

Visions and Revelations

Message 5: The Shepherds in the Field

Verses: Luke 2:1–20

Near the time when Mary would give birth, Caesar Augustus sent out a decree for a worldwide census, requiring all to be registered in their own city. Therefore, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. Along the way, Mary gave birth to Jesus, and because there was no room for them in the inn, they wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger.

An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were out in the field during the night, telling them: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

The shepherds responded by going together in haste to Bethlehem to see what the Lord had made known to them. There, they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. After seeing Him, they made widely known what had been told to them concerning Him.

A. This short Vision allows us to see six points:

- a. Born on the side of the road
- b. Bethlehem and the manger
- c. The shepherds in the field during the night
- d. Wrapped in cloths
- e. Set and laid
- f. A Savior, who is Christ the Lord

B. These six points brought forth the praises of the angels and heavenly hosts:

*¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14)*

Luke 2:1–20, New King James Version

2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.