***Christmas Eve Morning***

**Christmas From The Shepherd’s Perspective**

**Luke 2:8-20**

**I. The Of Judea** *(v 8)*

According to Jewish tradition, these shepherds were watching over their sheep in fields located northeast of Bethlehem, in an area that today is called, ***The*** *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***Field.***

**A. The Shepherd’s** .

We know from Jewish culture that shepherds were among the lowest, poorest, and most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all the social groups in Israel.

The nature of their work not only kept them out of the mainstream of Jewish life, but it also kept them from participating in the various \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feasts and festivals.

In spite of all that, the amazing thing is that these were the very ones to whom God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the news of the birth of His Son!

**B. The Shepherd’s** .

The phrase that is translated ***“keeping watch”*** is more literally translated this way, they were “attending their flocks by \_\_\_\_\_\_ through the night watches.”

We need to understand that the sheep the shepherds were watching that night, were no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sheep!

The purpose of all those sacrifices was to make a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ atonement (covering) for the sins of the people so that they might be acceptable to God.

How fitting that the men who cared for the sacrificial lambs would be the men to whom the angel would appear with the glorious news about the birth of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ who would die to take away the sins of the world.

**II. The From Heaven** *(vv 9-14)*

The phrase ***“the glory of the Lord”*** actually means “an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ great appearance or light.”

In that very location, there was a tower known as ***Migdal Eder*** which means, ‘The Watch Towerof the \_\_\_\_\_\_.’

Usually, in the O.T., when an angel showed up, it was \_\_\_\_ news - not \_\_\_\_\_\_ news!

That moment that was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of time, that moment for which men and women of faith throughout the ages had longed to see, had finally come to pass.

The birth of Jesus was the only birth in history that was accompanied by both an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ proclamation and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ light show!

One of the first responsibilities of those who have been saved, is to proclaim to others what they have \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Conclusion:**

***If you’ve ever sinned against God, then you need a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And because only God can forgive sins against Himself, that’s why He sent His Son into the world!***

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David

a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.”

**Luke 2:11**

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