

THE GIFT OF THE LAMB OF GOD

This lesson will study four aspects of the First Christmas Gift given to the Bethlehem shepherds, the Gift of the Lamb of God (Luke 2:8-20).

1. We will examine our lesson text by three homiletic points (Lk.2:8-20)

Message to the Bethlehem Shepherds (Lk.2:8-14).

Lk.2:8-9 “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified”.

Lk.2:10-12 “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Lk.2:13-14 “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Message among the Bethlehem Shepherds (Lk.2:15-16).

Lk.2:15 “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Lk.2:16 “So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

Message from the Bethlehem Shepherds (Lk.2:17-20).

Lk.2:17-18 “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.”

Lk.2:19 “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Lk.2:20 “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

2. What could be a better First Christmas Gift than to give the temple Bethlehem shepherds the Lamb of God?

These temple Bethlehem shepherds have a long history of tending the sacrificial lambs of Shadow Christology (Heb.8-10).

These Bethlehem shepherds were members in one of the **oldest Redemptive fraternities** in human history. It goes back to the Garden of Eden and the fall of Adam (Gen.2:17; 3:8, 11).

(Heb.10:1) “For the Law, since it has only a **shadow of the good things to come** and not the very form of things, **can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.**”

Abel was also a member of this fraternity.

(Gen.4:2) “Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” “Abel, on his part also brought of the firstling of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering.”

(1 John 3:12) “And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brothers were righteous.”

3. In 5BC, the angel of the Lord was sent to the Bethlehem shepherds to announce the birth of the Lamb of God and the Savior of world (Lk.2:10-14).

You will remember that David grew-up as a Bethlehem shepherd boy (1 Sam.16:11; 17:20, 34-37).

(Lk.2:11) “For today in the city of David there has been **born for you a Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.” (Lk.2:1-6; Micah 5:2)

In the 1st century AD, John the Baptist announced to Israel that Jesus was “the **Lamb of God** who would take away the sin of the world!” (**John 1:29**; Rev.5:6-10)

(Rev.7:17) “For **the Lamb** in the center of the throne **will be their shepherd**, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” (Rev.12:11)

(Rev.21:27b) “Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (Rev.13:8)

Jesus is also the Great Chief Shepherd of the church (1Pet.5:1-4; 2:25).

4. As the sacrificial Lamb of God, Jesus Christ died one death for “the sin of the world”.

Resolving the consequences of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) (John 1:29; Rom.5:12-21) – Spiritual Death!

(Heb.10:10) “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once for all**.”

(Heb.10:14) “For by one offering He has perfected **for all time** those who are sanctified.”

(Heb.10:18) “Now where there is forgiveness of these things, **there is no longer any offering for sin**.”

- **By this one death** on the cross of Golgotha, Jesus Christ fulfilled the entire Levitical sacrificial system of Shadow Christology (Rom.10:4; Heb.8-10).
- **By this one death**, Jesus Christ satisfied the justice of God of condemnation of the transgression of AOS (Gen.2:17; Rom. 3:21-30; Eph.2:1-10).

(Heb.9:15) “For this reason **He is a mediator of a new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” (Heb.9:23-28)