

TITLE AND NUMBER: 60. The Shepherds and the Angels



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (v.8-12)

LOOKING FURTHER: John 10:14; Psalm 23; Isaiah 9:6; Luke 5:31-32; Luke 7:22

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Shepherds are often mentioned in the Bible – the shepherd boy, David, became a king; Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd; Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd). Shepherds are important in this passage, too.

Shepherds in Jesus' day were poor and spent most of their time on the hillsides watching their flocks. It was therefore difficult for them to keep all the religious rules and their position in society was low. They were probably not very well educated. So why did God choose to announce the birth of His Son to them rather than to anyone else? Jesus came to be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Wouldn't it have been more obvious to tell the religious leaders first?

Jesus came to turn our world upside down. He was born in poor circumstances. He came to care for those on the margins of society, to the broken, the poor, the sick and the lonely. He ate with those who people called "sinners," washed His friends' feet and died on a cross with a criminal on either side of Him.

That's why the angels' announcement of Jesus' birth to shepherds first was so significant. Jesus came to be the Saviour, not just of the religious, the rich and the educated, but of each one of us, whoever we are and whatever we have done. In fact, this passage shows that Jesus especially reaches out to people who society think little of. Praise God!

Reflections:

- Imagine yourself as one of the shepherds that night. How do you think you would have reacted to what happened?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus came to be the Saviour of each one of us?
- Talk to God about your feelings, asking for His forgiveness and thanking Him for His great love for us all.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

