



CHRIST AND CHRISTMAS

Lessons from the Shepherds of Jesus' Time

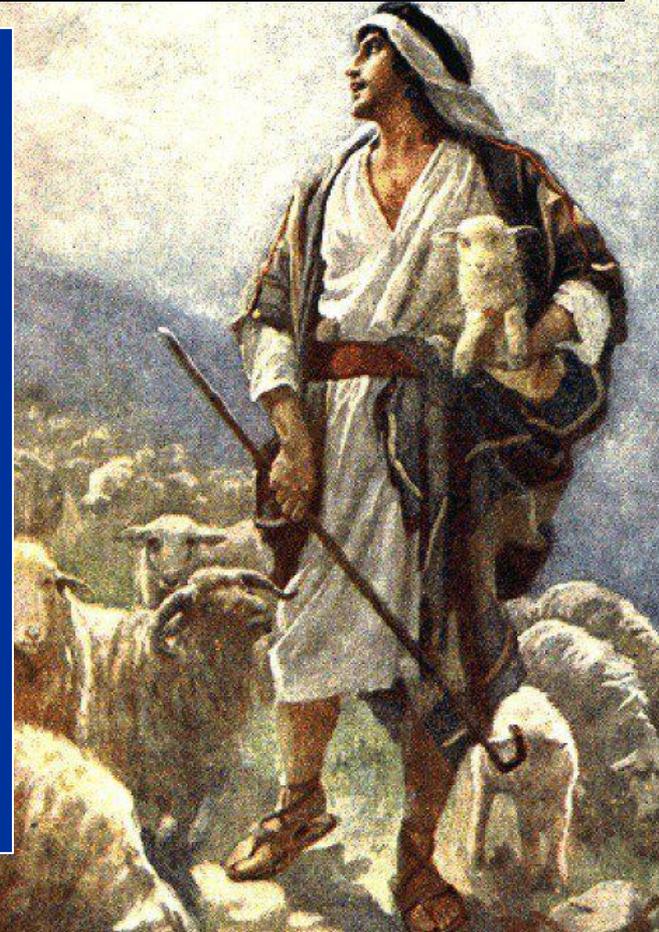
Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night

Luke 2:8



Who were the Shepherds in Jesus' Day?

- Bottom rung – like tax-collectors; dung sweepers
- Sheep and goats; death to crops
- Rabbis banned pasturing sheep
- But... Abel, Moses, David, Amos? Weren't they shepherds?
- Shepherds were humble and many also had great integrity of character



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

Luke 2:9

This could have been *Michael, Gabriel?*



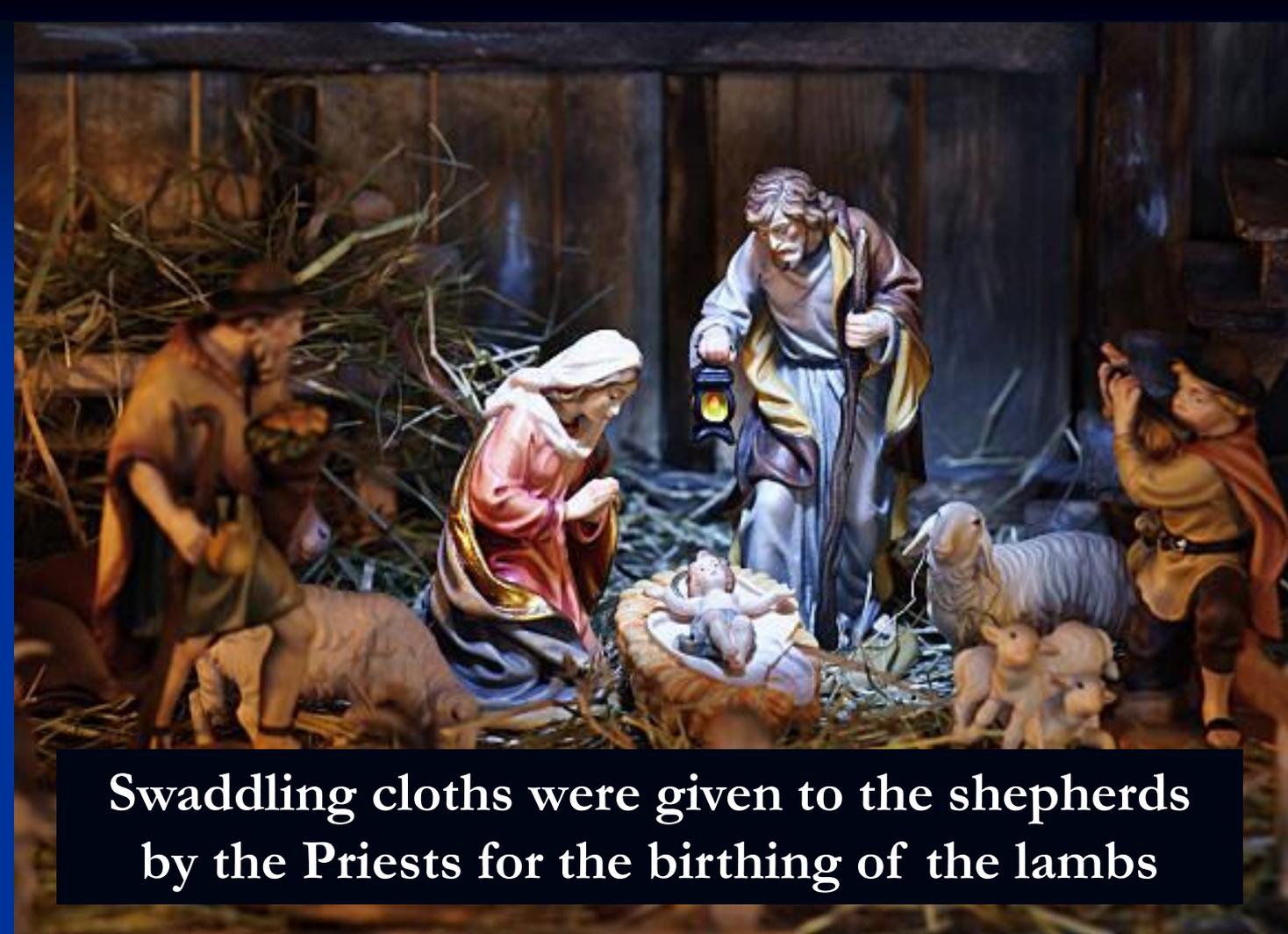
Then the angel said unto them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

Christ the Lord

Luke 2:10-11

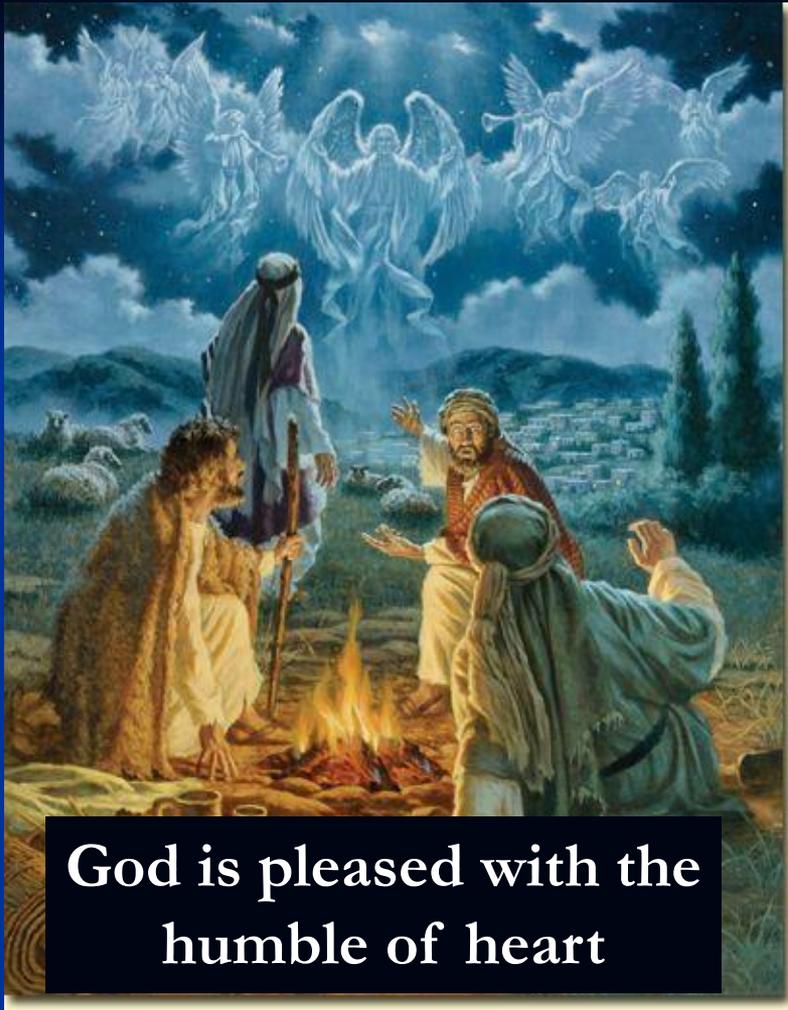
They “city of David” was known as Bethlehem





Swaddling cloths were given to the shepherds
by the Priests for the birthing of the lambs

*And this
will be a
sign to you;
You will
find a Babe
wrapped in
swaddling
clothes,
lying in a
manger
Luke 2:12*



God is pleased with the
humble of heart

*And suddenly there was with the
angel a multitude of the
heavenly host praising God and
saying: 'Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men!*

*(peace among men with whom
He is pleased)*

Luke 2:13-14



*And they came with haste
and found Mary and
Joseph, and the Babe lying
in a manger. - Luke 2:16*



Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luke 2:17-18



**Covenant circumcision
Presentation (dedication)
Purification offering**

Luke 2:21-38

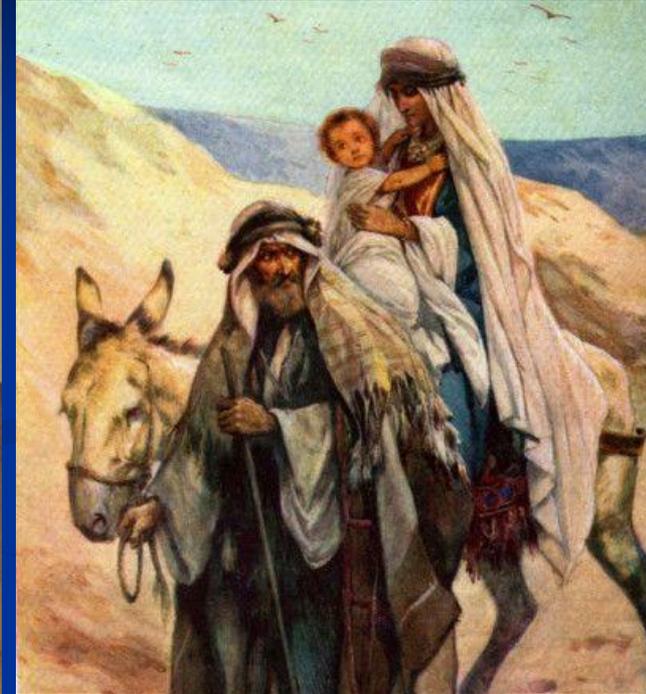
And now the hush of wondering expectancy fell once more on all, who heard what was told by the shepherds - this time not only in the hill-country of Judæa, but within the wider circle that embraced Bethlehem and the Holy City. And yet it seemed all so sudden, so strange. That such slender thread, as the feeble throb of an Infant-life, the salvation of the world should hang - and no special care watch over its safety, no better shelter be provided it than a 'stable,' no other cradle than a manger!

*And still it is ever so. On what slender thread
has the continued life of the Church often
seemed to hang; on what feeble throbbing that
of every child of God - with no visible outward
means to ward off danger, no home of
comfort, no rest of ease. But, 'Lo, children are
Jehovah's heritage!' - and: 'So giveth He to
His beloved in his sleep!'*

Alfred Edersheim, *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*

Matthew 2:1-23 and Luke 2:39 chronology

- Wise Men visit Jesus in a house in Bethlehem when he was 18 to 24 months
- Warned to flee to Egypt for two years



**Return to Nazareth
when Jesus is about 4**

Could Jesus have been born in late December?

- I initially had reacted from a counterfeit
- Edersheim and J Stormer directed me further
- *The enemy can only counterfeit a real truth*
 - Late December could be plausible (not absolute)
 - Confirmed by *Zacharias and John's birth*
 - Confirmed by *Shepherds in fields in December tending the birth of the lambs for sacrifice*