

“Give Your Adoration To God & Your Witness To All!”

Luke 2:8-20

We should recognize that this story concerning the birth of Jesus Christ conforms to a unique Lukan format that is repeated 4 different times by the gospel writer in 6 consecutive passages concerning the events surrounding that First Christmas. Here in this passage we see the entirety of this third **Promise of God** and a **Sign Given** as well as a **Sign Fulfilled** almost immediately by the Archangel Gabriel to the shepherds about the location, condition and character of a newborn Child. We also are shown the **Evidence of Fulfillment** to the promise as the shepherds enter the stable in Bethlehem and see the Child of Promise and finally we are privileged to join with the angels and the shepherds in their grateful **Response of Praise** to God the Father:

See Handout

“Luke’s Narrative Story Patterns - Birth of Jesus”

Luke’s Historical Acts of Faith/Song of Praise Pattern

<u>Promise of God:</u>	Jesus Christ Our Savior Is born	Luke 2:8-12
<u>Characters:</u>	Shepherds	Luke 2:8
<u>Sign Given & Fulfilled:</u>	Shepherds Told That They Would Find A Baby, Who Is The Messiah, The Christ & The Anointed One, Wrapped in Swaddling Bands & Lying In A Manager In David’s City, Of Bethlehem	Luke 2:12 & 16
<u>Evidence of Fulfillment:</u>	Jesus Christ Our Savior Is Born	Luke 2:6-7
<u>Response of Praise:</u>	Song Of Angelic Host	Luke 2:13-14
	Witness Of Shepherds	Luke 2:17-18

This Is The 4th Time Angels Are Sent As Messengers To Guide Those Involved In The Birth Of God’s Only Son!

See Handout

“Luke’s Comparison of Births & Beginnings: John & Jesus

Luke also saw and drew upon the parallels of the circumstances, the method of the announcement, and the actual events surrounding the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. The later parallels God’s Timing between the birth of Isaac & Jesus is portrayed by Luke:

See Handout

“Luke’s Comparison Of Beginnings: Isaac, John, & Jesus”

Genesis Chapters 11 - 21 & Luke Chapters 1 – 2

Luke’s purpose of recording the announcement of the **Promise of God** with a **Sign** to the shepherds is to show that the primary message throughout the entire first two chapters of his Gospel has indeed come to pass. God is rewriting Human history and including everyone this time in the spreading of the Message of the Good News!

Q: “What Was The Response Of The Angels To God’s Plan Of Salvation Taking On Flesh & Blood For Us?”

A: They Responded In Praise

“Glory To God In The Highest, & On Earth Peace Among Those, With Whom He Is Pleased!”

Q: “What Was The Response Of The Shepherds To The Good News They Heard In The Angel’s Testimony & Heavenly Singing?”

A: The Shepherds Were Obedient & Immediately Went To Bethlehem To Search For The Child The Angles Had Promised Them!

After The Shepherds Went To Bethlehem & Saw The Christ Child For Themselves; They Immediately Like The Angels Of Heaven

A: They Also Responded In Praise

“Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds ... Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them!” **Luke 2:17-18 & 20**

Q: “What Will Be My Response To The Good News Of The Gospel Writer Luke, The Testimony & Song Of The Angels, & The Shepherds Of Bethlehem?”

**A: I Will Give All I Have: My Life, Time, Talents, Wealth, & Will
To Testify To Everyone, I Meet That Jesus Christ Has Come & Is Coming Again!**

A: Our Modern Response Of Praise Should Reflect The Angels & Shepherds Response Of Praise

- 1) Adoration & Allegiance**
- 2) Awe & Faith**
- 3) Glory & Gratitude**
- 4) Honor & Joy**
- 5) Praise & Rejoicing**
- 6) Testimony & Thanksgiving**
- 7) Witness & Worship**

Our Witness To God’s Gift Of Grace In Jesus Will Be Proof To All That He Has Indeed Come To Visit & Save His People!

Our Response Of Praise To Christ’s Love Will Be Proof To All That He Is Still Present & Living In His People Today!

Our Testimony To His Living Word Will Be Proof To All That He Is Coming Soon To Once Again Visit His People!

“This Christmas Season Let Us Give Our Adoration To God & Our Witness To All!”

“Let Us Respond As Those Shepherds Did Going Into The Surrounding Fields & Towns, Spreading The Good News That Christ Has Come & Is Coming Again Soon For His People!”