

The Heavenly Host and the Humble Shepherds

A Study of Comparison and Contrast in Luke 2



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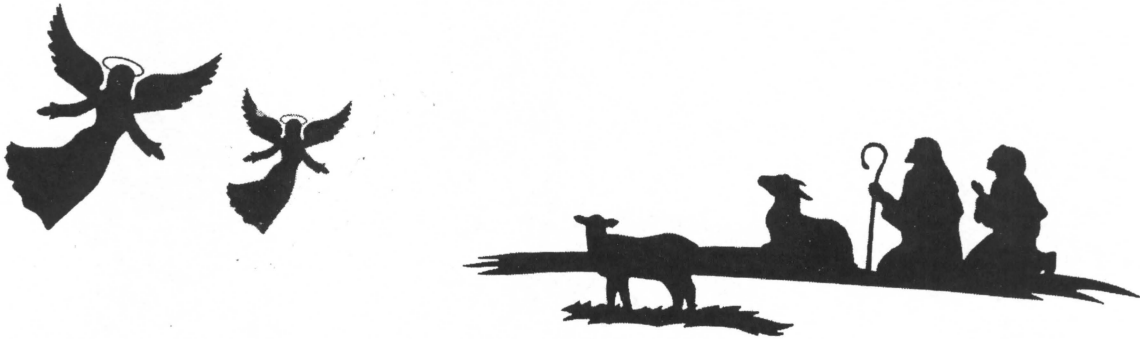
Observation at Christmas time:

In a proper study of the scriptures, three steps are necessary:

1. Observation—Asking **What is here?**
2. Interpretation—Asking **What does it mean?**
3. Application—Asking **What does it mean to me?**

Frequently the Bible student skips the first two steps and majors on application.

In the study of the beloved Christmas story of the angelic appearance to the shepherds, we will focus on the first step, that of observation. May we be blessed at this Christmas season by contemplating the divine condescension of God to communicate the gospel to the outcasts of society. These lowly shepherds were honored to be the first to witness the divine-human gift and to be the first communicators of that blessed truth to others.



	THE ANGELS	THE SHEPHERDS
1	Lost a Commander	Gained a child
2	Knew Christ for eons	Met Christ at His birth
3	First met Him at their creation	First met Him at His incarnation
4	Worshipped the eternal son	Worshipped the divine-human infant
5	Traveled vast distances	Went to the nearest town

6	Appeared in brilliant light	Shrouded in earthly darkness
7	Made a startling appearance	Reacted in extreme fear
8	Spoke 56 words to the shepherds	Spoke 24 words one to another
9	Related a stupendous message	Received a divine commandment
10	Condescended to a lowly class	Humbly received the joyous message
11	Were the first heavenly being to proclaim the gospel	Were the first humans to share the gospel
12	Shared a tremendous message	Responded with genuine trust
13	Focused on the divine Redeemer	Evidenced genuine faith in the Savior
14	Returned to their heavenly abode	Returned with a detour to share the good news

