



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

ANGEL'S SONG

PASSAGE OVERVIEW

Mary has just given birth to Jesus, wrapped him in strips of cloth, and laid him in a feeding trough. Suddenly, the scene shifts from the newborn King lying where animals eat to a field full of shepherds.

The reputation of a herdsman was a far cry from the days of David. Shepherding had become a despised and lowly occupation. Many were accused of robbery and often charged with using land illegally. It was also a very lonely profession, particularly at night. Yet, God would fittingly include these social misfits with the arrival of the great Shepherd and Lamb.

That night, an angel of the Lord appeared to these men. And like the encounters of Zechariah and Mary, they were immediately terrified at the sight of God's glorious angel illuminating the darkened sky. One angel appeared announcing the good news, followed by a band of angels bursting forth with an anthem of praise saying, "Glory to God in the highest" (2:14).

God's glory that once dwelt in the tabernacle and temple was returning to earth in the person of His Son. The lowly manger had become the Holy of Holies because Messiah was there!

The shepherds' response to this mind-blowing encounter was immediate. Not only did they travel to Bethlehem to see everything announced to them. They would go on to proclaim their findings to all who would listen!

Brothers and sisters, what is our response when encountering the glory of God? Is it characterized by action or indifference? Hopefully, we're moved to share this wonderful truth like these shepherds.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Luke 2:8-20

I. The heart of worship. (46-47)

When the soul sings, we worship.

A. Mary's explosion of joy.

B. Worship is always grounded in God's character and worth.

He is her Lord.

He is her Savior.

II. The reason for worship. (48-53)

God saves the humble, but scatters the proud.

A. Mary's testimony. (48-49)

1. He is my Savior.

2. He looked on me.

3. He valued her. She is blessed.

4. He gave her a role to play.

5. He is mighty.

6. He is holy.

B. God's pattern of working with Israel and the rest of us. (50-53)

He saves the humble and scatters the proud.

III. The God we worship. (54-55)

He keeps his promises.

How does this apply to me?
