



When Earth's
Most

LOWLY

See Heaven's
Highest

GLORY



“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him **Immanuel**” (which means
“**God with us**”).

Matthew 1:23

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:6-7

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

God's long-expected Messiah was **unlike** any other King the people had known or expected.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-3

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And **everyone went** to their own town to register.

Luke 2:7

⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was **no guest room available for them**.

Has God ever failed to meet **your expectations** or to act in the way that you thought, hoped, or prayed that He would?

THE SHEPHERDS' WITNESS

Luke 2:8-9

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Why tell **shepherds**?

1. Foreshadowing **Sacrifice**—God were pointing them forward to go see the ultimate sacrificial Lamb.
2. A **Shepherd-King** —When God sought a King to replace Saul, He chose a Shepherd, David. Now God has given an even greater Shepherd for His Flock.
3. Shepherds are **Lowly**—By the time of Jesus' birth, Shepherds were seen as unclean. They were lowly laborers.

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God's Upside-Down Kingdom

Luke 1:51-55 / Mary's Song

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has **scattered those who are proud** in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has **brought down rulers** from their thrones

but has **lifted up the humble**.

⁵³ He has **filled the hungry** with good things

but has **sent the rich away** empty.

⁵⁴ He has **helped his servant** Israel, remembering to be merciful

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God's Upside-Down Kingdom

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 | The Wisdom of God

²⁷ But God chose **the foolish things** of the world **to shame the wise**; God chose **the weak things** of the world **to shame the strong**. ²⁸ God chose **the lowly things** of this world and the despised things—and **the things that are not**—**to nullify the things that are**, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

THE ANGEL ENCOUNTER—THE MESSAGE

Luke 2:10-12

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Jesus' birth is good news to **all people**.

Why is it **good news**?

1. **Savior**: the sin-bearer, the procurer of salvation for the sons of men.
2. **Messiah (Christ)**: the long-awaited King who would rescue God's people and rule over them.
3. **Lord**: a title of authority formally reserved for God the Father and now also given to the Son.

THE ANGEL ENCOUNTER—THE RESPONSE

Luke 2:13-14

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those
on whom his favor rests.”

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Angels Sang at Creation

Job 38:4-7

⁴ “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line
across it?

⁶ On what were its footings set,
or who laid its cornerstone—

⁷ while the morning stars sang together
and all the angels shouted for joy?

Ultimately God's favor—His pleasure and peace will rest on those who live in the light of the truth revealed in the Angels' message: that **Jesus is Savior, Messiah, and Lord.**

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Luke 2:15

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Luke 2:16-20

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Three Responses to Christ's Birth:

1. The shepherds **spread the word**.
2. The people **wondered**.
3. Mary **pondered**.

OUR RESPONSE

- How will you respond to the good news of the birth of Jesus, the Savior, the Christ, the Lord?
- What misguided expectations do we need to set aside in order to see the greater thing that God is doing?
- How is the Lord inviting you to become more like His meek and lowly Son?



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