

Radiant Church, December 18, 2016  
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### God's Promise to Us - The King is Born!

God makes promises, and He keeps His promises  
He promised Hope to Eve  
He promised Blessing to Abraham  
He promised a forever Relationship to David  
He promised Forgiveness to Jeremiah  
He promised Righteousness and Healing to Malachi

And God kept all of His many promises in one, great event in world history...

Luke 2:1-7 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And who were the first to hear about Jesus? Shepherds!  
They were poor - but from God's perspective everyone is poor  
They were outcasts - but from God's perspective we're all outcasts  
They kept sheep for temple sacrifices - but this made the shepherds unclean - prevented them from full fellowship  
And shepherds were expected to do a good job - even if it meant laying down their own lives for the sheep

The shepherds lives were in effect sacrifices  
And shepherds knew what silent nights were all about

**Luke 2:8-13** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

**Luke 2:14** “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

The angel’s words painted a picture of the glorious arrival of the promised Redeemer

He called Him the Savior - for He would atone for the sins of the people  
He called Him Christ (Messiah) - for He would deliver the people from  
the bondage of sin

And he called Him Lord - because this baby was in fact God  
God incarnate, God in the flesh

Luke 2:15-20 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

When the shepherds found Joseph and Mary and the baby in a manger, they found themselves in the place where the lambs were kept - the lambs who would grow up to be sheep, who would be sacrificed.

But this lamb wasn’t covered in wool - He was covered in swaddling cloths. This lamb, this Savior had been born into their unclean world to be the perfect, ultimate, lasting sacrifice. This baby would accomplish and establish peace between the God of all creation and His image-bearers who habitually rejected Him...to “ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile until the Son of God appears.”

The gospel of Jesus, the coming of God to us is devastating humbling, and incredibly glorious

The shepherds responded the only way they could - they glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen, as the angel had told them it would be.