

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL

LUKE 2:8-14

Verse 13 does not say that the angels sang, but said these words, but it is a broad word can mean _____
This first Christmas carol from heaven has 3 stanzas that suggest the 3 great _____ of Jesus' birth

I. THE FIRST STANZA: THE BIRTH OF JESUS BROUGHT ABOUT THE _____ OF GOD

A. The Significance of the Setting

- 1) Not only did an angel appear, but the _____ glory of God—like of pillar of fire that led Israel
- 2) Because of the overwhelming fear of the shepherds, the angel had to stop them from _____
- 3) A heavenly _____ showed up to sing; perhaps the entire angelic population of heaven joined in
- 4) Baptist Charles Spurgeon: "It is superstitious to worship _____ ; it is but proper to love them."
 - a) Angels attended the events at Jesus birth, which is why we sing of them only at _____
 - b) 1/3 of angels fell and Jesus did not redeem them, yet angels were the first to sing of our _____

B. The Significance of the Stanza: "Glory to God IN THE HIGHEST"

- 1) "In the highest" may mean that very _____ angels left even the throne of God to join this carol
- 2) "In the highest" may mean that angels turned from praise for _____ to praise for the incarnation
- 3) "In the highest" means that the incarnation and our salvation is foremost that _____ may get the glory

II. THE SECOND STANZA: THE BIRTH OF JESUS BROUGHT _____ ON EARTH

A. The Savior Was Born to Bring Peace between _____ and God

- 1) Men are born on non-peaceful terms with God, His _____ while He continues to bless them
- 2) Jesus came not only to die for our sins, but to reconcile us—to turn us from enemies into _____

B. The Savior Was Born to Bring Peace between Man and His _____

Those who trust Jesus gain not only peace with God, but also the peace _____ God in the face of worry

C. The Savior Was Born to Bring Peace between _____ and Man

- 1) Eph.2:14-18 teaches that within the _____ there is peace now between ethnic groups of men
- 2) Isaiah 9:6-7 prophesies that Jesus will reign as Prince of Peace during the _____ (1000 yrs)

III. THE THIRD STANZA: THE BIRTH OF JESUS RESULTED IN GOD'S _____ TOWARD MEN

A. This Phrase "Goodwill toward Men" Can Be Easily Misunderstood in 2 Ways:

- 1) We can misunderstand it to mean that Jesus' birth caused _____ to have goodwill toward men
- 2) We can misunderstand it to mean that God has goodwill toward men in the sense of His _____

B. This Word "Goodwill" Is Used in Connection with Our _____ in Eph. 1:5-9 ("Good Pleasure")

- 1) "Good pleasure" summarizes the reason that God chooses or _____ one person vs another
- 2) The phrase "in Christ" repeated here teaches that the entire chain of salvation begins with _____

CONC: If _____ sang God's praise, who know not redemption, shall we not sing God's praise with all our heart
Shall we not be _____ by spreading the gospel and by defusing conflict in our families