

## His Glorious Appearing Luke 2:1-19

Stand Read Pray

Merry Christmas Everyone! Even if you do think it's a pagan holiday! We will save the argument when Jesus was born to all those in the YouTube verse. We know all the facts and there are good arguments on all sides. In reality as a Christian, we celebrate Christmas all year round as it is the Nativity...the incarnation. That is part of the gospel and if the church wants to make one special day to celebrate Jesus' birthday than I am all for it. So, I say, Happy Birthday Jesus!

So, our story today is a familiar one. We have been covering the birth of Christ for the last couple of weeks in our study of the first 2 chapters of Matthew. We see this repeated in the first 7 verses of Luke 2, but my focus today is what happened at His birth. It is very important, and we need to look at it and find application.

Luke 2:8

***Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.***

Notice the subjects of the story. Our focus is always on the angels, and we should be for the message they bring. But look at who they chose to bring the message...shepherds! Today as Christians we like to glorify shepherds. It only seems right since we are likened to sheep and Jesus is our Great Shepherd. We don't paint them in the picture they were in the first century.

Shepherding was considered one of the lowest jobs you could get. It was reserved for those that can't do much else. We see David as the youngest son commissioned to the job that was too meaningless for his older brothers. It was the job of the lowest servants. Of course, it would be one of the professions you would see on Mike Rowe's "Dirty Jobs"! But why them? You should be glad to see that God felt it important to give the announcement of the Savior to them. If it was for the shepherds, it was for you too.

Luke 2:9-14

***9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to***

***them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”***

***13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:***

***14 “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”***

Wow! Can you imagine what this was like. The sky opens and the actual Shikina glory of God shines on them, and the angels appear and give them the message that everyone at that time wanted to hear! A Savior has come! We do have a translation issue. Verse 14 should be translated “Peace on earth to men of goodwill”. Jesus did not come to bring peace.

Luke 12:51

Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.

Luke 2:15-19

***15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.***

Now after this the shepherds did what any one of us would do, check it out! And after they saw that it was so went and told everyone. But did anyone listen? Does anyone listen now?

But as we can see the glory that was revealed in his incarnation there is another glory. It is the glory that is revealed in the heart that puts their faith and trust in Him.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His [c]own, and His [d]own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16-21

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the

light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

1 John 1:5-7

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Don't say you're a nobody! God sent the message to shepherds He will send the message to you!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

God wants you to be the one who reflects His glory. You are just the mirror. This world needs to know there is a Savior and as the angels announced it we need to announce it.

Ephesians 5:8-14

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather [c]expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,  
Arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light.”

If you want to have real light in you, you must receive Christ today. Why the urgency?

Because one day soon the sky will open again.

Luke 17:24

For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

There is coming a moment in time very soon where the heavens will open, and Jesus will appear in the Clouds, and He will call His children home. It will be in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. The world will not know what hit them but for us it will be the moment we have been waiting for. It will be the time of our homecoming. All of the suffering, all of the pain, all of the wondering why will all be gone in a moment as we are caught up into glory. It is one of the reasons Jesus saved us. It is the final part of our salvation! It is our wedding day. He is longing for it just as much as we are. Are you ready? Is it your hearts desire?

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus wants us to be with Him. He left His glory to be with us and put His glory in us and will soon take us to glory to be with Him.

Don’t you want that hope? You want to make this a Christmas to remember? Make this the one that you gave your heart to Christ. Make this the last one without Him. Receive Him today!

Stand Read

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Pray Song