LOVE

Christmas

Why the Shepherds?

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Why the Shepherds?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eScaPHH39E

> *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
>
> ISAIAH 9:6

Long before the night Bethlehem first glowed with heavenly light, the prophet Isaiah declared a promise that would change the world:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

That promise was fulfilled in the quietest of ways—through a baby laid in a manger. But one question has always stirred my heart: Why did God choose to announce Jesus' birth to shepherds first?

Shepherds were not revered in society. They were considered ordinary, even overlooked. Yet heaven bypassed palaces and temples to deliver the most glorious news to them. In that single choice, God made His message unmistakably clear: the gift of Jesus is for everyone. Not just the powerful, the wealthy, or the religious elite—but for the humble, the weary, the forgotten, and the faithful few watching sheep beneath the stars.

There is deeper meaning still. Those shepherds were likely tending lambs destined for temple sacrifice. Unknowingly, they were caring for symbols of what Christ Himself would become—the ultimate, perfect sacrifice.

Years later, John the Baptist would proclaim, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

Born in humility, Jesus came with a holy purpose: redemption. The shepherds didn’t just witness a newborn King—they stood in the presence of the sacrificial Lamb sent to save mankind.

At the cross, that purpose was fulfilled. Jesus became both our Rock and our Lamb—our firm foundation and our perfect sacrifice. Because of Him, even in the midst of life’s storms, we can hold fast to joy.

The award-winning group Selah captures that truth so beautifully in their song “The Rock Is My Foundation.” Written from the depths of band member Allan Hall’s grief and loss, its lyrics remind us that when life doesn’t unfold as planned, Jesus remains unshaken:

“Your strength is unrestrained, it knows no limits. And I know that I am safe with You here…‘Cause the Rock is my foundation—my hope and my salvation, when the walls around me start to fall. When the prayers get their answers, but not the ones I pictured, what a gift to be with You through it all.”

The Good News: Just as Jesus’ birth was first announced to humble shepherds, His coming is still for everyone. No status required. No perfection demanded. He came for all—and He remains with us through it all. What a gift that truly is.

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting us not in our perfection, but in our humility. Thank You for choosing the lowly, the weary, and the forgotten—because that means You choose us too. Be our Rock when life feels uncertain. Be our Lamb who takes away our sin.

This Christmas, anchor our hearts in the truth that You are with us through it all. We trust You, we worship You, and we thank You for the gift of Your redeeming love. Amen.

Karen Good

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