



70.5 The Shepherd and the Lamb

“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for

you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, ‘Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they ... found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger ... The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen,” Luke 2:8-20.

An angel, and then more angels, appeared to the shepherds during that first Christmas night. As far as we know, the shepherds were the first outsiders to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. They left

their sheep and went to the manger [a feeding trough] ... and then glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen.

It was good that the shepherds came to Him. Later, John the Baptist said of Jesus, "*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*", John 1:29. And Jesus said, "*I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep,*" John 10:11. Continue your Christmas celebration. Worship your good shepherd! Worship the Lamb of God!

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