

The Christmas Message

Children, Children gather around. I have a wonderful story to tell you.

Many many years ago in the land of Israel a very special baby boy was born.

Joseph and Mary had traveled far to get to Bethlehem and when they got there, they didn't have a place to stay—no one would take them in. It was getting dark and still they had no place to sleep and the baby was coming soon.

Joseph, found the only place he could for his family to stay the night, it wasn't fancy at all, it was a dirty, smelly barn.

They were not afraid, because they knew that God was with them. The baby that Mary was carrying was the Son of God. Through a miracle young Mary was given the savior of the world to carry in her belly. Her job as well as that of Joseph was to protect and raise this very special child for God. If God had given them this blessing, God would protect and guide them to where they needed to be.

This is a lesson that we also can learn.

This baby was the King of Israel, but he wasn't born in a palace, he was born in a barn. The cows and the sheep were the first to welcome God's son to earth.

What do you think of that?

The most important person on the planet was born with the livestock!

He was raised by a man who was not his real father—but Joseph loved him very much and did all he could to see that Jesus was taken care of, because Joseph loved God very much and was a good man.

Sometimes God gives us mothers and fathers who are not always are real mothers and fathers to look after us and to show us the ways of the Lord. What a wonderful blessing and a wonderful God we have.

So, after Jesus was born, Joseph wrapped him in some cloth he had and put him in a feeding trough for a cradle. Before you know it, they had visitors.

Was it the High Priest of Israel? No

Was it the King Herod of Israel? No

Was it the governor of Bethlehem? No

It was a bunch of unwashed shepherds who smelled like the sheep they slept with.

They were watching their sheep by night—keeping them safe from wolves and thieves who like to come at night when the sheep are the most defenseless. These sheep were not kept in a barn but were out in the fields. These were special sheep and special shepherds. These sheep were for the Temple of God.

When Jesus was born, the Angels first went to the shepherds, and told them the Messiah, the savior of the World was born.

At first, the shepherds were very afraid, but the angel told them not to be afraid that they had a wonderful message for them.

What an honor! What a blessing!

Then all the angels started to sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man!”

Can you imagine what a choir of angels sounds like?

The shepherds ran as fast as they could to find this baby. The only clue they were given was that he was in a manger. But what manger?

They must have knocked on every door, waking everyone up looking for this baby, and at last they found him.

The whole nation was waiting for the Messiah for years, and who are the first to meet him? Shepherds. Lowly shepherds who spent all their days and nights outside on the ground with the sheep. Lowly as they were, they were also full of courage like King David of old, who could fight off the wolves who tried to steal or hurt the sheep. One of the greatest kings of Israel was also a shepherd. In fact, some of the greatest heroes of the Bible were shepherds. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. The first shepherd we read about in scriptures was Abel—the son of Adam.

So, the shepherds woke many people up telling them they were looking for the Savior, the Messiah—but only they were the ones to showed up to where Mary and Joseph were.

Can you imagine their excitement! They were the first to see the Savior of not only Israel of you and me too! The savior of the whole world.

If you were one of those shepherds who heard the angels sing and met the savior—what would you do? What do you think they did after they left?

Well, I think they were so excited that they told the whole town all night long that they found him. (Luke 2:20)

Do you think anyone from the town came to visit Jesus in the manger when they heard the news from the shepherds?

No, they didn't.

Eight days later, Jesus was brought to the temple according to the Law of Moses. And old man named Simeon came up to Joseph and Mary and took Jesus from them and blessed God and prophesied so others could hear,

“Lord and Master, I am your loving servant, and now I can die content, for your promise to me has been fulfilled. With my own eyes I have seen your Word, the Savior you sent into the world. He will be glory for your people Israel, and the Revelation Light for all people everywhere! (Luke 2:29-32)

Right after that Anna a prophetess, and old widow, “walked up to them and burst forth with a great chorus of praise to God for the child. And from that day forward she told everyone in Jerusalem who was waiting for their redemption that the anticipated messiah had come!” (Luke 2:38)

Do you think anyone paid any attention to Simeon and Anna? No.

The Son of God was in the world and no one cared.

Sometimes we feel alone in this world. Take courage and know that God is always with you and will never leave you. He will send His special angels to watch out for you. It doesn't matter what others think, only what God thinks.

People will disappoint you, but God won't.

Remember Jesus when you are feeling down. Remember that he was not popular and not rich in this world, but yet he is the Son of God. His treasure was in heaven and that is where we want our treasure too.

Praise God and trust in Him. He loves you more than anyone else.