



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

The Humble Birth of Christ The Savior and Lord!

APRIL 15-16, 2026

Pastor David Andersen / 804-683-2285 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Luke 2:8-14 *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9) And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were greatly afraid. 10) Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. 11) For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12) And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (NKJV)*

LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER IT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD, BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, TAKING THE FORM OF A BONDservant, AND COMING IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLed HIMSELF AND BECAME Obedient TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

How were shepherds viewed in Jewish society at that time? Were they the only ones "*living in the fields*"? What is the significance of the Messiah being born at night? Was the darkness penetrated by the light? Does the world still celebrate at Christmas this good news bringing "*great joy*" to "*all people*"? Is this "*Savior*" and Messiah or "*Christ*," God Himself? Had anyone heard of such a humble birth as given in this "*sign*"? Is the multitude of angels a strategic army? Had there ever been an army used to declare peace? Who are the recipients of this peace?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- APRIL 22-23: LUKE 2:15-20 *THE SHEPHERDS VISIT THE GREATEST SHEPHERD!*
- APRIL 29-30: LUKE 2:21-24 *THE NAMING OF THE GREATEST SHEPHERD!*

The coming of the Messiah had first been announced to Zacharias the Priest while he was offering incense in the Temple. When he, in unbelief, demanded a sign from Gabriel, he became a sign and would not be able to speak until all that Gabriel had predicted concerning John the Baptist was fulfilled. When at last Zacharias could speak again, he was delighted to demonstrate his belief in all that Gabriel had spoken. Thus he prophesied concerning the coming Christ as a "*born of salvation in the house of His servant David.*" And concerning his son, John the Baptist, he said, "*you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" Never would any Jew have expected that their Messiah would be forced to Bethlehem, the city of David because of a worldwide census by their oppressors from Rome, who were initially their allies. Even more humbling was the fact that this oppressive census was for taxation, their first taxation by a foreign power since their deliverance from the captivity of Babylon. Even much more humbling for Joseph and pregnant Mary, after their long trip, they could not find a better place to stay, while she gave birth to the Messiah of Israel, than a stable.

BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME HAD COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW, TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION AS SONS."
GALATIANS 4:4-5

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – PARADISE DINER – 260 WARRENTON RD

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, HULL & COURTHOUSE & NOON – LYNCHBURG – PANERA BREAD, 3901 OLD FOREST RD.

Virginia

The Humble Birth of Christ The Savior and Lord!

I. HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LUKE 2:8-9

Though some of the greatest leaders in Israel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David, had been shepherds, and David would have cared for his flock in the same field, such was long forgotten. Shepherds at that time were considered among the lowest strata of Jewish society because of their lack of education, skills and religious observance. Many were so disreputable, unreliable and dishonest that shepherds were not even allowed to testify in court. Because their care for the sheep required their daily diligence, they were not able to fulfill the added Sabbath stipulations by the Pharisees, so they were in constant violation and thus considered unclean, like the Gentiles. Only the lepers were viewed as worse than the shepherds. Yet these men, sleeping under the stars to care for their sheep, may have been godly men, devoted to the truth of Scripture. Thus, like Joseph and Mary, their poverty and circumstances of life gave reason for them to be despised in Israel. Only the nearby shepherds had worse accommodations than a stable because they lived in the meadows and fields with their sheep. It was these who were privileged that night to see the shekinah glory of God as they were the first to hear of the birth of their Messiah! Suddenly, an angel with the glow of heaven stood in their midst and gave the good news.

good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.” Though this announcement is to Jewish shepherds about their Messiah, the “*great joy*” that follows His coming extends to “*all people*.” These words are not just fulfilled in a materialistic way throughout the world each Christmas, they are fulfilled in the true & greatest way in the Gospel, giving us the purpose for which He came: “*For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*” This is the key and climax to the entire announcement. He came as a “*Savior*” to save His people from their sins. Jesus said it as our Shepherd, “*for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:10). He is our “*Savior*” in that He is the Messiah, the Anointed One, “*Christ*,” who is God Himself, “*the Lord*.” Only He as God could be the perfect sacrifice and pay the price for our sins so that we could be forgiven. Only He as “*Lord*” becomes our new Master, delivering us from the bondage of serving sin. Though He is “*Lord*” over all, He was humbled to be born in a manger, the sign was the humblest cradle, an animal feed trough.

BUT GOD HAS CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO PUT TO SHAME THE WISE, AND GOD HAS CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS OF THE WORLD TO PUT TO SHAME THE THINGS THAT ARE MIGHTY. 1 COR. 1:27

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOOD TIDINGS TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND. ISAIAH 61:1

II. HUMBLEST ANNOUNCEMENT LUKE 2:10-12

Such a supernatural display of glorious light caused these shepherds to immediately be terrified. So the angel begins with the imperative for them to “*Fear not*.” Instead they should do the opposite and rejoice, “*for behold, I bring you*

III. HEAVENLY ARMY

LUKE 2:13-14

These shepherds had never seen the shekinah glory of God or even an angel before, but now they are surrounded and overwhelmed with a “*multitude of heavenly host*,” literally a massive heavenly army declaring praise and peace. This does not present highest number of the millions of angels in heaven (Rev. 5:11) but it was certainly a numberless supernatural army (from which we get the word strategy). Suddenly turning the night to daylight and chasing away the quiet of the night with a continual thunderous praise, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace*,” literally “*in men well pleasing to God*.”

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Will you consider the depth of humility that Jesus took upon Himself for you?
- 2) Have you turned from serving your sin to serving Jesus Christ as your Lord or Master and Savior?
- 3) Are you pondering the strategy of the hosts of heaven in glorifying God and bringing peace to those who please Him?