

December 24th

An angel has just appeared in the sheep fields with a message for the shepherds.

Luke 2:10 – *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”*

I have great news and amazing joy. But not just for the princes and kings. Not just for the wealthy and privileged. Not just for the military leaders and generals. For ALL people.

And you are the first outside of the parents to know.

Luke 2:11-12 – ¹¹ *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a _____ [deliverer, preserver, rescuer], who is _____ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the _____ to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a _____ [feed trough].”*

The promised Christ child is born. And He is near. Very near. And they are being invited to personally witness this heavenly miracle.

But before they can even consider their options, a praise and worship sessions breaks out before them.

Luke 2:13-14 – ¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host _____ God and saying: ¹⁴ “_____ to God in the highest, And on earth peace, _____ toward men!”*

And they stand there, hearing the angels sing and heaven celebrate. Powerful praise. Wonder-filled worship.

What did the people proclaim at Jesus’ entrance in Bethany in **Luke 19:38** just before His arrest and crucifixion?

The same joyful and amazed words the angels are now singing. With complete reverence. With complete awe. With complete joy.

And the shepherds have to be wondering if it really real or if they are dreaming. But they are not dreaming. It is all entirely real. And they want in.

Because they realize God is speaking to them. He is telling them they are the first to be invited to witness it personally. Go to a place you know, the stables, and find a miracle in human flesh.

Going Deeper:

1. *How does verse 10 relate back to God's promise in Genesis 12:2-3?*

2. *Verses 10-14 are the foundation of Jesus' purpose. Who is He? What is He bringing?*

3. *The angel proclaims the "joy which will be to all people". What does Matthew 1:21 promise about the Christ Child? What does Isaiah 57:19 promise?*

4. *The shepherds are told the Christ has arrived on earth. And they can find Him in a stable. What might they have thought at this announcement?*

5. *How does heaven feel about Jesus' birth? Why?*

6. *What did the shepherds see and hear when "suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God"? (What does Daniel 7:10 suggest?)*
