



DIVINITY

FROM ETERNITY TO THE CRADLE

Divinity – From Infant to Redeemer

Luke 2:7-16

1. *In the stillness of night, God's message of salvation came to an unlikely audience—shepherds (hired hands), tending sheep in the cold and dark of night.*

- *Lk. 2:8-11, 13 And in the same region there were **shepherds out in the field**, keeping watch over their sheep by **night**.⁹ And an **angel** of the Lord appeared to them, and the **glory of the Lord** shone around them, and they were filled with **great fear**.¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news** of great joy that will be for **all the people**.¹¹ For **unto you** is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord...¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest ..." (ESV)*

The message was important. It was a big deal! It was special delivery – by the voice of an angel. The message is the same today, just a different voice – will we respond as they did?

A. Prophesied long before.

- Isa 9:6 For a **child will be born to us**, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*
- Isa. 7:14 Therefore, the Lord himself will **give you a sign**. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.*

B. Not to a restricted few – but to all. *If hired hand shepherds were the first recipients, then message is for anyone.*

To digress— a word about angels: Did you know that God created angels with you and me in mind?

Angels -

- 1. Preexist our beginning: Job 38:4-7, Neh 9:6*
- 2. Finite in number. Matt 22:30.*
- 3. Primary role: exist to serve God; to assist the faithful on God's behalf. Luke 2; Isa 6:2-3, Heb 1:14; Matt 18:10*
- 4. A free will "type." No sin nature passed down.*
- 5. Possess intellect, emotion, and will. Lk 1:19, 8:32, 2 Tim 2:26.*
- 6. Two forms: immaterial spirits (invisible); or human form.*

Angels cannot be “saved,” “forgiven.” Yet, they are deeply interested in God’s plan of salvation. They are either “holy,” serving God, or “fallen,” beyond saving. They marvel at the impact Jesus has on human lives.

- 1 Pet. 1:12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. *It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.* (NLT)
- Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day--

The shepherds received the message. They even left their sheep behind – immediately. Is there anything keeping you from making your way to the “babe in the manger”?

- *If shepherds were invited...*
 - Lk. 2:10, 15 10 ... I bring you good news of a great joy ... **for all the people...** ¹⁰ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go **straight** to Bethlehem then, and **see this thing that has happened** which the Lord has made known to us." NAU)

Is there anything in your life that you need to surrender to Jesus? Anything that needs His power to be “uninstalled”? Anything keeping you from receiving the gift of salvation that Jesus offers? A wrong belief? A behavior or habit that you know is not of God? A past transaction that still impacts you or your family by your thinking, including condemnation?

ADDICTION



UNINSTALLING ...

2. *How can I have “great joy” of “good news” (v10) if I do not know what I am saved from and saved for?*

A. Hell.

- *A literal place, totally absent of good because God is absent. Matt 25:41, 10:28.*
- *Isa 53:6 “... we have each turned to his own way...”*

B. New start – *forgiveness; life with purpose in the here and now.*

- *Jn. 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.*

C. Saved for:

- *Lk. 2:17-18 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.*

To digress -- *What does God say about sin?*

- *Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- **to his own way**; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (ESV)*
- *Romans 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,*
 - *Does **our opinion** about sin change what God has said about it? Isaiah 53:6, Rom 3:23-24*
 - *Have we lost a healthy “fear of God”? Of Hell?*
 - *Have we forgotten that Hell is real?*
 - *Could fear of judgment (and Hell) **actually be God’s mercy**, compelling us toward faith in Jesus? (adapted from Randy Alcorn – “Is God Good?”)*

3. *Have you received the truth that Jesus is the ultimate payer of your sins? That He has released you and paid it all for you? Do you need a reminder that Jesus is our “Redeemer”?*

Redeemer. *The one redeeming. The “payer/rewarder/promise-keeper” for one’s loss, pain; and, the satisfier of the justice of God?*

- *Rom. 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (ESV)*
- *Rev 1:5 ... To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood. (NAU)*
- *Eph. 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*
- *Lev 25:25, Ruth 3:9, Job 19:25, Isa 59:20*

Jesus's Sin-Warehouse

Sin is like a heavy suitcase filled with “stuff” that gets heavier by the day. Have you left your “sin baggage” behind? 2 Cor 5:17-20



Has Jesus become your Redeemer?

- *Do you need assurance that God works his purposes **and his good**, out of the losses, sufferings, and sacrifices of Christ followers? If Christ releases our sins by His death on the cross, how could he not do the same in our daily lives? Job 19;25*

Redemption:

- 1. Loss is turned into a gain as I find God's purpose in it.*
- 2. Closed doors are not "no" but God taking me to His door.*
- 3. Suffering and sacrifice is rewarded*
- 4. Sinners become saints.*
- 5. Learn from my losses and use them to help someone else.*
- 6. I am extended grace for my transgressions.*

Call to action:

- 1. Has God moved in your heart in a special way this Christmas? Perhaps, by serving (or attending) at Walk of Wonder? Why not make today the day that you respond to Jesus the same way the shepherds did – they left their sheep behind and made their way to baby Jesus. Why not make today that day for you?*
 - 1. If you are online, you can do the same. Voice a prayer to that affect right where you are.*
- 2. Have you considered becoming a “church member” of Bethany Church? Becoming a member simply means you have decided that Bethany is your current church home, the place that God has give you to discover who He is and to grow in Christ with other believers. Why not do so today by coming down front during the singing and sharing your decision with one of the deacons or pastors at the front of the church?*

- *The role of angels in their ministry to human beings in Scripture:*

1. *Defined as “ministering spirits to believers” Heb 1:14*
2. *Protection for humans. Gen 19; Ex 14:19; Daniel 3, 6; Acts 5:19, 12:7-10*
3. *Guide or reveal God’s will. Luke 2, Gen 16, 22, Ex 23:20; Judges 6*
4. *Interpret the saving work of God in Jesus. Matt 28; Luke 24, Acts 1:10, Rev*
5. *Inferior to Christ, the “Son of God, today I have begotten you.” Heb 1:5;*
6. *Worship Christ. Heb 1:6*