

The Wonders of Christmas

December 16, 2007

“The Wonder of Angelic Appearing”

Luke 2:8-20

Introduction

Identified over 300 times in Scripture, angels play an important role in the work of God’s redemption of humanity. Especially prominent in the Christmas narrative, this morning we’ll look at the wonder of angelic appearing.

Interpretation

Application

Going Deeper

1. Search the Scripture passages below to learn more about the role of angels in God's work of redemption.
 - Who saw six wing seraphs? (Isaiah 6:2)
 - Who met the "commander of the Lord's army"? (Joshua 5:13-15)
 - Who saw angels coming and going from heaven? (Genesis 28:12)
 - Whose army was defeated by the Lord's angel? (2 Kings 19:35)
 - Who was seized by fear when met by an angel? (Acts 10:1-4)
 - What hero's birth was predicted by an angel? (Judges 13:3)
 - Who moved the stone covering Jesus' tomb? (Matthew 28:2)
 - Who was set free from prison by an angel? (Acts 12:7)
2. Reading the story of Christ's birth in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, how many times do angels appear? To whom do they appear? (Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2)
3. How is John's account of the angelic involvement in the birth of Christ similar to, or different from, what you typically remember focusing upon from the Christmas story? (Revelation 12:1-17)
4. Why would Luke use the word "host" (NIV) in Luke 2:13 (Greek word *stratia*, meaning army) to describe the angels that announced Christ's birth with a song? (Psalm 37:7, Psalm 78:49, Psalm 103:20, Hebrews 1:14)
5. How does Isaiah describe the reign of God's Son, and what affect has the Son's reign had upon your life? (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:6-9, Romans 5:1-3)
6. What, if anything, is undermining your enjoyment of God's peace this Christmas season? (Philippians 4:6-7)

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