

# The Shepherds' Candle

1

## Luke 2:8-14

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

2

**Out of all the people that the angels could  
announce the birth of Christ, why  
Shepherds?**

**Shepherds were considered unclean and  
lowly in Jewish society.**

**Why not the priests or the  
religious scholars?**

3

**Sheep were an important commodity in  
Jewish society.**

**Sheep were important for:**

**Wealth**

**Food**

**Clothing**

**Sacrifice**

4

## **Sacrifice**

### **Burnt Offering**

Leviticus 1:10

### **Sin Offering**

Leviticus 4:32

### **Guilt Offering**

Leviticus 5:14-6:7

5

## **Abraham**

In Genesis 22, God calls Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Genesis 22:2

Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

6

### Genesis 22:6-14

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. <sup>7</sup> But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. <sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

7

### Genesis 22:6-14

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him was* a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of the place, **The-Lord-Will-Provide**; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

8

## Abraham

Abraham was to travel to **Mount Moriah** and it was there that God promised to provide a lamb.

9

## Abraham

### 2 Chronicles 3:1

Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where *the Lord* had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

10

## **Shepherds**

Shepherds take care of sheep.  
They are responsible for the welfare of the herd.

**Defend** – 1 Samuel 17:34-36

**Water** – Genesis 29:2-10

**Rest** – Jeremiah 33:12

**Know** – John 10:3-5

**Number** – Jeremiah 33:13

**Secure Pasture** – 1 Chronicles 4:39-41

**Search for the lost** – Ezekiel 34:12-16

11

## **Shepherds**

The Temple flocks were pastured  
in the Bethlehem area.

It is possible that the angels  
appeared to the shepherds that  
were caring for the sacrificial  
sheep.

12

## **Shepherds**

Think about it ... the temple  
shepherds came and  
worshipped the ultimate  
sacrifice.

13

## **Substitute**

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd: the  
good shepherd giveth his life  
for the sheep.

14

## Substitute

### 1 Peter 1:18-20

knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.

15

## Substitute

### John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

16



## **Substitute**

### **Isaiah 53:7**

He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is  
silent, So He opened not His mouth.

17

## **Substitute**

### **Revelation 5:12**

Saying with a loud voice:

**“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**

To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and  
blessing!”

18

## **Sheep**

**Sheep were important for:**

**Wealth**

**Food**

**Clothing**

**Sacrifice**

19

## **Sheep**

**Sheep were important for:**

**Wealth – He is my inheritance**

**Food – He is my nourishment**

**Clothing – I am clothed in His righteousness**

**Sacrifice – He is the final sacrifice from my sin**

20

**After the shepherds had worshiped  
the Christ child, they went out  
proclaiming what they had heard  
and seen.**

**Will you?**