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Christmas Revelations – The Angels

Luke 2:8-20

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the second chapter of Luke, we see the angels appear to the shepherds declaring the birth of the Messiah. The Jews have been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years. The prophets have told them that God would send a Messiah to take away the sins of the world. Now the angels announce His arrival. The Messiah has come; bringing peace and joy to the world. How can we live surrounded by His peace and joy while we are still here on this earth?



For today in the city of David
there has been born for you a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

Read Luke 2:8-20 (NET)

⁸ Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, for I proclaim to you good news that brings great joy to all the people: ¹¹ Today your Savior is born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a vast, heavenly army appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"*

¹⁵ When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, that the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and located Mary and Joseph, and found the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they related what they had been told about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were astonished at what the shepherds said. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these words, pondering in her heart what they might mean. ²⁰ So the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; everything was just as they had been told.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. What is in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)**

What does God MEAN?

8. Why were the shepherds terrified?

9. Why would the shepherds have great joy over the birth of Jesus?

10. Why do the angels glorify God at the birth of Jesus?

11. In what way does Jesus bring peace to the people of the world?

12. Why is the peace that is offered only for those that God is pleased with? What is the distinguishing factor between those that He is pleased with and those that He is not pleased with?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. The angels proclaimed that the birth of Christ brings great joy to all people. Should we always have joy? How can we have joy in the face of trials?

14. When is it difficult to choose to live in joy?

15. How does the peace of God that comes with knowing Christ relate to our ability to live in joy?

16. The angels proclaimed the coming of Christ with praises to God declaring “glory to God in the highest.” When we proclaim Jesus as savior we should also point to God’s glory with the joy and peace that comes from Christ. How do we maintain joy and peace in our lives so that other people can see it as we proclaim Jesus as savior?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES