



Behold a Savior is Born #2: The Joy of Anticipation

December 7 & 8, 2024

Luke 1:39-56, 2:8-20

Opener: When you seek the latest news, do you seek out the most renowned and honored people to hear it from? Jesus' entrance into the world would be witnessed by a group of nameless shepherds, a group of people often overlooked by society.

Go Deeper:

1. The people of Israel, including the shepherds, had read the many promises of God, including the one found in Micah 5:2-5. In what way do you think they would have expected to learn of the Messiah's long-expected arrival?

 2. In Luke 2:12, the angel tells the shepherds how to find the newborn Savior—not in splendor and glory but wrapped in pieces of cloth in a manger. This wasn't to make the shepherds believe but to help them find the newborn baby in Bethlehem. What does Jesus' arrival in this fashion signify?

 3. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, mankind has been under a curse and at odds with God. Here (Luke 2:13-14), we find a multitude of the heavenly hosts announcing that with the arrival of Jesus, God is bringing real peace to earth. Talk about the kind of peace we receive from Jesus. How does this compare to the world's idea of peace?
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Live it:

5. Jesus changed the shepherds forever. The scene that night in the stable revealed the fulfillment of God’s promises. In a moment, everything they knew and read about God came true. How has Jesus changed your life?

6. Jesus made God real. All those centuries of sacrifices and trying to learn and live by the laws kept God at a distance. Now, He is a real child, alive and in person. How has your relationship with Jesus become personal?

7. Jesus' arrival provided the shepherds with a new way of seeing things. As they returned to their flock, they were overcome with joy (Luke 2:20). Do you feel the joy of Jesus in your everyday life?



GOD TIME:

Daily Bible Readings (December 8-14)

Sun: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29 Joel’s Prophecy of Hope

Mon: Psalm 51:1-12 Prayer for Cleansing

Tues: Acts 2:14-21 Peter Addresses the Crowd

Wed: Joel 3:1-2a, 17-18 God Will Restore Judah

Thurs: Amos 9:11-15 Restoration of David’s Kingdom

Fri: Micah 5:2-4 The Ruler from Bethlehem

Sat: Isaiah 40:1-5 God’s People are Comforted

