

Listening to Angels **Luke 2:8–14 (NKJV)**

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Angels are really something very rare in the Scriptures.

They appear whenever God needs to communicate with normal people.

More often than not it is the Angel of the LORD that appears to people.

Bible scholars believe that this is the pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus.

That is why it is such a monumental event when they do show up.

So here in our text, the angel appears to give a message of hope to the world.

It was a world lost in sin, without hope.

Millions have died in wars, and drought and of disease, but the Man of Peace had now come.

Angels are messengers who are usually sent with a message for someone.

That is the meaning of the word in both testaments.

They are God's messengers.

They announced the birth of Sampson,

The law was given by angels.

Acts 7:53 "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

They visited Jacob as he slept with the angels ascending and descending the ladder to heaven.

The visit in visions and in dreams as with Mary and Joseph to call them to parent the Christ child.

Many of them go unnamed. In the Bible only three angel names are known, Gabriel being the most familiar.

- I. What would you do if . . .
 - A. Now if an angel came to you would you listen to what he had to say?
 - 1. Would you stop your day or even your life to follow his instructions?
 - B. Now before you answer too quickly you might want to give it some thought.
 - 1. The angel in our text today gives a message to the shepherds and what do they do.
 - 2. They interrupt their evening and off to Bethlehem they go.
 - 3. But what about Mary and Joseph? They were asked to interrupt their entire lives because of what the angel tells them.
 - 4. So what would you do?
- II. Have you ever thought of books as people wanting to talk to you.
 - A. Some times I imagine my library as people who want to tell me something.
 - B. They want to share their knowledge and experiences.
 - C. But the Bible more so.
- III. But God has a greater messenger, His Son.
 - A. Hebrews 1:1-8 (NKJV) 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." 7 And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.
 - B. The Bible is God's message to us and for us.
 - 1. 2Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - 2. Today you can hear the voice of God, if you want.
 - 3. Then what will you do.