

(8) Proclamation by the Angels (Lk. 2:8-14)

(9) The Shepherds Visit (Lk. 2:15-20)

1. Shepherds were staying out in the fields (Pres.act.ptc. ἀγραυλέω *agrauleō* ^{#63}_{Hapax}, but see also Gen. 31:40) keeping watch (φυλάσσοντες φυλακὰς *phulassontes phulakas*) over their flock by night (v.8).
 - a. The Jewish people anticipated the Messiah to be born in Bethlehem for Scriptural reasons (Mic. 5:2).
 - b. The Jewish people also anticipated the Messiah to be revealed from Migdal Eder, ‘the tower of the flock.’ (Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol. 1, p.186 citing Targum Pseudo-Jon. on Gen. 35:21).

And Rahel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jakob erected a pillar over the house of burying: which is the pillar of the tomb of Rahel unto this day. And Jakob proceeded and spread his tent beyond the tower of Eder, the place from whence, it is to be, the King Meshiha will be revealed at the end of the days.
 - c. According to the Mishnah, the sheep in these fields were destined for temple-sacrifices (Sheqalim 7:4).
 - d. These very fields were plagued by lions and bears (1st Sam. 17:34-36).
2. An angel (not The Angel) of the Lord suddenly stood before them (cf. Lk. 1:11,19), and the glory of the Lord shone around them (Luke 2:9).
3. The angel’s message (Lk. 2:10-12).
 - a. Do not be afraid (Μὴ φοβεῖσθε *mē phobeisthe*) “stop being afraid” (cf. Lk. 1:13,30; also Dan. 9:21; 10:12,19).
 - 1) For behold, I bring you good news (εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν *euangelizomai humin*) of great joy (χαρὰν μεγάλην *charan megalēn*).
 - 2) Which will be for all the people. Not just for the Jewish people in terms of Jewish expectations.
 - b. For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior. (σωτήρ *sōtēr* ^{#4990}_{24x})
 - 1) Who is Christ. ὅς ἐστιν Χριστὸς *hos estin Christos*. Χριστός *Christos* ^{#5547}_{529x}: *anointed one, Christ*. מָשִׁיחַ *mashiy^ach* ^{#4899}_{39x}: *anointed one, Messiah*.
 - 2) The Lord. κύριος *kurios* ^{#2962}_{717x}: *lord, master, sir*. יהוה *YHWH* ^{#3068}_{6826x}: *LORD, Jehovah*.
 - c. Validating sign (evidence): a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.
4. The angel chorus: *Glory in the highest places to God, and upon earth peace among men of good will* (Lk. 2:13,14). This song serves to amplify the song Isaiah witnessed (Isa. 6:3).
5. The shepherds applied faith to the gospel message they had heard (Lk. 2:15-17).
 - a. The “unusual and distinguishing token of identification” (Wuest’s definition of “sign”) was indeed true.
 - b. Since the babe was indeed lying in a manger, the much more significant message must also be true—Christ the Lord has been born on this day as Savior.
 - c. The shepherds delighted in not only receiving good news, but in becoming witnesses to the Gospel as well.