

# DO YOU HEAR THE ANGELS?

Luke 2:8-15

! Can you hear the angels singing?

The answer is simple.

- Either you can or you can't. You do or you don't.

- Here is the text that brings us to the question:

*"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'"*

Luke 2:8-14

- The shepherds heard the angels = Scared them to death!
  - That's one thing angels do = Scare people!
    - The angel told Joseph, *Fear not*
    - The angel, Gabriel told Mary, *Fear not*
    - The angel told the shepherds, *Fear not*
    - By definition angels are truly *"out of this world."*
    - Come from another place, realm and dimension.
    - Shepherds are minding their own business in the fields
      - Suddenly an angel is talking to them.
    - Suddenly the sky is filled with a multitude of angels. (*multitude* = innumerable), an amazing display of brilliantly shining beings, filling the night sky, praising God - *Glory to God in the highest!*

! A question worth asking: If we had been there, would we have seen the angels?

- Could the people in Bethlehem see the angels?
- Could they be seen in Jerusalem - 8 miles away?
- Could the sound of their voices be heard in other places?
- Did the angels reveal themselves only to the shepherds?

- Not sure who could/couldn't see/hear but the angels were definitely there, and the shepherds really did hear them.

! Can you hear the angels singing?

- Either you do or you don't.
- The shepherds heard them.
- Mary heard them.
- Joseph heard them.
- Don't think Herod heard a thing.
  - That's a huge point - It's the great divide in the world
    - Some people see the angels, others don't.
    - Some people hear them, others don't.
    - Some people believe in the supernatural...
- In 2 Kings 6 the story is told of Elisha and his servant.
  - The Aramean army surrounds them in city of Dothan.
  - Enemy is everywhere, *What shall we do?* servant cries out and Elisha responded
    - Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.' 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"*
- Angels were always there - he simply did not see them
- When his eyes were opened, he saw what had been there all along.

II Kings 6:16-17

## Angels Everywhere!

- Impossible to miss the supernatural - in the birth of Jesus!
  - Angels pop up all over the event of His birth!
  - An angel tells Mary she will give birth to Jesus
  - An angel tells Joseph to call his name Jesus
  - An angel warns Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt
  - An angel tells them when it's safe to return to Israel
  - An angel announces the birth to the shepherds
  - The angelic multitude shouts *Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*

- But that's not all - You have the...
  - ...mysterious star that led the Magi from a distant land to Bethlehem to the house where they found the baby Jesus.
  - The Magi were warned in a dream not to return to Herod but to go home another way.
  - So there you have it—angels and stars and dreams
    - Supernatural stuff everywhere!
    - The stuff many say many don't believe in.

## ! **Christian Worldview!**

- We believe in something absolutely amazing.
- We believe this world is not the “real” world!
  - This is the “temporary” world.
  - This ball of earth we call home will not last forever.
  - This world is temporary.
- We believe there is “another world” that is the “real” world.
  - It's the world of God - angels - Christ - Holy Spirit - heaven - the saints who dwell in glory!
- These two worlds exist side by side.
  - We live in one world but we believe in another world.
  - We live in this world but are citizens of other in Christ.
  - Here we are *aliens* - *strangers* on the earth.
  - Moving from a world that is passing away to a world that will last forever.
  - We are looking for a city with eternal foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
- **Say Goodbye...**
  - **The world you see around you will not last forever.**
    - World of cars - planes - trains
    - World of buying - selling - investing
    - World of factories - offices - schools - universities
    - World of television - radio - Internet
    - World of football - basketball - baseball
    - World of nations - presidents - tyrants
    - **That world will one day disappear!**
      - The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever*  
1 John 2:17 (ESV)
  - **Everything man builds collapses!**

- We are a dying race living on a dying planet.
  - All that we see will someday vanish without a trace.
    - There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.
    - Salvation must come from somewhere else!

## ! **When God Came Down**

- Many miracles surround the coming of Christ
  - The angels - star - dreams - prophecies - virgin birth.
  - Those miracles point to an even greater miracle!
    - We were visited by Someone from the “other world.”
    - ...from world of light - to world of darkness
    - ...from the eternal came to the temporary
    - ...from heaven came to live with us on earth!

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son*  
John 3:16 (KJV)

*The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people”*  
Titus 2:11 (ESV).

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law*  
Galatians 4:4 (ESV).

*Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men*  
Philippians 2:6-7 (ESV).

*God was manifest in the flesh*  
1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV)

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*  
John 1:14 (ESV).

The infinite became finite.

The immortal became mortal.

The omnipotent lived inside a young girl's womb.

The Almighty became a helpless baby.

The Deity was wrapped in rags.

The King of the Universe was born in a stable.

- This is central to the Christian Worldview!

- If you can believe that God visited our planet as a little baby 2,000 years ago, you'll have no problem with the rest of what we believe.

- The Resurrection = no problem
- The Supernatural = essential to the Christian worldview
  - Take supernatural out = all you have left is a religious book club
  - We believe this world is not the “real” world
  - ...that Christ came from the “real” world to live in our world for 33 years so he could save us from our sins.
- Many do not believe that because they don't believe there is “another” world.
  - They think this world is the only world there is.
  - They miss the central fact of the universe - God!
    - That's like studying geology but leaving out rocks.
    - ...like studying astronomy but leaving out the stars
    - ...like studying math but leaving out the numbers

The world around us may seem empty and we may feel entirely alone, but now and then—Suddenly!—when we least expect it—when we've almost given up hope—when we're tired or fearful or over whelmed—God breaks through and the angels start to sing.

- They sang for some startled shepherds one night in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.
- They still sing today for those who care to hear them.
- Can you hear the angels singing?
- They bring good news from the other side, good news of great joy, the best news the world has ever heard: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come, Let Earth receive her King!

Brothers and sisters - What we see today we see through the eyes of faith - trust - understanding God - longing for God - listening - hearing - calling on God - etc.

- Replace doubt with the ears of faith