

## March 25th – A Sign to the Shepherds

*“And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”  
(Luke 2:12)*

Every Christian loves the beautiful simplicity of the nativity. We all envision Mary and Joseph in a very humble environment with the baby Jesus. But sometimes we don't stop to consider the marvelous way in which God communicated the truth about Jesus to those who were nearby. The Bible says that there were shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem keeping watch over their flocks by night, when an angel of the Lord stood before them and calmed their fears (Luke 2:8-10).

The angel explained that “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” had been born in the city of Bethlehem. These shepherds were simple people. If you go to Israel, even today you can see many shepherds in the fields leading a very simple life. The angel gave the shepherds a sign they could not miss – “you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” This was a sign they knew very well as they had seen it many times before as a vital part of their shepherding.

When a new lamb was born, it was the shepherd's responsibility to take it to the basement of “the tower of the flock,” wrap it in swaddling cloths (to protect the lamb from injury), and lay it in a manger. These signs communicated a very clear message to the simple shepherds – the child you seek is the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Dear friend, Jesus is the Lamb of God! His blood covers the sins of all those who have placed their faith in Him. Are you trusting in God's perfect Lamb, Jesus?