

§8: THE VISIT OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8–20

An Angel of the Lord Appears to Shepherds

2:8–12

8 And there were shepherds in the same region, staying out in the fields and keeping watch by night over their flock.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were greatly frightened [lit. feared a great fear].

10 And the angel said to them: Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim as good news to you a great joy that shall be for the entire people;

11 for today there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David.

12 And this is the sign for you—you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Appears

2:13–14

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the host of heaven, praising God and saying:

14 Glory in the highest to God
and on earth peace
among men of good will [= probably: among men to whom God shows good will/with whom God is pleased].

The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem

2:15–17

15 And it came about as the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds were saying to one another: Let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened that the Lord has made known to us.

16 And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

17 And when they saw, they made known concerning the statement that had been told them about this child.

Reactions to the Shepherd's Message

2:18–19

18 And all who heard wondered about the things that were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary held in memory all these things, pondering them in her heart.

The Shepherds Return

2:20

20 And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told to them.

Notes

1. **Staying out in the fields** (2:8), “*live out of doors...* Of shepherds” (BAGD,13). The word occurs in the N.T. only here.
2. **Suddenly stood before** (2:8), “*stand by or near, approach, appear* oft. w. the connotation of suddenness” (BAGD,330).
3. **Manger** (2:12), “*manger, stall...* could perh. be the *stable*” (BAGD,854)

4. **Men of good will** (2:14), “has frequently been interpreted *among men characterized by good will*...But evidence from Qumran...and recent literary analysis of Lk points to...*among men with whom he is please or whom he favors*” (BAGD,319)
5. **Held in memory** (2:19), “*hold or treasure up (in one’s memory)*” (BAGD,792). The word comes from a root meaning to guard, keep, hold, reserve, preserve, etc.
6. **Pondering** (2:19), “*consider, ponder, draw conclusions about*” (BAGD,777). “to give careful consideration to various implications of an issue – ‘to reflect on, to think about seriously, to think deeply about.’” (LN,350)