

It's a Boy

Lk 2:8-20

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Births are a reason to celebrate.
- B. God had to tell about the birth of his Son. Let's look at this "birth announcement."

II. HEAVENLY ANNOUNCEMENT, vv 8-14.

- A. Shepherds were watching their flocks, v 8.
 - 1. These shepherds were living out in the fields.
 - 2. Shepherds were a lowly people.
 - a. They were considered untrustworthy.
 - b. Their work made them ceremonially unclean.
- B. The shepherds saw an angel, v 9.
 - 1. An angel came & stood before them.
 - 2. The glory of God shown around them—they were surrounded by the majesty of God.
 - 3. They were terrified.
 - a. No wonder!
 - b. They had never seen anything like this before.
- C. The shepherds heard the angel, vv 10-11.
 - 1. The angel reassured the shepherds, v 10.
 - a. The angel brought good news of great joy—the message the angel had was a cause for joy.
 - b. This message of great joy was for all the people—for everyone.
 - 2. The angel proclaimed the Messiah to the shepherds, v. 11.
 - a. In the city of David, a Savior was born.
 - 1) Bethlehem was the city of David's origin.
 - 2) The prophets had proclaimed the Messiah would come from Bethlehem.
 - b. A Savior was born.
 - 1) The name "Jesus" is the Greek form of "Joshua," which means "YHWH is salvation."
 - 2) Joseph was told to give his Son the name "Jesus," because he would save his people from their sins (Mt 1:21).
 - 3) Jesus brought salvation into the world.
 - c. He was the Messiah.
 - 1) The Jews were waiting on the Messiah.
 - 2) They needed to wait no longer.
 - d. He was the Lord.
 - 1) "Lord" means "ruler."
 - 2) Here, the Ruler of the universe had become flesh.
 - 3. The angel gave a sign to the shepherds, v 12.
 - a. They would find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths.
 - 1) These cloths were customarily used.
 - 2) They kept the babe warm & protected.
 - b. They would find the babe in a manger.
 - 1) Probably this was a stone feed-trough.
 - 2) That's the unusual thing.
- D. The shepherds saw a host of angels, vv 13-14.
 - 1. A choir of angels suddenly appears, v 13.
 - 2. This choir praises God, vv 13-14. God deserved this praise.

III. A MARVELOUS ANNOUNCEMENT, vv 15-20.

- A. The shepherds go to find the Babe, vv 15-20.
 - 1. They look at each other and say, "Let's get going."
 - 2. They wanted to see what the Lord had made known to them—they knew God had spoken.
 - 3. They went with haste & found everything—they couldn't wait.

- B. The shepherds made known what they had seen, vv 17-18.
 - 1. They told people what had been told them about the child, v 17.
 - 2. All who heard the shepherds were amazed, v 18.
- C. The shepherd's visit made the boys' mother wonder, v 19.
 - 1. Mary, like all mothers, treasured these things in her heart—she kept them close to her.
 - 2. Mary pondered these words in her heart—she knew she had given birth to no ordinary child.
- D. The shepherds praised God, v 20.
 - 1. They returned glorifying & praising God for all they had seen & heard.
 - 2. They did so because they found everything exactly as the angels said.

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. This is the world's greatest birth announcement.
- B. We, like the shepherds, should praise God for what he's done.