

The background of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. A single, bright star in the upper left quadrant emits a thick, white beam of light that extends downwards, illuminating a range of dark, silhouetted mountains at the bottom of the frame. The mountains are layered, with some peaks appearing more prominent than others. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.


# <sup>a</sup>thrill hope<sup>of</sup>




# Hope from the Host

Luke 2:8-14





**HOPE:**  
CONFIDENT EXPECTATION  
UNFULFILLED CERTAINTY!



# Angels in the Nativity Story


- Zechariah & Elizabeth – John (Luke 1)
- Mary & Gabriel – Jesus (Luke 1)
- Joseph & Angel – Mary (Matt 1)
- Shepherds & Host – Messiah (Luke 2)
- Joseph & Egypt – Herod (Matt 2)




*"Grace grows best  
in winter"*


*Samuel Rutherford*






2:8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.





9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood  
before them, and the glory of the Lord shone  
around them; and they were terribly  
frightened.



# The Shepherds' Field, Bethlehem




# The Shepherds' Field, Bethlehem



# Terrified 8,9


- Angel of the Lord – not named
- glory of the Lord – not the angel's
  - Exodus
  - Temple/Tabernacle
  - Pentecost
- 'don't be afraid'




*"Hope itself is like a star –  
not to be seen in the sunshine  
of prosperity, and only to be  
discovered in the night  
of adversity"*


C.H. Spurgeon






2:10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;





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






12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



# Notified 10-12


- Joy – satisfaction - contentment
- For All – John 3:16
- As Promised – prophets!
- Christ the Lord – Messiah King




*“Let us beware of supposing that  
any hope is good which  
is not founded on Christ.”*


J .C. Ryle






2:13 And suddenly there appeared with the  
angel a multitude of the heavenly host  
praising God and saying,





14 “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace among men with whom  
He is pleased.”



# Glorified 13,14

- Heaven's Song
- Earth's Hope
- What were they singing just before?
- What are all men doing for the King?
- “Even angels long to look into these things.”

(1 Peter 1:12)






*“Hope can see Heaven through  
the thickest clouds.”*


Thomas Brooks





# Hope from the Host

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- Be in awe!
  - Share the Good News – Trust & Hope
  - Go and see – Go and tell!
  - Join the chorus – Praise!
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"Optimism is a wish without warrant;  
Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed  
by God himself."

J. I. Packer



The background of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, white stars. A bright star in the upper left quadrant emits a thick, white beam of light that extends downwards, illuminating the mountain range below. The mountains are depicted in dark, silhouetted layers, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

# <sup>a</sup>thrill hope<sup>of</sup>