

Heaven's Invasion

Promise: the rescue from sin, death and the devil has already begun

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; [Luke 2:1-20](#)

(Christmas Eve, 12/24/20)

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.— v. 9

Lead In – Think of the times in your life that you have been startled. Are some coming to mind? I'd bet in many cases it was when you thought you were all alone, and then suddenly you realized you were not! You know, those times when you thought you were alone in the room or building, or when you were out for a walk at night, and... Well, you can bet the shepherds were startled...

I. The News of Victory First Comes to Shepherds

- Not likely the idyllic and pious image we have...
- Appearance is startling, to say the least!
- Announcement in stark contrast with Augustus...
- Glad tidings for ALL THE PEOPLE!

II. Not Rome or Jerusalem, But the City of David

- The victor is called the Savior because...
- The victor is wrapped in swaddling cloths and...
- He has slipped behind enemy-occupied lines!

III. The Shepherds Are Not Through Being Startled

- Brief appearance of God's army...
- Battle belongs to those with harmonious voice...
- Join the army chorus while there is still time!

Parting Shot – The Christmas Celebration is not just a commemoration, a little nostalgia and warm sentiment. No, it is all about heaven's invasion which gloriously starts with glad tidings. And we can appropriately respond with the worship of heaven's army as we sing the *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds in the NT – Were considered shady characters, down on their luck, unable to hold a steady job, unreliable, and dishonest.

Lk 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

1Co 1:26-27 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

Caesar Augustus – proclamation likely originated from his palace on the Palatine Hill in Rome...

Mt 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Luke 2:8-20 ESV

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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 among those with whom he is pleased!*"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

2Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

2Ki 6:17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (*King of Syria surrounding Elisha at Dothan*)

Gloria in Excelsis: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Ps 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

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