

"A SAVIOR IS BORN"

LUKE 2:8-14

TEXT: VSS. 9-12

INTRO: A number of years ago the news anchor of our local FOX/ABC station contacted me and said that they were going to start a new feature on their evening news called "GOOD NEWS FOR CENTRAL PA." He then asked me to give him at least 10 GOOD NEWS ITEMS from time to time that they could use to open their news cast. He said that he was tired of opening each program with a BAD NEWS ITEM and wanted to start each program on a positive note. The feature was well received and went along in a positive way until he left the station, when they went back to the same old "BAD NEWS" format. Well, the fact is, WE ALL LIKE GOOD NEWS. THE BEST GOOD NEWS EVER GIVEN TO HUMANITY WAS WHEN THE ANGEL OF THE LORD ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS, OUTSIDE THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM YEARS AGO, THAT THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD WAS BORN. Today for a few minutes we are going to study from the WORD OF GOD, THE BEST NEWS EVER GIVEN THAT ALL OF HUMANITY CAN BENEFIT FROM AND THAT IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IS BORN.

I. A COMFORTING ANNOUNCEMENT – VSS. 9,10

NOTE: Three things occurred around the shepherds that led to the COMFORTING ANNOUNCEMENT:

- 1) THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED: Probably Gabriel (Cp. Luke 1:26)
- 2) THE GLORY OF THE LORD APPEARED: The white shining cloud of intolerable brightness known among the Jews as the SHECHINAH, which was the VISIBLE PRESENCE OF THE ETERNAL GOD!

- The Pillar of Fire that guided Israel in their wanderings – Exodus 13:21
- The Brightness around Christ at His Transfiguration – Matthew 17:5
- The Light from Heaven upon Saul on the Damascus Road – Acts 9:3

- 3) THE SHEPHERDS OF THE FIELD WERE SORE AFRAID: They were TERRIFIED!

ONLY A MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN COULD BRING THE NECESSARY COMFORT TO THE FEARFUL SHEPHERDS...AND IT DID!

A. The Comforting Announcement Reversed the Shepherds Fear – Vs. 10a.

1. "Fear Not" – A Command of Authority
2. "Fear Not" – A Call to Action

B. The Comforting Announcement Revealed the Good News – Vs. 10b

1. The Tidings – Better than ever before in the history of the world
2. The Joy – Beyond what could be found in the world
3. The People – Bound for all humanity around the world

II. A CLEAR ANNOUNCEMENT – VS. 11

NOTE: In this small verse of 19 words there are 7 great elements regarding the announcement of Christ's birth that are to be noted. They are often overlooked if even one word of the verse is neglected.

- A. One Direct Message – "FOR UNTO YOU."
 - A Message to the Shepherds, to the Nation of Israel, to the Whole World
- B. One Divine Birth – "IS BORN"
 1. The Fulfillment of Prophecy of a Child being Born – Isaiah 9:6
 2. The Revelation of Truth of the Humanity of Christ – Philippians 2:5-8
- C. One Determined Day – "THIS DAY"
 - A Definite Day established by God – Galatians 4:4
- D. One Definite City – "THE CITY OF DAVID." (Cp. Verse 4)

NOTE: The word "BETHLEHEM" means "THE HOUSE OF BREAD" and is thus a fitting place for Christ to have been born because He is presented as the BREAD OF LIFE in John 6:35.

NOTE: The word “EPHRATA” means “FRUITFUL” and speaks of the eternal fruit that come from there through Jesus Christ. But “EPHRATA” was also used to distinguish from the BETHLEHEM that was in ZEBULON.

1. Christ was born in Bethlehem because He was of the Lineage of David according to Matthew 1:1 and Bethlehem was “CITY OF DAVID.”

2. Christ was born in Bethlehem as prophesied by Micah in Micah 5:2.

E. One Distinct Savior – “A SAVIOR”

-Not one who would “BECOME A SAVIOR,” but one who is “A SAVIOR.” Jesus Christ is the ETERNAL, UNIQUE AND ONLY SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

(Revelation 13:8; John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

F. One Desired Messiah – “WHICH IS CHRIST”

NOTE: The title “CHRIST” means “THE ANOINTED MESSIAH.”

1. The Anointed Messiah was Promised – Isaiah 61:1

2. The Anointed Messiah had Arrived – Luke 4:18,19

G. One Distinguished Lord – “THE LORD”

-Jesus Christ is the ONLY TRUE LORD and is to be our PERSONAL LORD.

III. A COMPREHENSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT – VS. 12

“THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU”

A. The Sign was a Babe in Swaddling Clothes

B. The Sign was a Babe in a Manger

NOTE: No other baby born that night in Bethlehem would match such a description.

LESSON/APPLICATION

The world has had and only will have only ONE SAVIOR born and that is JESUS CHRIST. He is to be RECEIVED – PROMOTED – WORSHIPED!