

# Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

## BIBLE STUDY 12/18

LET'S LEARN DEEPER AND PRESS TO DO BETTER

ADVENT 3rd SUNDAY - JOY

## AMAZING JOY...FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Scripture: Luke 2:8-12

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus connects the history of Israel with Jesus, showing that he is the fulfillment of God's promises. Luke's audience was primarily gentile, so his vision of God's promises was wider than the traditional "chosen people"

Chapter 2 begins with Joseph and Mary departing Nazareth and beginning their 80-mile journey to Bethlehem. They were making this journey because a decree had gone out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Luke 2 can be divided into two parts:

- Luke 2:1-7: The birth of Jesus
- Luke 2:8-20: The shepherds' response to the news of Jesus' birth

LET TALK BACKGROUND...

### SERMONIC POINTS:

#### 1 STAY IN HIS PRESENCE

- Joy evades us...because we are drawn, for the most part, externally.
- rest in Him
- abide in Him
- Keep CHRIST in the MAS needs of the season.

#### 2 OBEY HIS WORD

- What good is it to READ, STUDY & MEDITATE and not live by it
- The benefit is lost when there is a lack of obedience.

MIN LATTEN DECLARED THAT HER POINTS RESULTS IN - ADVENT UNSPEAKABLE JOY!

SERMONIC TEXT:

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

-Shepherds with no name were to hear the announcement of the coming of the Chief Shepherd before anyone.

-Normally the birth of a prince would be announced to kings and other dignitaries, but this "princely" announcement was given to lowly shepherds, not to priests, rulers, kings, Pharisees nor Scribes, not to the great men of Israel but common shepherds, who as a class were actually considered as "outcasts" by the Jewish hierarchy!

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## QUESTION: WHY DO YOU THINK SHEPHERDS WERE USED FOR THE GOOD NEWS?

9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

-GLORY...TOO MUCH TOO ARTICULATE

-Glory ... expresses all that God is in His Being and in His nature, character, power and acts. -To be where God is - glory.

-To be what God intended - glory.

-To do what God purposed - glory.

-Glory refers to the majesty and splendor accompanying God's presence EVERYWHERE.

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10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

- The angel told them to not be afraid. What a blessing it is to be told to not be afraid. However, the comfort of that news depends upon the source of the person who is making this statement.

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11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

- Messiah: anointed one.

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12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

-Not born in a manger; lying in a manger

-What a terrible start for a baby; but joyful beginning for us.

**QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE EVENT AND WHAT THE BABY WENT THROUGH THAT GIVES US JOY?**

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

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