

Luke 2:8-16

Angel Glory, Jesus Story

Introduction: Reporters' reaction to early space launch.

Theme: A wonder of light in the night makes us reverent.

Key Question: What in the angels' glorious announcement  
should make us revere the Christ child?

These messages:

I. Your King Has Come to You

A. With Ancient Glory (v. 9)

B. To David's City (v. 11)

C. with Angel Honor (v. 13)

II. Your Savior Has Come to You (v. 11)

A. In Humility (v. 12)

B. In Proximity (v. 8)

C. In Peace (vv. 10 & 14)

III. You Should Come to Him

A. With Hearing (v. 10)

B. Without Fear (v. 14)

C. Without Delay (vv. 15-16)

Conclusion: Responding to Birth Announcements

Luke 2:8-16  
Angel Glory, Jesus' Story

(Intro)

The passing of American astronaut, senator and hero John Glenn can take some of us back to the "race for space" when the U.S. rushed to respond to Russia launching Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. Jack Needlemen was one of the reporters covering an early night launch in the U.S. space programme. At first, it was a social occasion with refreshments on the lawn of the space center.

But then the countdown began and all eyes and cameras turned toward the 36-story rocket. Even jaded reporters were caught in and quieted by the moment. Then, suddenly, all were blinded by an extraordinarily bright orange light - which was at the limit of what the human eye could bear.

The rocket rose slowly against the dark canopy of night in total silence because it took several seconds for the sound to cross the distance to the reporters. Then, the sound waves struck, washing over onlookers with a thunder that rattled their bones.

The rocket traveled higher, then higher still as the first stage ignited in spectacular blue flame. And then, it was gone... vanished into the vacant atmosphere and the vastness of space.

Wrote Needlemen, "There were no wise cracks, there were no comments or sounds. Men's eyes were filled with light and their faces lit by the inner glow of sheer wonder."

Hardened reporters who faced the daily realities of a brutal world and broken humanity were by the wonder of light in the night made reverent!

Such is dynamic we may miss if we only think of the angel host that accompanied the birth of Christ as the gentle tones of a music box under a snow globe depicting a shepherd boy with a lamb in his arms.

What if, instead, we were to hear the angels' proclamation in the decibels of the seraphim who hovered above the Heavenly Throne and thundered the proclamation that shattered heaven and shook earth? Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty of the whole earth full of his glory! And what if that glory was not a Christmas tree glory, but the fire & smoke that enveloped Mt. Sinai, from which the millions of Israelites hid their faces. If that were our image we might cross it in the response to the shepherds' terrified that matches sense is reverence,

(1)

Why Reverence? Why be in awe over the announcement of a ~~gritting~~  
baby in a cattle stall? Because the presence & proclamation of the  
angels makes it clear:

## I. Your King Has Come to You

A. With Ancient Glory (v. 9 "angel of The Lord in and the glory of the Lord"  
65x in O.T. "The Angel of the Lord" appears

When accompanied by "the glory of the Lord" with flattening power.

- e.g. Ex. 3 - appearing to Moses in flame of fire, burning bush

Ex. 14 - appearing to Children of Israel, in cloud & fire  
with promise "to lead and fight for you."

When appearing to shepherds = return of Shekinah glory,  
w/o Moses interceding

°° The people to be lead out of slavery again (Deut. 18)

but w/leaders greater than Moses — Not merely physical  
sin no longer dominion over slaves, but spiritual

B. To David's City (v. 11).

1000 years since God promised to David that an  
eternal & universal King would come from his family,

700 years since Micah, the prophet promised birth in Bethlehem

400 years since last prophet of OT assured Messiah, Christ, coming  
Now! In The City of David, Christ, The Lord

°° The prophecies fulfilled, promises true, God's Word kept!

! The people will be governed with justice & truth, in <sup>Kingdom</sup> of God  
but w/King Greater than David! No longer

But Best sign of all ... That Babe on Manger  
is King of Glory: who defeats the kingdom of Satan

C. With Angel Hosts (v. 13 "suddenly with the angels a multitude..."  
- Job 38 - The First time a multitude of Angels was given at creation  
- Daniel 7 - The Last time a multitude of Angels, described  
around the Ancient of Days as "a thousand thousands serve him"

and 10,000x10,000 stood before him

You are not alone!  
"Angel watching over you" - Rev. 5:11 the next time

to do his bidding.

That language echoed to describe the heavenly hosts  
gathered to praise the Lamb slain w/honor, glory & blessing.

°° The multitudes that gather to give glory to God as The  
Ancient of Days and the Lamb slain, gather to praise babe in arms.

Message! If They praise Him, he's greater than They.

"Over you" Behind them all is His body & blood, if they say so. If They command Him, he can command them,  
"Above all else, Jesus Christ" is greater than the Angels (Heb. 1:4 "superior to angels")

Because He is our King & He commands, He charges from You care.  
Heb. 1:14 - Angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation!"

How do I know the King of Creation & the Heavenly Hosts is concerned for me? Because the angels say... (2)

II. Your Savior Has Come to You (v. 11 "unto you is born... a Savior, though he is King of Heaven, he comes... who is Christ, the Lord")

- A. In Humility (v. 12 "... a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger")
- The Creator becomes a creature What?!!
  - The King of Angels lies in feed trough for farm animals
  - The Son of God, an unwed mother's Son
- Christ, Our Lamb, announced in Shepherd field  
He The Shepherd of The helpless,  
"Helpless comes, his power to wield."

By the mother he created,  
He is born as he had planned,  
Lying still within a manger,  
Worlds turn round at his command,  
Carried in the hands he fashioned,  
Cradled in the arms he holds,  
Bound to share a love more tender  
Freeing all his heart enfolds.

Is that really his intent? To be made low, to grant us heavenly care? The answer is not simply in his humility, but in

- B. In Proximity (v. 8 "in the same region" He came near them better, yet:  
+ He came here, whose home was heaven  
+ He slept in a manger, who knew the ministry of Angels  
∴ He is Immanuel & God w. us.

A story that I love, tells of an abandoned Mom... .

- C. In Peace (v. 10 "Fear Not... I bring good news."  
v. 14 "Glory to God in the highest  
and peace among those...")

+ He could have sent angels' avenger sword to a sinful world  
but instead they announced God & man could be reconciled.  
+ Greatest evidence of the desire for peace =  
When the angels did not appear (Matt. 26:53 - in Garden of Gethsemane)  
"Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father for 12 legions (10,000) angels? But he did not call them. So that we could give himself sacrifice and we could seek him!"

We can hear the Christmas words and not really understand the Christmas theme. How can we make the words we sing together be the message others understand? By showing the heart of the One we praise.

An abandoned mom with six kids was trying make ends meet, working as a waitress at an Indiana truck stop. Later she wrote, "I was now working six nights instead of five and it still wasn't enough. Christmas was coming and I knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and started repairing and painting some old toys - then hid them so there would be something for Christmas morning.

On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking coffee in the Big Wheel. There were the truckers, Les, Frank, and Jim, and a state trooper named Joe.

When it was time for me to go home, to my amazement, my old battered Chevy was filled full to the top with boxes of all shapes and sizes. I quickly opened the driver's side door, crawled inside and kneeled in the front facing the back seat. Reaching back, I pulled off the lid of the top box. Inside was a whole case of little blue jeans, sizes 2-10! I looked inside another box: It was full of shirts to go with the jeans.

Then I peeked inside the other boxes. There was candy and nuts and bananas and bags of groceries. There was an enormous ham for baking, and canned vegetables and potatoes. There was pudding and Jell-O and cookies. And there were five toy trucks and one beautiful little doll.

As I drove back through empty streets to prepare for the most amazing Christmas Day of my life, I was sobbing with gratitude. And I will never forget the joy on the faces of my little ones that precious morning.

There were *angels in Indiana* that December. And they all hung out at the Big Wheel truck stop. Maybe there are some angels in Illinois at a church named Grace in Peoria. I hope so. Because when we show the heart of our Savior, loved ones who *hear* the words we say about his love being bigger than sin and failure for those who trust him, may really understand what we are saying.

*Father, I ask you to bless our friends and relatives who have heard the story of Jesus's love but need to understand it by the way we show it. Let us be the ones to bring understanding to their hearts, so that sometime they will really sing with us, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords is Jesus my Savior." Amen.*

I love the sentiment, but the truth of the Savior is even more powerful. If there are angels in Indiana, it is because there is a Messiah came to a manger — because he did not think this earth would soil heavenly robes. And when there is dirt in my heart, filth in my habits, failing in my life. I don't have to fear inviting him in. He has shown he is willing to come to an animal stall; he will come to your heart. Do not fear because he came....

What is the ultimate message of the Angels — not only (3)  
that Your King & Savior has come to you, but that, . . .

### III. You Should Come to Him

(v. 14 "Peace among those with whom he is pleased")

How do we please Him? How live in a broken world  
+ have broken lives w/o fear?

A. Without Fear (v. 10 - "Behold" not clouded by scorn or cynicism)  
Literally "Do not be fearing, but beholding," i.e. perceiving  
taking in this truth: Your King & Savior has come!

To get over your fear of circumstances beyond control  
rejection for your failures  
shame for your sin.

• Take This in. = The King of Heaven & Earth

- The Savior unashamed to enter animal stalls  
or suffer for your sin

- He Has Come.

B. Without Fear (v. 14 - Fear Not = Terrors → Faith)

Confession of your Need      he has provided for you  
"his provision"      to be reconciled to God.  
You don't fear God or Man because  
Jesus made a way.

C. without Delay (v. 15-16 - Let's go & see ... with haste!)

Why would you want one more day or hour w/o  
the King of the angels making a way  
through life and to God!

### Conclusion:

In the stage of life we are, we await new baby  
announcements with eager anticipation, knowing that when  
the Word arrives that baby has come, it will be fine for  
us to go & see the little one. So we await the announcement  
with the wording so traditional Baby Boy, 7 lbs. 9 oz,  
21 inches, all the vitals. But heaven's announcement  
follows similar wording, it is far more compelling. The  
announcement Baby boy, born in a manger, He is the  
King, The angels minister at his command, and He will  
give his people from their sin. He has come; it's fine to  
go to Him!