

CHRISTMAS SERIES:
"IN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME...GOD SENT FORTH JESUS"
PART FOUR
"IN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME...GOD SENT FORTH JESUS WITH PERFORMANCE"
LUKE 2:1-20

INTRO: In the last four weeks we have been taking a close look at what GOD THE FATHER DID THROUGH JESUS CHRIST IN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME at His incarnation. I pray that this series has not only been a blessing to you, but has raised your appreciation for WHAT GOD DID FOR YOU THROUGH CHRIST. God the Father sent God the Son into the world to do a GREAT WORK through PRECISION, PURPOSE AND PROMISE for which we should all rejoice....DO YOU? Today we are going to complete our series by observing from Luke 2:1-20 that GOD SENT FORTH JESUS WITH PERFORMANCE for which WE SHOULD REJOICE and for which GOD THE FATHER IS HONORED. Let's take a good look at that GREAT PERFORMANCE God the Father did through God the Son.

OBSERVATIONS ON VERSES 8,9:

1) The Shepherds

-They were chosen to receive the announcement of the birth of Christ because of their humble character. They were of the lowest esteem among the people.

2) The Sheep

-These particular sheep at Bethlehem were being raised for sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem.

3) The Angel

-Probably the Angel Gabriel (Cp. Luke 1:26)

4) The Appearance of the Angel of the Lord

-The phrase "CAME UPON THEM" in verse 9 literally means "A SUDDEN APPEARANCE" which brought great fear upon the shepherds.

5) The Glory of the Lord

-The WHITE SHINING CLOUD OF INTOLERABLE BRIGHTNESS, known as the "SHECHINAH GLORY." This was the VISIBLE TOKEN of the ETERNAL ALMIGHTY GOD as seen by Moses in the burning bush and around Jesus at the transfiguration.

I. A PERFORMANCE FOR ALL PEOPLE - VSS. 10,11

"GOOD TIDINGS - OF GREAT JOY - TO ALL PEOPLE"

NOTE: The message of Christ is the BEST NEWS people can ever hear and is extended to EVERYONE!

A. A Savior for All People

-All people need a Savior - Romans 3:23

B. A Messiah for All People ("Christ")

-The ANOINTED ONE OF GOD to deliver (Galatians 1:4)

C. A Master for All People - ("Lord")

- A title for Deity

II. A PERFORMANCE OF GLORY TO GOD - VS. 14a

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST"

A. In Heaven God was Being Glorified because of the Incarnation.

B. In Heaven there was Great Rejoicing because Redemption was coming.

C. In Heaven there was High Praise as Prophecy was being fulfilled.

III. A PERFORMANCE OF PEACE ON EARTH - VS. 14b

"ON EARTH PEACE"

OBSERVATION ON "PEACE":

-At the time of the announcement peace between nations was not needed as the Roman Empire was at peace with the world. Thus this announcement was NOT focused on peace among nations, but rather on PERSONAL PEACE for those on earth. As the PRINCE OF PEACE (Isaiah 9:6), Jesus will establish perfect peace in His future kingdom.

A. Now there is Peace Through Christ FROM God - John 14:27

B. Now there is Peace Through Christ WITH God - Romans 5:1

C. Now there is Peace Through Christ OF God - Colossians 3:15

IV. A PERFORMANCE OF GOOD WILL TO ALL - VS. 14c

"GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN"

OBSERVATION: This was an announcement of the **EXTENSION OF GOD'S LOVE** to mankind.

A. God's Good Will Through Grace

-God gave us a Savior we do not deserve - John 1:14-18

B. God's Good Will Through Truth

-God's gave us a Truth (of knowing God) we do not deserve - John 1:14,17

THE RESULT OF GOD'S GOOD WILL THROUGH CHRIST

- 1) The Escape from Eternal Judgment
- 2) The Forgiveness of Sin
- 3) The Knowledge of God
- 4) The Joy of Abundant Life
- 5) The Reality of Heaven

LESSON/APPLICATION

During the Christmas season let's look between all the tinsel and commercialism and rejoice in the performance God the Father did for us through God the Son.