

**Refuge City Church — December 6, 2020**  
**The Harmony of Christmas (Part 2: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”)**

### **Introduction**

- **TODAY:** “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
- **LAST WEEK:** We were introduced to an obscure couple by the name of Mary and Joseph. They were given the greatest pregnancy announcement the world has ever heard! Before He was born, they were introduced to their baby boy.
- Mary’s Song of Praise
  - **Luke 1:46-51 NLT**, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. His mighty arm has done tremendous things!”

### **Scripture Reading (Luke 2:8-20)**

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock 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. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!” **15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** 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. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **Verse 8**

**8** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- **[Context of registration decree]** “In the same region” = Bethlehem
- “Shepherds” = how beautiful God’s message is declared to lowly shepherds.
  - There is the potential that these shepherds cared for the temple flock.
    - Those sheep and lambs that would be used for sacrifice.
    - As John the Baptist declared, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” **[John 1:29]**; He is our Shepherd. He is our sacrificial Lamb.
  - Jesus would later declare “I am the Good Shepherd”.

- **John 10:14-16**, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”
- He is our Good Shepherd that cares for us, protects us, leads us, and searches for us when we wander away...because we belong to his fold/family.
  - **Isaiah 40:11**, “He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”
  - **Psalms 23:1-3**, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

## Verses 9-12

**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. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

- “Angel” = God’s messengers
- “Glory of the Lord” = in all we read of the visual display of God’s glory, it is cause for simultaneous fear, awe, and amazement.
  - **Exodus 24:17**, “Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”
  - **Ezekiel 1:26-28**, “And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face...”
  - **Revelation 4:2-3, 5**, “At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald...From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,”
  - **1 Timothy 6:15-16**, “—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see...”
  - Man’s initial reaction to God’s glory is fear for what we truly can not comprehend. Yet, His response to our fear is calm, peace, and blessing.
- **“Good news of great joy!”**
  - The angelic announcement simply put was the gospel message!
  - Who is this that was born?

- The Savior = Exactly what humanity needs!
  - **Matthew 1:21**, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
- The Christ = The promised Messiah. The anointed one spoken about throughout scripture for hundreds and hundreds of years!
- The Lord = Our King. Our Master.

### Verses 13-14

**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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

- The ‘heavenly host’ or ‘angelic choir’ suddenly appear alongside this angel to give glory to the earthly arrival of Christ the Lord.
  - They come to praise at the glory of God revealed.
  - Our response is to give glory back to the Lord for His perfect gift.
- **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**
  - **Verse 1:** Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies. With the angelic host proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem
    - Any birth of any child is a celebrated event! There’s a reason we refer to it as “the miracle of childbirth.”
    - **Philippians 2:7-11**, “[Jesus] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
    - **Revelation 4:8,11**, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!... “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created... “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!... **Revelation 5:13**, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”
  - **Verse 2:** Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
    - **Isaiah 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.”
    - **Matthew 1:20-25**, “But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and

they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.”

- **Verse 3:** Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings, Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
  - **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
- **QUESTION:** Would you rather work for the temporary glory of man, causing you to continue to strive for endless amounts of shallow praise? Or have peace in this life, because a Glorious God has found favor with you and wants to provide you unending grace?

## Response/Conclusion

### Verses 15-20

**15** When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”  
**16** And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. **17** 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. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- What’s our response to the message of the gospel?
  - Do we go in haste at the word of the Lord?
  - Do we then make it known what God has said and shown to us?
  - Do we go about our life glorifying and praising God?
- **2 Corinthians 4:5-7**, “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”