



Sunday, December 13, 2020

Key Text: Luke 2:8-15

Music has always been a part of the Christmas story. In many ways, I think you could say that music is our best response to the mystery of Christmas.

Christmas reminds us of one of the most significant historical points, God becoming a man to redeem sinners and all of creation from the devastation of sin. The Angels knew this, and of course, their response would be proclamation and worship.

### Setting the Scene:

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of Heaven—praising God and saying <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” Luke 2:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. Luke 2:13-14, KJV

Who are these Angels?

- They are messengers from God (Angel – literally means messenger).
- They are servants of God.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. Hebrews 1:14

<sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation. <sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Colossians 1:15-16

- They are a vast host and the army of Heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. Revelation 5:11

<sup>16</sup> “Don't be afraid!” Elisha told him. “For there are more on our side than on theirs!” <sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!” The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 2 Kings 6:16-17

- They offer continuous praise to God.

<sup>12</sup> And they sang in a mighty chorus: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered— to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.” Revelation 5:12

### Song of Angels Proclaimed

#### 1. Redemption

<sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. “Don't be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. Luke 2:9-10

- Good news: We are made right with God Through Jesus. (Peace) There must also be bad news that we are entirely lost and will never have true peace until we embrace Jesus as Lord.
- God kept his promise in sending us a savior. He is trustworthy!

<sup>8</sup> But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

- For All People: Notice that shepherds were the first to hear this message. It was not given to scholars, theologians, religious leaders, kings, scientists, philosophers, or the rich. It was not even

announced first at the temple but to shepherds tending to their sheep in the fields. He came to meet our greatest need.

- He came sacrificially and in a humbled form, coming to the shepherds to show us this. The Anointed One is going to be like us, man.

*This is not about peace for those whose "goodwill" deserves it, but about the unmerited grace of God, which brings salvation to those who enjoy his "goodwill."<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>27</sup> *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27*

## 2. Joy to the World

*The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving. Psalm 28:7*

*This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad; for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" Nehemiah 8:10B*

- Joy communicates the idea of happiness and profound peace, comfort, confidence, and stability.
- Joy has nothing to do with our circumstances. Joy has everything to do with our focus.
- If you struggle with complaining, **recognize** what is distracting you
- If you struggle with control, **release** It to the Almighty.
- If you struggle with depression, **reach** For Him

### Closing Thoughts:

What Can We Do Today? Stay(Abide) Pray (Ask) Obey (Trust)

The Song of Angels is a song of worship and good news. This news was so great, their response was worship, and they had to proclaim this to the world!

## 3. Worship

**This message is worth celebrating.**

- **All-Knowing** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **All-Powerful** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Everywhere at Once** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Holy** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Righteous** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Love and Mercy** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Sovereign and in charge of Everything** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Glorious** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Relational** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Perfect** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **He does not Change** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **He is Knowable** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **He is Just** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **He has come for you and me** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)
- **Joy to the World, the Lord has come.** (*Glory to God in the Highest*)

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<sup>1</sup> France, R. T. (2013). [Luke](#). (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.) (p. 35). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.