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9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

Exod. 24. 16: The glory of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai. Acts 7. 55: (Stephen) looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Isa. 52. 7: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Rom. 5. 11: We joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

11 For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Matt. 1. 21: Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Rev. 19. 16: He hath on his vesture, and on his thigh a name written, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Phil. 2. 11: Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Dan. 7. 10: Thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. Psa. 103. 20, 21: Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of all that do his pleasure.

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.

Eph. 3. 21: Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Isa. 49. 13: Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains; for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Beth-

the Son of God is accompanied with manifestations of his divine origin. **Came upon them.** "Burst upon them," a sudden appearance. **The glory of the Lord.** A supernatural divine illumination, such as accompanied most messages of God. 3. How glorious must the King appear whose servants are so bright! **Sore afraid.** "Feared a great fear." So trembled Manah, and Zacharias, and Mary, at the angel's coming. 4. Even the purest hearts become conscious of unfitness when God's messengers are before them. 5. If saints tremble at the coming of an angel, how will sinners quake when they meet the Lord!

10. **Fear not.** The angel, like the Gospel, first awakens fear, and then removes it. **Good tidings.** News of pardon to sinners; salvation to men; the coming of Israel's King; the bruising of Satan's head; the universal establishment of Messiah's rule—surely these were good tidings. **To all people.** In the original, "the people," referring originally to Israel, yet through Israel to the rest of the world.

11. **Unto you.** 6. He is a Saviour to us, as surely as to the shepherds. **City of David.** A name given to Bethlehem as the birthplace of King David; and in the prophecy of Micah announced as the birthplace of the Messiah. **A Saviour.** The most precious title of Christ is that which announces his mission "to seek and to save that which was lost." **Christ the Lord** Christ is the Greek word, the same as Messiah in Hebrew, meaning "Anointed." So he is here called "the Anointed Lord," at once proclaiming his royalty and divinity.

12. **A sign unto you.** Not a sign to strengthen their faith, for none was needed, but a token to distinguish the babe. **Find the babe.** Rather, "find a babe." They were to behold in a helpless, new-born infant, the world's Saviour, and God's Son. 7. See in all this the humanity, the humility, and the sympathy of our Saviour with us in every stage of our being. **Swaddling clothes.** Not garments, but bands wrapped closely around the body. **Lying in a manger.** The mangers from which cattle feed in the East are generally made of small stones and mortar in the shape of an open box; and it is not unusual for little children to sleep in them still. 8. The hearts of men are like the inn of Bethlehem, in which the Saviour, crowded out of the highest place, is compelled to take the lowest.

13. 14. **A multitude of the heavenly host.** That is a throng of angels and heavenly beings, of whom there may be many orders. See Col. 1. 16. "An angel choir in the gallery of the firmament."—Whedon. **Glory to God in the highest.** This may mean either 1. The highest measure of glory. 2. From the highest order of creation, (angels). 3. To God, the highest over all. 4. In the highest heaven, as contrasted with the peace on earth. **On earth peace.** These angel choristers saw the ultimate result of the Gospel, in bringing peace to men. 1. Peace between God and man, through the atonement. 2. Peace between man and man, through a common love to Christ. 3. Peace among nations through the influence of the Gospel. Not without significance is the fact that Christ was born at the only time, for centuries, when there was peace throughout the world. **Good-will toward men.** Either meaning that the birth of Christ is a token of God's love toward men; or, as some translate, "good-will among men."

15. **The angels were gone.** The vision fades, leaving the shepherds and their flocks. 9. Hours of rapt glory are only occasional, and they leave us with the rugged realities of life. **Let us now go.** The latter clause of the verse shows that this is not the utterance of a doubt, desirous of testing the truth of the message, but of ardent faith, eager to see that in which it already believes. 10. It is our privilege not only to hear about Jesus, but to go to him, and see him. **Bethlehem.** A village of Judah, six miles south of Jerusalem; famous in Old Testament history as