Jesus
 - i. Savior – He delivers His people from great peril
 - ii. Christ – The Promised Messiah (Anointed One)
 1. A King who will reign over our hearts
 2. A Priest who will mediate and take away our sinful guilt
 3. A Prophet who will be the last Word of God to the world
 - iii. Lord – Eternal Sovereign who brings Salvation who will reign forever (**Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:33**)
 - g. The Sign to the Shepherds – a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger – a portrait of the humiliation of the incarnation of Christ
3. The Divine Angelic Doxology to God
 - a. The greatest gloria performed for shepherds

- b. Glory to God in the Highest: Reconciling peace with God brought to a ruined humanity
- c. Peace with God!
 - i. Not a generalized peace with the world
 - ii. A reconciling, Conquering Peace experienced only by God's grace through faith in the Son of God
 - iii. Prophesied in Redemptive History (**Haggai 2:9, Isaiah 52:7, 9:7, Micah 5:4-5a, Acts 10:34-36**)
 - iv. Includes all our Salvation: Conversion to Glorification (**Luke 1:76-79**)
 - v. Reconciling Peace with a Holy God – to live triumphantly in Christ over sin, Satan (**Romans 16:20**)
 - vi. A Divisive Peace (**Luke 2:34-35, Matthew 10:34-39**)
 - vii. A Particular Specific Peace – Only a reconciling peace for the Sheep of Christ (**Luke 1:50, 6:47, 9:23, 18:14, 23:41-43**)
 - viii. *Only way to have peace with God is through the Son of God* (**Romans 5:1**) – **Justified in Christ Alone!**

The Shepherd's Reverent Response/Mary's Reflection (vv 15-19)

1. The Shepherds went to SEE with their own eyes what was told to them – They obediently hurried to Bethlehem
2. Today we find Christ, not in Bethlehem, but in the Scriptures
3. The Shepherds spread the Good News of Jesus Christ – could not keep quiet (**See Peter in Acts 4:19-20**)
4. *The spontaneous overflow of a heart of evangelism is what happens to people converted by the Grace of Almighty God*
5. Mary treasured the Revelation from God and Mediated on it

God's Resolute Resolve in Sending Jesus (v 20)

1. The Shepherds went back to their work changed & transformed
2. *The end for which God saves is to have a people He treasures and that treasures Him*
3. The Essence of the Christian Disciple and Follower of Jesus Christ is Worship and Treasuring Him in the Heart
4. Believers cannot Help to praise and worship God in Christ with the message and the mission of Christ
5. Jesus is their Life!