



**Today's Sermon:
Experiencing this season of
Christmas by breaking from
everyday life.
Luke 2:8-20**

Intro: Wait...what?

**I. Condition of the World
Malachi 3:1;4:5**

**II. The Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-2**

**III. The Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20**

**A. Near Bethlehem?
Micah 5:2-4**

**B. Hear the Narrator
Luke 2:8-20**

**IV. The Choir of Angels
Luke 2:8-20**

Gospel Application

Luke 2:8-20

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly 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."

¹⁵When 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."

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



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The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer

Christmas
Sermon
Series



The best way
to spread
Christmas Cheer,
is singing loud for
all to hear.



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*Experiencing this season of Christmas by
breaking from everyday life*





Last Week's Message

John the Baptist

Malachi 3:1

I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

Malachi 4:5

⁵ "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

*O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear*

*Long lay the world
In sin and error pinning*

Luke 2:8-20

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The Three Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:7-13

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:7-13

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”



The Little Drummer Boy



The Shepherds

Genesis 35:19-21

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). ²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.

²¹ Israel moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Migdal Eder.



The Shepherds in Bethlehem?

Matthew 2:4-6

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.

Micah 5:2-4

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

Micah 5:2-4

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

But as we pass from the sacred gloom of the cave out into the night, its sky all aglow with starry brightness, its loneliness is now peopled, and it's silence made vocal from heaven. There is nothing now to conceal, but much to reveal, though the manner of it would seem strangely incongruous to Jewish thinking. And yet Jewish tradition may here prove both illustrative and helpful.

Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids: MI), 1971, 186.

Micah 4:8

⁸ As for you, watchtower of the flock,
stronghold of Daughter Zion,
the former dominion will be restored to you;
kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem.”

This Migdal Eder was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks which pastured on the barren sheep ground beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the Mishnah....

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They may not rear small cattle (because they damage the sown fields) in the Land of Israel, but they may rear them in Syria or in the wildernesses that are in the Land of Israel.

~Mishnah, Baba K. vii. 7.

Cattle found all the way from Jerusalem to Migdal Eder, and in the same vicinity in all directions, are considered, if male, as whole-offerings, and if female as peace-offerings.

~Babylonian Talmud, 80 a.

This Migdal Eder was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks which pastured on the barren sheep ground beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the Mishnah lead to the conclusion, that the flocks, which pastured there, were destined for Temple-sacrifices, and accordingly, that the shepherds, who watched over them, were not ordinary shepherds.

Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids: MI), 1971, 186-187.

Thus, Jewish tradition in some dim manner apprehended the first revelation of the Messiah from that Migdal Eder, where shepherds watched the Temple-flocks all the year round. Of the deep symbolic significance of such a coincidence, it is needless to speak.

Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, (Eerdmans, Grand Rapids: MI), 1971, 187.

But these were in all likelihood very special shepherds. We have already seen how in the Temple, morning and evening, an unblemished lamb was offered as a sacrifice to God. To see that the supply of perfect offerings was always available the Temple authorities had their own private sheep flocks; and we know that these flocks were pastured near Bethlehem. It is most likely that these shepherds were in charge of the flocks from which the Temple offerings were chosen. It is a lovely thought that the shepherds who looked after the Temple lambs were the first to see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Barclay, W. (2001). [*The Gospel of Luke*](#) (pp. 27-28). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

Exodus 29:39-41

³⁸ “This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old. ³⁹ Offer one in the morning and the other at twilight. ⁴⁰ With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil from pressed olives, and a quarter of a hin of wine as a drink offering.

⁴¹ Sacrifice the other lamb at twilight with the same grain offering and its drink offering as in the morning – a pleasing aroma, a food offering presented to the LORD.

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Read the Narrative Again

Luke 2:8-20

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The Choir of Angels

...when a boy was born, the local musicians congregated at the house to greet him with simple music. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem and therefore that ceremony could not be carried out. It is lovely to think that the minstrelsy of heaven took the place of the minstrelsy of earth, and angels sang the songs for Jesus that the earthly singers could not sing.

Barclay, W. (2001). [*The Gospel of Luke*](#) (p. 28). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

Can the threefold, deliberate phrasing in the Greek of, “wrapped him in cloth strips, placed him in a manger, because there was no place,” perhaps anticipate the same threefold rhythm of “wrapped him in linen cloth, placed him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had yet been laid” (23:25) so that birth and burial mirror each other?

Luke Johnson, *The Gospel of Luke*, (The Liturgical Press, Collegeville: MN) 1991, 53.

Hebrews 10:11-14

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Gospel Application:

Are you able to experience Christmas by breaking from every day life?

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*Long lay the world
In sin and error pinning*

*Till He appeared,
And the soul felt it's worth!*