

December 22, 2024

The Christmas Story

Sheep go: "bahahaha!"

Stars go: "twinkle twinkle twinkle"

Shepherds go: "Praise God!"

The Christmas story, a fireside chat, as told by an old Pastor.

Once upon a time long ago, in a city called Nazareth there was a young beautiful girl named Mary who was engaged to a man named Joseph. He was a good man, strong and he honored God. He was a carpenter and made feed troughs for the **sheep**.

One day when Mary was alone in her house, an angel came in and spoke to her, saying; "Rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women." The angle was bright as the **stars!**

When Mary saw the angel, she was afraid! She never seen anything like this before. Her mind was racing, "I wonder what he wants?" as she crouched down in her chair trying to hide behind a water pitcher on the table.

"Do not be afraid Mary, God really loves you! You are going to have a baby boy, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be a great King and set many people free. He will heal the sick, restore sight to the blind and teach people how to love one another. He will be a **shepherd** to His people. His Kingdom will have no end."

Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth who was also pregnant. Mary decided to go visit Elizabeth and on the way there she walked by some **sheep**. It was a long walk and it was getting dark. The **stars** were coming out.

Mary heard voices in the dark and she looked around and saw **shepherds** looking for their **sheep**. Soon after, Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house.

Elizabeth was pregnant and she too, was expecting a baby boy. He would be called John the Baptist. When Mary walked into the house she said "Hello Elizabeth!" and the baby in her tummy leaped for joy! Elizabeth and the baby were filled with the Holy Spirit.

The angel Gabriel had prophesied to Zacharias, Elizabeth's husband, that John would be great and walk in the spirit and power of Elijah and turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. He would help prepare people to receive Jesus into their hearts.

Gabriel is the angle who will blow the trumpet at the return of Jesus! Today we celebrate the birthday of Jesus, but we also look with great anticipation to His Second Coming.

There were **shepherds** in the fields keeping watch over their flock, protecting the **sheep**, when all of a sudden, an angel in the sky appeared to them. The angel shined like the **stars!** He said to the **shepherds**, "Do not be afraid! Its all good because you are going to be very happy! Today the Savior of the world is born in the city of David. What I am saying is true. Go to Bethlehem, which is the city of David, and you will find a new born baby, wrapped up in cloth, lying in a feed trough."

Just then, a party broke out in the sky as hundreds of angels and heavenly hosts started to sing and dance and shout, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all the people on Earth!" From this point forward, everything changes!

So the **shepherds** left their **sheep** as the **stars** where shining bright in the sky, walked on over to Bethlehem looking for baby Jesus. They found Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, in a stable and told them all about the angels and what had just happened. The **shepherds** returned to their **sheep** out in the field, under the **stars** and praised God!

Please thank our shepherds, sheep and stars for helping tell the story of Jesus.

NOTE: second message only use if needed

The prophecy of Jesus Christ being born, is also the prophecy of His **government** Strong's #4951 Hebrew, *misrah* and it means "empire."

Isa 9:6-7 *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the **government** will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the **increase of His government and peace** There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with **judgment and justice** From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

Jesus was born to die on the cross. **He shed His blood**, died, was buried and rose from the grave. The resurrection power of Jesus Christ changed everything. From that moment on, the governments of the world went through a **paradigm shift**, from kings and oligarchs ruling the world, treating people like slaves, to Christians being empowered with the Holy Spirit, walking in love with the law of God in their heart.

Christianity brought forth 5 principles that changed the world and are woven into our U.S. Constitution:

1. All men are created equal with unalienable rights from God
2. Leaders are the servants of the people, walking in love
3. The authority to govern is in the people
4. All life is precious and worth protecting
5. Freedom of choice

Rev 1:5-6 *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in **His own blood**, 6 and has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Rev 5:9-10 *And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God **by Your blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 **And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.**"*