

Already Found

By Red Miller

“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen which were just as they had been told. Luke 2:15-22

Driving with his uncle one evening before Christmas, a six-year-old grandson noticed Venus brightly shining in the southern sky. He asked if it might be the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. “Maybe,” his uncle answered, “but we don’t have to go and search for Jesus. They already found Him.”

God continued to reveal his Son, but not to those we might expect. Luke records that Jesus’ birth was announced to shepherds in the fields. These may have been the shepherds who supplied the lambs for the temple sacrifices that were performed for the forgiveness of sin. Here the angels invited the shepherds to greet the Lamb of God (John 1:36), who would take away the sins of the whole world forever.

What a birth announcement! The shepherds were terrified, but their fear turned to joy as the angels announced the Messiah’s birth. First the shepherds ran to see the baby; then they spread the word. Jesus is your Messiah, your Savior. Do you look forward to meeting him in prayer and in his Word each day? Have you discovered a Lord so wonderful that you can’t help sharing your joy with your friends as the shepherds did?

The greatest event in history had just happened! The Messiah had been born! For ages the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds. The good news about Jesus is that he comes to all, including the plain and the ordinary. He comes to anyone with a heart humble enough to accept him. Whoever you are, whatever you do, you can have Jesus in your life. Don’t think you need extraordinary qualifications—he accepts you as you are.

The story of Jesus’ birth resounds with music that has inspired composers for 2,000 years. It is the basis of modern choral works, traditional Christmas carols, and ancient liturgical chants.

Anita and I wish you all a blessed and Joyful Christmas!

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philip. 1:4/