

And It Came to Pass . . .

The Presentation of the Christmas Story – God's Purpose

Luke 2:8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

The Purpose for This Series:

1. To _____ better the story that we read so _____.
2. To see the masterplan of God and the beauty of His _____ plan.
3. To keep _____ on this wonderful season.

The Presentation of the Christmas Story – God's Purpose

1. The _____

Luke 2:8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

- They were " _____ " out in the fields.
They were usually social _____ and often _____.
They were _____ outcasts.
They were _____ (like gypsies) and therefore questionable.
They were _____.

Why the Shepherds: We _____!

"This is what the LORD says: . . . "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word." – Isaiah 66:1-2 (NIV)

"For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation."
– Psalm 149:4 (NIV)

2. The _____ Angel

- His first words: Don't be _____.
His message: _____ News
Who was he?

3. The _____ – The _____ of the Lord

What is the Glory of God? It is _____!

Ex. 24:16 and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. 17 To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

2Chr. 7:1 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

How was God's glory last seen? It was _____ Israel!

Ezek. 11:23 The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.

The belief of Israel: That the Glory would one day _____!

Ezek. 43:2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.

4. The _____ Announcement – A _____

What is it? _____ News – "euangelizo" – "To declare good news"

What will it bring? _____ joy!

Who is it for? _____ people! This is SO misunderstood!

So what is this news?

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

5. The _____

This is the _____ time in history that this happens!

"A company of heavenly host –" An _____!

6. The " _____ "

Note that it wasn't _____!!

Their _____ – "Glory to God" – A salute

Their _____ – _____ (an unbeatable army)

Their condition – "On whom His _____ rests"

But how do you get God's favor?(1 John 5:12)

Our Lessons:

1. God uses people that are _____ and _____. That makes most of us _____ candidates. (1 Cor. 1:26-31)
2. God wants _____ with his creation, but the only road to peace is through His _____, our Savior!