

**Title:** Angels We Have Heard on High

**Passage:** Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*”

### **Introduction:**

#### ***Angels - misconceptions***

*People who have died and become angels got their “wings” (from movies)*

- Biblical Truth: Angels are created beings

Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

*Angels appear as chubby babies that play harps (from Greek mythology)*

- Biblical truth: no reverence they play harps. Verses do mention they have wings.

Ezekiel 1:6 (cherubim)

but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

Isaiah 6:2 (seraphim)

Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

#### ***Angels - Biblical overview***

Angels are created spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence without physical bodies.

- Key responsibility: to transmit and be ambassadors/messengers from God
- have human aspects: intellect, emotions, and will
  - intellect: able to converse with others
  - emotions: able to rejoice when a sinner repents
  - will: able to choose to serve or reject God (the latter followed Satan and cast into judgment)
- are multi-lingual
- are warriors

Genesis 3:24

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Isaiah 37:36

And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

#### **What was the angel’s message?**

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, “*Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*”

## Response to Angels: Fear

- Why? Previously in Old Testament, they usually appeared to provide judgment (Ex: Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction)
- Why fear judgment from God?
  - Contrast: some do not believe there will be judgment. A result from a subjective, small view of God.
  - Illustration: Thinking a really good tennis player compared to one's own child.
    - But in reality, not good at all. Even with a lot of practice, we could never reach expert level.
    - Perception of how "good" we are is based on the standard by which we compare.
- God is holy and has no imperfection.
  - We could never be perfect no matter our own effort and can never meet his standard of perfection.

Matthew 5:48

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Any sin before a holy God deserves judgment.

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

### Angel's message: Good news of a Savior

Luke 2:11

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- Good news Jesus came to be our Savior!

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that *Christ died for our sins* in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

- true joy and peace can be had through Jesus!
  - In Jesus, we can have true peace with God (the penalty and judgment of our sin paid for by Jesus' death on the cross)
  - In Jesus, we can have true joy (grounded in God Himself and His promises)

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.