

NAME:

GRADE:

THE SHEPHERDS

On that night some shepherds were tending their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. Suddenly great light shone upon them, and they saw an angel of the Lord standing before them. They were filled with fear, as they saw how glorious the angel was.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angels, “for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all mankind. Today in the city of David is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And then they saw that the air around and the sky above them were filled with angels. Praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will.”

While they looked with wonder and listened, the angels went out of sight as suddenly as they had come. Then the shepherds said one to another. “Let us go over to Bethlehem, and see this wonderful thing that God has made known to us.”

As quickly as they could, they went to Bethlehem, and there they found Mary and Joseph, and the little Babe lying in the manger. They told Mary and Joseph, and others also, how they had seen the angels, and what they had heard about this Infant. All who heard the story wondered at it; but Mary, the Mother of the Child, said nothing. She thought over all these things and silently kept them in her heart. After their visit, the shepherds, praising God for the good news that He had sent them, went back to their flocks.

In this way the birth of the savior was made known to the faithful people who were praying for His coming. The savior did not appear to the rich or powerful, but plain, simple, and unknown shepherds. He was poor, and therefore He chose poor men as His friends. The poor and the humble are to be first in His kingdom.

The shepherds had great faith and devotion. In the child-hood of Jesus they adored the great God of eternity; in His littleness they honored His humility; in His swaddling clothes they saw His poverty; in the hardness of the manger they wondered at His love and sacrifice. They drew close to Him and offered their little gifts with loving and grateful hearts.

Eight days passed. Then, according to the Law, Mary and Joseph held the religious service in which a Jewish child was given a name. They called the Child Jesus. The name Jesus means “Savior”. It was the name the angel said He should have. The very name of this Child told what He would do for men. God became Man to save the world.

CHAPTER 4: THE SHEPHERDS

- 1) WHEN DID THE ANGEL APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERD?**

- 2) WHAT DID THE ANGEL SAY TO THE SHEPHERDS?**

- 3) WHERE DID THE SHEPHERDS TRAVEL TO?**

- 4) WHERE WAS JESUS BORN?**

- 5) WHY WAS HE BORN IN SUCH A HUMBLE PLACE?**

- 6) HOW WAS THE BIRTH OF JESUS MADE KNOWN TO ALL?**

- 7) WHAT DOES SAVIOR MEAN?**

