

**“Glory To God In The Highest!”**  
**The Angels’ Song ~ Luke 2:1-21**

**Introduction:**

1. Please Head Back With Me To:
    - The Gospel Of Luke:
      - Where We Have Been Looking At:
        - The Very First Carols Of Christmas!
    - We Have Already Looked At:
      - And Learned From:
        - Two Songs - That Were Sung:
          - In **Anticipation** Of The Birth Of Jesus!
      - The Song Of Mary – His Mother:
        - Who Proclaimed:
          - “My Soul Doth Magnify The Lord!”
      - And - The Song Of Zacharias – The Father Of John The Baptist:
        - Who Sang:
          - “Blessed Be The Lord God Of Israel!”
  2. This Morning:
    - We Are Going To Read:
      - Luke’s Account Of The Christmas Story:
        - And Then Focus Our Attention On:
          - The First Of Two:
            - Songs That Were Sung In **Response** To The Birth Of Jesus!
    - The Song Of The Angels:
      - To The Shepherds Of Bethlehem!
        - Let’s Read Together This Extraordinary Passage:
          - Luke 2:1-21!
  3. What An Incredible Song Of Praise To The Lord – All In One Verse!
    - 2:14 - “Glory To God In The Highest, And On Earth Peace, Good-Will Toward Men!”
      - A True “Doxology!”
        - Let’s Look At This Song More Closely Together!
1. **The Setting Of The Angel’s Song:**
    - Immediately After The Account Of Jesus’ Birth:
      - When A Single Angel Met A Group Of Shepherds Not Far From Bethlehem!
        - 2:8-12 - Which Is A Setting Of Great Contrasts!
          - And - I Believe - What God Was Doing Here Is To Not Only **Tell** Us What The Birth Of Jesus Is All About:
            - But To **Show** The Shepherds – And Us – What The Birth Of Jesus Is All About!
      - **IE:** Just Like When I Was In Elementary School - Every Month Or So - A “Show & Tell” - Something Special To You - Well - It Was Always Better To “Show” Than To “Tell!”
        - And So - The Meeting Between:
          - The Angel Of The Lord & The Shepherds Is A Great Object Lesson Of The Gospel Itself! Just Think Of:
    - The Solitude:
      - Of The Shepherds!
        - 2:8 - “ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night!”
          - A Group Of Shepherds - Don’t Know How Many - But Under The Open Sky:
            - Doing Their Important But Often Thankless Task Of Keeping Sheep!
        - It Was Usually:
          - A Very Humble & Mundane:
            - Kind Of Work & Lifestyle!
              - And Often Very Lonely!
          - Their Profession Was Not Considered To Be Very Respectable:
            - And At Times - I’m Sure - The Solitude Could Have Been Unbearable!
        - But What Did God Do?
          - Into This Life Of Solitude:

- There Was:
- A Great Visitation!
  - 2:9 - “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them!”
    - It Was Sudden!
    - It Was Shocking!
    - But God Had A Message For Those Shepherds!
- But Isn't This A Picture:
  - Of What The Gospel – The Good News Of Jesus Christ – Is To Us?
    - God Himself Has Visited Us In Our Lives' Of Solitude!
      - Psalm 8:4 - “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”
- God Is Not Just Telling Us:
  - But Showing Us - That Jesus Came To Visit Us & To Bring Redemption To All Who Believe In Him!
    - But Also - Think Of:
- The Darkness:
  - Of The Shepherds!
    - 2:8 - The Were - “Keeping Watch Over Their Flock By Night!”
      - What Kind Of Night Was It?
        - Not Entirely Sure - But The Darkness Of The Night Then Would Have Been Different Than The Darkness Of The Night That We Experience Where We Live!
    - But What Did God Do?
      - Into This Night Of Darkness?
        - There Was:
  - A Great Light!
    - 2:9 - “And the glory of the Lord shone round about them!”
      - Along With The Angel:
        - There Was A Sudden Display Of The Brightness Of God's Glory!
          - **IE**: Like The Flip Of A Switch - To Turn On The Light In The Morning!
      - It Was Not The Light Of The Sun Or The Moon:
        - But The Manifestation Of God's Own Presence!
          - Like The Light That Moses Saw! Mount!
          - Like The Light That The Children Of Israel Saw!
            - Cloud By Day!
            - Pillar Of Fire By Night!
        - And It Was Something That Hadn't Been Seen In Israel For A Very Long Time!
          - It Was Sudden & Shocking!
    - But Isn't This Also A Picture:
      - Of What The Gospel Is To Us?
        - In Jesus - God Himself Shined His Light Into Our Darkness!
      - John 1:4,5 - “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. / And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not!”
    - This Is Also A Direct Fulfillment Of Prophecy:
      - Isaiah 9:2 - “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined!”
    - And So - God Is Not Just Telling Us:
      - But Showing Us - That Jesus Came To Bring His Light Into The Darkness Of Our Own Hearts & Lives!
        - But Also - Think Of:
  - The Fear:
    - Of The Shepherds!
      - How Would You Feel - If You Just Saw:
        - An Angel & The Brightness Of God's Own Glory – Turned On Like A Switch?
      - 2:9 - “And they were sore afraid!”
        - They Experienced A Fear:
          - Like They Never Had Felt Before!
      - But What Did God Do?

- For Their Heart Of Fear?
  - He Gave Them A Message:
- Of Great Joy!
  - 2:10 - “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!”
    - The Angel Did Not Just Tell The Shepherds To Not Be Afraid:
      - **IE**: Like We Often Tell Children!
    - He Also Gave Them A Reason!
      - A Reason To Calm & Reassure Their Hearts!
  - And In Stark Contrast To:
    - The Shepherd’s “Great Fear” - The Birth Of Christ Was A Message:
      - Of “Great Joy!”
- And Isn’t This Why:
  - The Gospel Is Given To Us As Well?
    - To Turn Our Fear Into Faith:
      - And Our Sorrows Into Joy?
  - Even A “Joy Unspeakable And Full Of Glory!” (1 Peter 1:8)
- And So - God Is Not Just Telling Us:
  - But Showing Us - That Jesus Came To Bring Us Joy – “Great Joy!”
    - But Also - Think Of:
- The Number:
  - Of The Shepherds!
    - Not A Great Number:
      - They Would Not Have Made A Great Entourage For The Newborn Baby King!
        - But Even Though The Message Of The Angel – The Message Of God:
          - Was Delivered To Just A Few!
    - It Was Destined For Many!
      - 2:10 - “For, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people!”
        - The “Great Joy” Was To Spread:
          - Far And Wide!
      - Though To The Shepherds:
        - It Likely Seemed So Limited:
          - But It Would Be An Infectious Joy That Would Enter Into The Hearts Of Many!
    - And This Setting:
      - Which Is Not Just A “Tell” – But Also A “Show”:
        - Displays To Us The Meaning:
          - Of Jesus Birth!
      - And Then The Angel:
        - Tells Them The Good News!
          - 2:11-12 - “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. / And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger!”
        - The Savior That Was Promised By God:
          - From The Very Beginning - When Adam & Eve First Sinned - Had Finally Come!
      - And Just As He Finished:
        - It Was As If Another Light-Switch:
          - Was Suddenly Flipped On!
            - And - 2:13 - “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying!”
        - A Large Number Of The Host Of Heaven:
          - Like A Band Of Soldiers:
            - Cheering For Their Commander!
          - And We Hear:

## 2. ***The Significance Of The Angel’s Song:***

- 2:14 - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”
  - Different Versions Have This Translated A Bit Differently:
    - But It Has Been Best Preserved:
      - In This Simple Triad Of Praise!

- It Is A Three-Part Song From The Angels Of God!
  - And Their Words:
    - Are Not Wishes - Hoping For These Things To Happen In The Future!
  - No - Their Words:
    - Are A Proclamation Of What Has Happened In & Through The Birth Of Jesus Christ:
      - That Took Place That Night!
  - There Was - At That Moment:
    - Glory In The Highest!
    - Peace Upon Earth!
    - And Goodwill In / Among Men!
- And So - In This Song We Hear:
  - Words:
    - Of The Greatest Praise!
      - “Glory” – The Angels Sang!
        - Which Is An Expression Of Praise & Worship:
          - To God!
            - As A Response To His Glory & Goodness - As Displayed In The Birth Of This Child!
      - Words Of The Greatest Praise:
        - From The Greatest Place!
          - “In The Highest!”
            - It Was As If The Song Of The Angels:
              - That Were There On Earth:
                - Were Just A Small Part Of The Music That Resounded All The Way Up Into Heaven Itself!
                  - Where All Of The Holy Angels Would Have Been Singing About The Glory Of God As Well!
          - It Was A Song Of The Greatest Praise From The Greatest Place:
            - To The Greatest Person!
              - “To God!”
                - The Only One Deserving Of:
                  - Praise & Worship!
                - The One Who - “When the fulness of the time was come – sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, / To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons!” (Galatians 4:4-5)
          - It Was A Song Of The Greatest Praise From The Greatest Place To The Greatest Person:
            - About The Greatest Peace!
              - “And On Earth Peace!”
                - Remember - This Is Not A Prayer Or A Wish:
                  - But A Proclamation - Of What Was Going On Right Then!
              - When Jesus Was Born:
                - “Peace” Had Come Upon Earth!
                  - Not Merely As A Principle!
                    - But In A Person!
                - Jesus Christ Is Himself:
                  - The Peace That Had – That Night:
                    - Come Upon The Earth!
                - Remember:
                  - Isaiah 9:6 - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace!”
                - And:
                  - Ephesians 2:14 - “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us!”
                - And Just Like The Statement:
                  - That I’ve Seen On A Church’s Sign:
                    - Only When You Know Jesus – You Know Peace!
              - And So - The Angels’ Song Was A Song Of The Greatest Praise From The Greatest Place To The Greatest Person About The Greatest Peace:
                - For The Greatest Pleasure!

- “Goodwill Toward / Among Men!”
  - The Birth Of Jesus Was Done:
    - Not According To The Will & Pleasure:
      - Of Men!
    - But According To The Good-Will:
      - And Good-Pleasure Of God Himself!
  - A Further Demonstration Of God’s Own Grace:
    - To Undeserving Sinners Like Us!
      - Jesus Being Born In Humble Circumstances Is Not What Any Of Us Would Have Planned Or Expected!
  - But Everything Was Exactly As God Desired & Planned:
    - And Through The Birth Of Jesus:
      - His “Good-Will” In Human Form Was, At That Perfect Time, Now Among Men!
        - He Was “Emmanuel” – “God With Us!”
- And So - The Angels’ Song Was A Song Of The Greatest Praise From The Greatest Place To The Greatest Person About The Greatest Peace For The Greatest Pleasure!
  - The Pleasure Of God Himself!
    - What An Incredible Song Of Praise!

**Conclusion:**

1. And Then - 2:15 - “And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven!”
  - It Seems As If The Angels Left:
    - A Bit More Deliberately & Slowly:
      - Compared To When They Arrived!
        - And Perhaps They Kept Singing Their Song All The Way Back Up To Heaven!
    - Don’t Know For Sure!
      - But The Angels Gave The Not-So-Subtle Hint:
        - And - 2:15 - “The shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us!”
          - What Did They Do?
2. 2:16 - “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger!”
  - Exactly As The Angel Of The Lord Described!
    - Imagine What It Must Have Been Like:
      - For Those Shepherds!
        - With The Song Of The Angels Ringing In Their Ears The Whole Time!
  - There - In That Manger:
    - Was God’s Peace – Come To Earth!
      - And God’s Good-Will – Among Men!
3. And I Believe:
  - That The Angels’ Song:
    - Became Their Own Song!
      - Because - In 2:20 - “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them!”
  - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”
    - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”
4. Is This Song Your Song:
  - This Morning?
    - It Will Be - If We Are Like Mary:
      - In 2:19 - “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart!”
  - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!”

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