

Finding God in the Christmas Story – Part 3

Text: Luke 2:12-20

Date: 12-26-21 @ 10:30 AM

God reveals Himself in the Christmas story through the small details, the people that take part in the event, and through the reactions to Christ's birth. What we find is a perfect orchestration of heavenly and human events all brought together at the manger. Most importantly we find that . . .the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory--the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father".

I. God reveals Himself in the details of the manger scene (Luke 2:12).

The baby would be wrapped in swaddling clothes, an exact fulfillment of v. 7. He was born in the City of David, a fulfillment of Micah 5:2. He was placed in a manger, a feeding trough, following His birth.

II. God reveals Himself as His messengers proclaim praise for the birth of Christ (Luke 2:13-14).

Once these heavenly beings heard the word of the Lord's birth, they broke out in celebration songs and words of highest praise towards God. Why? Because He had bestowed unspeakable mercy and grace on mankind. These created beings were extolling the greatness of God, the Creator, in an act of worship on account that God's Son had become human flesh.

With great worship the angels announce Christ's birth, thus showing that this baby was Deity and deserved adoration and praise. Not only does God show up through the angelic message, He shows up as the recipient of worship.

1) The angels proclaim reverence to God in the heavens (Luke 2:14a).

"The angels praised God at Creation (Job 38:7), and now they praised Him at the beginning of the new creation".¹

God's glory had made a triumphant return to the earth in the Person of His Son (John 1:14).

The manger had become the holy of holies because God the Son was laying in it. The world now had been given the greatest gift by the Great God for the grand purpose of removing our sin and its trappings.

2) The angels provide reflections of peace and good will on earth (Luke 2:14b).

The word *peace* (Greek: *Eirene*) means 1) the normal state of all things as designed by the Creator (I Cor. 14:33).

2) It is an essence of future deliverance and salvation.

Peace is harmony, tranquility and is related to a reconciled relationship with God. True peace only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ who is our peace (Eph. 2:14).

Shalom which means *peace, wholeness, completeness*. Putting these ideas together we have a sense that peace gives *true harmony and security*.

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 176). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

God's peace is given on the basis of His Son's work on the cross and to those who are recipients of God's good will or favor.

III. God reveals Himself as the shepherds seek and find the Messiah (Luke 2:15-18).

The shepherds recognized the prophetic impact of the angelic words.

The shepherds made great effort to find what they were searching for: a newborn baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

Once the shepherds successfully found the baby in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord, they could not keep the news a secret.

“These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate today. They received by faith the message God sent them and then responded with immediate obedience. After finding the Baby, they reported the good news to others, “glorifying and praising God.” They took the place of the angels! (Luke 2:13–14) Then they humbly returned to their duties, new men going back to the same old job.

IV. Mary and the shepherds react to God's work through the Christmas story (Luke 2:19-20).

1. Mary's reacts with wonder (Luke 2:19).

The word *kept* (Greek: *syntero*) means *to preserve knowledge or memories for later use; to exert mental effort in storing information so as to have continual access and use of it—to cause oneself to be fully aware of, to keep in mind, to remember.*²

How should we react to the Christmas story? Like Mary, we should treasure and reflect on Jesus Christ. We as believers have also been deeply impacted and had our lives changed as a result of our Savior's birth. We should, like Mary, often ponder and reflect upon this eternal impactful event. Our meditation should be drawn to God's faithfulness and mercy in giving us His only Son as a timeless and priceless gift for all humanity.

2. The shepherds react with worship (Luke 2:20).

Our meditation should draw us, like the shepherds, to wonder, worship, and exalt our Heavenly Father.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul,
 for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

² Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 345). New York: United Bible Societies.