

# Lessons from the Shepherds *in the birth of the Messiah*





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

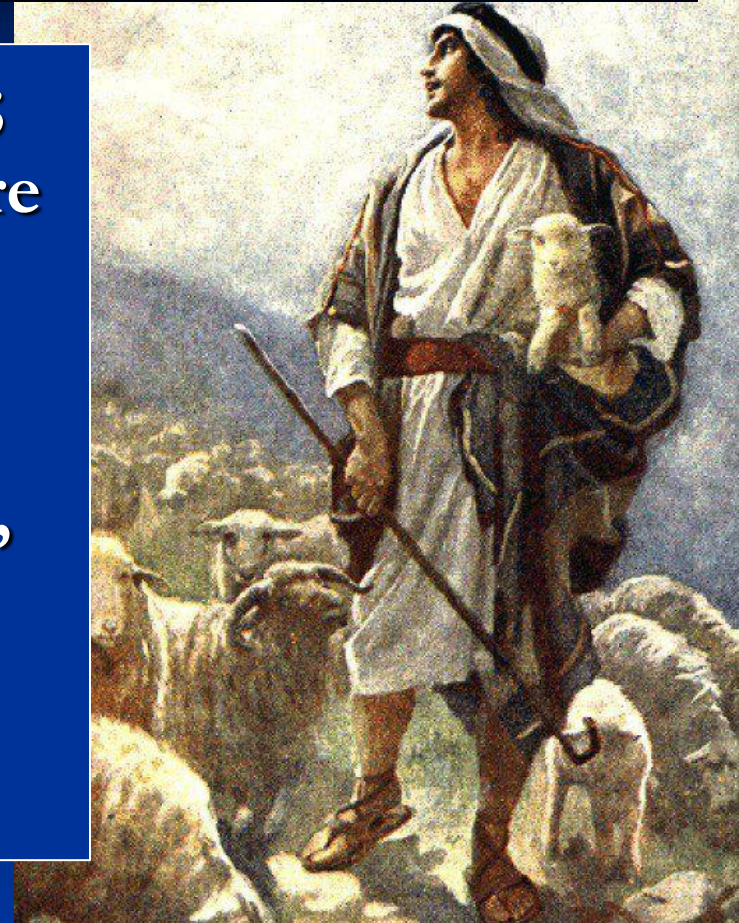
Luke 2:8





# Who were the Shepherds in Jesus' Day?

- Bottom rung – like tax-collectors; dung sweepers; rejected by culture
- Sheep and goats; death to crops?
- Rabbis banned pasturing sheep!
- But... Abel, Moses, David, Amos, weren't they shepherds?
- Shepherds were humble servants and had integrity of character



# Who are Angels?



- Spirits (mind, will, emotion), but no body (like demonic spirits)
- Messengers to aid believers
- Communicate with and appear to people; relating to God's people
- War in the heavenlies with demons
- Dwell in the atmosphere, but are *not* to be worshipped

*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**

**Seraphim, Cherubim; archangels such as  
*Michael, Gabriel?***





# Genealogies of Christ – God and Man

*Servants don't need a genealogy (Mark); God can't have one (John)*

## Matthew's – *Son of God*

- Joseph's descent from Abraham
- Lists 42 generations – *created, called, captive, then delivered*
- Christ the 66<sup>th</sup> name listed
- *Fulfillment of God's prophecy of Messiah of the Royal Line with Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba...*

## Luke's – *Son of Man*

- Mary's line of ascent to God
- Lists 77 names – from God to Christ, *the God-man Messiah*
- Christ the 77<sup>th</sup> name listed
- *Fulfillment of God's prophecy of Messiah from the line of humble deliverers grafted into the royal line*

# Shepherds were close to God's heart

- Isaiah 57:15 – *I dwell... with him who has a contrite (lowly) and humble spirit*
- Psalm 34:18 – *The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart*
- The Kingdom of God operates bottom-up and inside-out from the heart
- Shepherds were humble, hungering for Messiah

# The Angels announced the Incarnation

*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*

The “city of David” was  
known as Bethlehem





# Bethlehem – the “city of David”

Migdal Eder



Micah 4:8-10 – *And you, O tower of the flock... to you shall it come... be in pain, and labor to bring forth... (shepherds one mile from Jerusalem keep watch over and prepare lambs)*  
Micah 5:2 – *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be the Ruler in Israel...*

- Micah prophesies 700 years before the Messiah
- The King would come from the “watchtower”
- Migdal Eder was where the lambs were set aside

John 1:18 – *only begotten* – monogenesis – become flesh  
Titus 3:5 – *regeneration* – twice born – physical / spiritual



Swaddling clothes were given to the shepherds  
by the Priests for the birthing of the lambs  
FULLY MAN

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





The Gospel finds fertile soil  
in the humble 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*






Grateful shepherds make great evangelists..  
this is what probably alerted Simeon and  
Anna in the Temple at Jerusalem

*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**



**Simeon and Anna confirm  
the divine destiny of Jesus  
at his birth**

**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*



# JESUS THE MESSIAH

- *He is the incarnation of God in human form*
- *He is the great shepherd watching His flock*
- *He is the tower of safety where lambs are born*
- *He is the perfect lamb of God wrapped in white*
- *He is close to the humble heart – lifts the lowly*
- *He uses the foolish of this world to confound the wise through the gospel of grace!*