



The Angel

God Blesses Those Who Worship

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

—Luke 2:13–14

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Savior



When it comes to the life of Jesus, the angels had the best seats in the house. The angels saw Christ's glory in heaven. From ages past, the angels worshiped Him in heaven as Jesus Christ, the Lord.

The angels must have been amazed when they saw the Lord they had been worshiping in heaven go to the earth He had created. One day, the angels saw Jesus stand up from His throne, take off His heavenly robe, descend to earth, and pour all His glory into a tiny embryo planted in a teenage girl in a dusty, remote village. What an amazing thing to think about: God became flesh!

The angels knew who Jesus was. They knew Him as the Creator God. That's why the Bethlehem story is remarkable to the angels. The angels understood the significance of Christmas unlike any of us could ever appreciate. Imagine the angels as they looked down from heaven that day. They saw the mighty God they had spent eternity worshiping become a baby in a smelly trough reserved for feeding animals. When the angels witnessed the birth of Jesus, they could not contain themselves. That is why they appeared to the shepherds and made an announcement at the top of their angelic lungs:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:14)

The angels were saying, "Wake up, shepherds! Wake up, world! Do you not realize what you have here? This is God!"

This baby, born in Bethlehem that night two thousand years ago, was God in the flesh. He is God who came because He loves you and gave Himself to take the punishment for your sins. The angels witnessed that, and they rejoiced when He was born in Bethlehem.

Who has a better grasp of the way things really are: the angels in heaven or us? James 4:14 says, "You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." Compared to eternity, our lives on earth are only a short time. Yet, if we're honest, we often live as if this world is all that there is. During the years God gives us in this world, what do we spend our time doing? We worship the things of this world. We worship our relationships. We worship our pleasures.

But think about the angels. They see things as they really are. They have seen the whole story of Jesus Christ from beginning to end. And how do they respond? They worship

God with Us



Christ. He is the center of their affection and attention. Right now, the angels are worshipping Jesus Christ, just as we should be. They are adoring Him and submitting to Him.

How can we worship God? We worship Him by receiving the gift of salvation that He came to provide. We worship Him by saying no to the temptations that assault us. We worship Him by saying, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

When you see the angel in a nativity scene, ask yourself: “How do I worship Christ? Am I making Him the center of my life?”

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Questions for Reflection

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1. How can you put Jesus in the center of Christmas and not get caught up in the world’s frenzy during the holidays?
 2. What are some traditions or practices your family can do together to worship Jesus this Christmas season?