

Finding God in the Christmas Story – Part 2

Text: Luke 2:8-11

Date: 12-19-21 @ 10:00 AM

Review: God makes Himself perfectly and completely known in the large Christmas story details, so when we study the Bible passages about Christ's birth, we learn many things about our Savior in this most anticipated birth in human history.

One of the clearest messages is that God orchestrated the details perfectly. We find that at the right time, in the right place, through the right people, and in the right setting, God's unique Son became human flesh so that mankind could be redeemed from their sin.

I. **God reveals Himself by sending an angel to the shepherds to make a special announcement (Luke 2:8-10).**

Why then would an angel come to shepherds and not the priests or religious rulers? They would find out soon enough and their hatred would unfold thereafter.

In His grace, God gave the first announcement of the Savior's birth to lowly shepherds! (See 1:52.).

We find God in the story sending an angel for this special announcement.

God is revealed in the birth of Christ and His glory is personally displayed to the shepherds that night.

"Shepherds are not easily fooled. They are practical men of the world who have little to do with fantasy. If they said that they saw angels and went and found the Messiah, then you could believe them. God selected hardworking men to be the first witnesses that His Son had come into the world".¹

These brave, simple shepherds were afraid of what they heard and saw, verifying that what was happening was truly a work of God.

Why did they have no need to fear? Because the news that the angel brought to them was *good tidings*.

II. **God reveals Himself in the clear announcement of Christ's birth (Luke 2:11).**

What was the *good news*? It is not that God sent just another person, a teacher, lawyer, soldier, or king. The good news is that "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Savior: The name Jesus comes from the Old Testament name Joshua and it means Jehovah is salvation, or Jehovah is the Savior. The title was used of Yahweh in the OT (Isa. 43:3, 11; 45:15, 21).

You see, the name JESUS is a profound theological statement: It is God's promise to save! The angel was telling Joseph and Mary that this child is God's promise to save mankind from their deepest problem: sinful rebellion against a Holy God!

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

Jesus' birth heralded the arrival of the Savior of mankind. His birth heralded the fact that this baby was different from all others born both, past and present. This birth announcement was so special that it was filled with the ringing name of Savior. No other name would match this name, nor would any other baby grow up to die for the world.

This Savior would become the Redeemer of those who have or will put their complete faith in Him (I Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:13, 14). Thus we see the stamp of God upon this special birth!

Christ: The name of Christ means anointed, the Greek translation of the Hebrew word translated "Messiah."

"To believe that "Jesus is the Christ" is to believe that He is the Anointed, the Messiah of the prophets, the Savior sent of God, that he was, in a word, what he claimed to be. This is to believe the gospel, whereby through faith alone men can be brought unto God.

Lord: This third name signifies the deity of the baby born that day. His name is called Lord. It indicates His supremacy as ruler and as God. What a clear picture that He was both God and man.

Christ as Lord no doubt shows His supremacy over all creation including man. He is Lord of all. **God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit show up in many ways in the Christmas story, but the most important part is that the Son was the One in the manger that night!**

Conclusion

This birth was a very special birth for it was the Creator born as a creature, the Word coming as flesh. God would come to earth in the baby and Person known as Immanuel, God with us. Fully God and fully man. The humility at which the God-man came to this earth was fully on display and sets the standard for our humble actions for our lives. II Cor. 8:9 (ESV) says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

What should our response be? To wonder and worship. To revel in the act that God has done for us. To bow down in humble adoration for the fact that: "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory" (I Tim. 3:16 ESV).