

“Shepherds Unwrap Christmas”

A FEW HOLY-AHAS THAT LEAD TO SELAH AND OORAH!

⁸ *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

- Sheep prepared for sacrifice at Migdal Eler (“the tower of the temple flock”): This was located on the road to Jerusalem leading to the ultimate Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- The promise given to shepherds (Abraham, Moses, David...) was given to shepherds
- Midrash: Mothers would sing, “*Don’t let your babies grow up to be shepherds. Don’t let ‘em swat fleas and flies and drive them old herds.*”

⁹ *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.* ¹⁰ *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”* ¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* ¹² *And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

- E-fē'-stā-mē (*ephistēmi*) *appeared; to stand upon; assault*
- The glory of the Lord intersected with the world, the eternal with the temporal
- "Caesar Augustus is savior of the world." (Inscription at Halicarnassus) And, "The birthday of the god (Augustus) has marked the beginning of the good news [gospel] for the world." (Inscription at Priene)
- *Savior, Christs the Lord*: the fulfillment of over 300 O.T. prophecies
- If the Good News is Good News for the shepherds then it is Good News for everyone
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

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 among those with whom he is pleased!”*

- Plethora of Stratia: The entire army of God (*Seal Team*)
- 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. (2 Kings 6:17)
- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)

¹⁵ *When 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.”* ¹⁶ *And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.*

- Bethlehem means “House of Bread.” Jesus said to them, “*I am the **bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*” John 6:35

