

Angel Heralds

Luke 2:8-15; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-49

Do you know why many people celebrate Christmas? What do you think it was like when Jesus was born? All of heaven was excited! And the angels were eager to share the good news. Maybe they talked together like this . . .

It's time! The time has finally come! "Jesus is born!" one excited angel bubbled with joy.

"But do you see? Hardly anyone is paying attention," added another.

"The priests in the temple continue to sacrifice the lambs," said another. "But I don't think they know what that means."

"I wish we could tell them that Jesus has been born," added another angel. "I just want to shout: 'We have GOOD NEWS for you! Your Saviour has been born!' "

The angel choir knew what they would sing. They were ready to tell the world about Jesus. It was almost time for their special concert. Tonight! Tonight they would sing. And all the world would remember it for years to come. Jesus, the Son of God, had come to this sin-filled planet to be born as a baby. They would tell the world.

Angels had been watching people on earth. They saw the priests in the temple. Those men were supposed to know about the Saviour's birth. Prophets had told about it for years. But those who had studied their prophecies weren't even thinking about it. The greatest event that would ever happen on earth had taken place. Yet only a few people were even looking for it.

No, people in the temple didn't remember. Or maybe they just didn't care. But a few people who lived near Bethlehem cared. At that very time a few shepherds who



The Message

We worship God when we sing joyful songs of praise.

Memory Verse

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”
(Luke 2:10, NIV).



were gathered on a hillside were studying the prophecies. They were among the few who knew it was time for the Saviour to come.

Soon the command rang out, and the angels hurried to take their places. In the middle of the night, Gabriel* led them to the skies above Bethlehem. There they waited while Gabriel spoke to the shepherds. Then the angel choir would sing.

Suddenly, God's glory lit up the night. The

shepherds in the field were terrified!

“Don't be afraid,” Gabriel announced. “I have good news. This very day, your Saviour has been born. You'll find Him in Bethlehem wrapped in soft cloths and lying in a manger.”

Immediately, the sky was filled with shining angels. The angel choir joined Gabriel, filling the night with the most glorious music ever heard. “Glory to our God. The highest glory to Him. Peace has come to earth. God has sent His best gift to humanity.” On and on they sang, as they slowly went back toward the heavens. Still stunned, the astonished shepherds watched.

Filled with awe, one shepherd finally found his voice. “What are we waiting for?” he asked. “Let's go to Bethlehem to see this babe the Lord has sent.”

And they soon left that hillside to go in search of the Saviour of the world—a baby, lying in a manger.

Did you know that the angels are still singing the glory song today? Our hearts can overflow with that joy of worshiping Jesus too. Like the angels, we can worship God in song.

* See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 780.



S A B B A T H

DO Sit with your family and read your lesson story together. Talk about the meaning of Christmas. Tell about your Sabbath School class project to give gifts to children. Make plans to get a gift.

SING Sing some Christmas carols. Talk about ways you can share them with others. If possible, make plans to go caroling around your neighborhood sometime soon.

S U N D A Y

SING For worship today, sing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing." Ask someone to help you find the word *herald* in a dictionary. What does it mean? Ask: How can we be heralds for Jesus?

DO Teach the memory verse to your family. Ask: What was the good news for the shepherds? What is the good news for us today? Thank God for His promises.

DO Put the doorknob hanger you made in Sabbath School on someone's doorknob this afternoon. Or cut one out of heavy paper and write

In Jesus' time, musicians came to the house to welcome a new baby. God sent very special musicians when Jesus was born.

"Hark! the herald angels sing" and "Jesus is coming again!" on the front and color it. On the back write your church's name and address.



M O N D A Y

THINK During worship today read Luke 2:8-15 together. Ask: Why were the shepherds afraid? What were the angels singing? What do angels do today?

DO Ask each person to draw a picture of an angel and cut it out. If you have a Christmas tree, hang your angels on it. If not, put yours where you will see it often to remind you of the memory verse.

DO Listen to some Christmas music before prayer. Thank Jesus for angels.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO For worship today, act out or draw the title of a sacred Christmas song. Have your family guess what it is. How many songs about angels can you think of?

DO Let each person pick a song to sing before prayer. Thank Jesus for beautiful Christmas music.

DO Go outside after dark and look at the night sky. Find the brightest star. Is it as bright as the star over the place where Jesus was born?

T U E S D A Y

READ Ask someone to help you find a book about sheep and shepherds in the library. During worship today, share what you learned with your family. Say your memory verse together. Ask each person to tell about the best "good news" they have ever heard. Then thank God for good news and happy times.



T H U R S D A Y

DO For worship, act out the Bible story with your family. Sing the chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High" when you come to the part about the angels singing.

DO Ask if you can help make angel- and sheep-shaped cookies. Sing or listen to your favorite Christmas songs while you work. Save some cookies for tomorrow night.

DO Invite some friends to your house to sing Christmas carols Friday night.



F R I D A Y

DO Before your guests arrive, plan the Christmas carols you will sing together.

SING Be a good herald. Be ready to share your lesson story with them. After singing, serve your cookies and a drink. Invite your guests to be heralds too. Plan to go caroling together sometime soon. Thank Jesus for friends.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Use the musical notes to discover the songs that the angels sang for the shepherds.

