



Part Three
Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
December 22, 2013

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Star – Divine Guidance
- 2 Shepherd – Fulfillment of Prophecy / Support for the Underdog
- 3 _____

PURPOSE #1: ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE MESSIAH (Luke 2:6-14)

► Content of Angelic Message

- 1 When? Today
- 2 Where? Bethlehem
- 3 Who? Savior / Messiah / Lord

► Content of the Heavenly Company's "Song"

- In Heaven ► Glory to God
- On Earth ► Peace to People

PURPOSE #2: PROTECT THE CHRIST CHILD FROM SATANIC ATTACK (Matthew 2:13-16)

► Is Revelation 12 about Christmas? (also see 1 John 3:8b)

- 1 There is evil in our world

- 2 Evil can be traced back to an angelic rebellion against God
- 3 That rebellion was led by Satan
- 4 The rebel angels were defeated & cast out of heaven to earth
- 5 Satan & all demons know their time of evil influence is short
- 6 In the meantime, the powers of hell contest every move of God

WHERE DID ALL THESE ANGELS COME FROM?

- 1 Gabriel visits Zechariah in the Temple in Jerusalem (Luke 1:11-20)
- 2 Gabriel appears to Mary in Nazareth 6 months later (Luke 1:26-37)
- 3 An angel stops Joseph from divorcing Mary (Matthew 1:19-22)
- 4 A glorious angel appeared to shepherds outside of Bethlehem (Luke 2:9)
- 5 A huge company of angels appear to the Bethlehem shepherds (Luke 2:13-14)
- 6 The Magi were warned in a dream (probably by an angel) about Herod (Matthew 2:12)
- 7 An angel warned Joseph to escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13)
- 8 An angel informed Joseph it was safe to return to Israel (Matthew 2:19; cf. 2:13)
- 9 Joseph was warned in a dream (probably by an angel) to avoid Judea (Matthew 2:21-23)

- I will carefully re-examine the "Christmas chapter" of Revelation 12 this week.
- I'm becoming a follower of Jesus today.



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on winter break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the winter break.

Lesson Aim: *To grow in our understanding of why angels were involved with the birth of Christ and the significance of that for our lives today.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Icebreaker: What are some different ways you've seen angels portrayed in popular culture?

1. In Sunday's message, Pastor Scott said there are two clear purposes for why God involved angels with the birth of Christ. What were they?
2. **READ** the main Scripture verses from Sunday's message. Next to each section, write down how the angels fulfilled one of these two purposes.
 - **Luke 2:6-14:**
 - **Revelation 12:1-7:**
 - **Matthew 2:13-18:**

3. What stands out to you most about the angels' involvement with the birth of Christ? Why?
4. What do we learn here about conflict between followers of Christ and evil?
5. What battles are you facing right now? How might evil be a part of it?
6. **READ Ephesians 6:10-18.** What can you do to become stronger for spiritual battle with evil? How can you depend more strongly on God in your battles? How can you involve fellow believers to help in your battles?
7. What are some ways we can "announce" the Good News of Jesus to some of the people God has placed in our lives this holiday season (through words or actions)?

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our friendly, message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.