

Christmas Words – “Grace & Truth”

Christmas & the Gospels

December 21, 2025

INTRO ...Christmas in the Gospels—and the Whole Bible

...The "Narratives of Matt & Luke" (The Christmas story and scenes)

Luke 2:8-14 ⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (KJV)

...The "Theological Explanation" of John ... The "Incarnation" (Jn 1) ... John Tells “The Christmas Story”

Jn 1:1-5, 14-17

...v. 14 ... there's a **“technical term” for Christmas— “Incarnation”** ...and When it Happens—It lets us "SEE" something that we Desperately Needed to See!

...Luke's Story Told and John's Explanation Given ...Story Words (manger & Maji, Bethlehem & shepherds, angels & starry nights) ...Explanation Words (Grace & Truth)

TRUTH

...What is that and why does it matter that we see it?

- There is something called "Truth" in God's Creation!
 - In a world with no absolutes or certainties???
 - **There IS an Explanation for Everything!** ...There is a "True North"
 - ...There is an **ORIGIN!** ...There is an **Act that "defines existence"**—which means there is an **ACTOR!**
- **This doesn't feel like a babe, a manger, a starry night, and angels singing. ...But It's John's Christmas Story!** ... *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...full of grace and truth.”* Jn 1:14

GRACE

...What is that and why does it matter that we see it?

- Informing a Scene from Luke's Storyline ...Luke's “Heavenly Host”

Lk 2:9, 13-14 “And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ...¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

What Does This Scene Look & Feel Like? ...What does it mean that “Angels appeared” ... a “multitude of the heavenly host” ???

"...‘Yahweh Sabaoth’ ...is usually translated “Lord of hosts.” ...Here’s the problem: we might overlook this title of God because its English translation doesn’t awe like its Hebrew original. To us, a “host” can be a “multitude” or can describe an entertainer. But in Hebrew, “host” is far more majestic. ...The Lord of hosts is the God of armies. The divine title regularly appears in battle settings. David didn’t drive out the invading Philistines alone; the “Lord of hosts” gave the victory ([2 Sam. 5:10; 6:2](#)). “The King of glory” is “the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle . . . the Lord of hosts” ([Ps. 24:8, 10](#)). God is a warrior who commands heaven’s armies against our most vicious foes. ...Herman Bavinck called the Lord of hosts the “king in the fullness of his glory, who, surrounded by regimented hosts of angels, governs the whole world as the Almighty, ...” **William Boekestein**, "Lord of Hosts", Table Talk Magazine, Aug. 2022

...THIS might inform Luke’s little line—“and they were filled with great fear”

"For centuries, artists have portrayed angels as beautiful humans with wings and glowing light, complete with halos, harps, and flowing white gowns (or perfectly sculpted bodies). But is that really what angels look like? Angels have inspired all sorts of imaginative stories and depictions, but what’s left when we separate fact from fiction? In order to know the truth, we have to ask, what does the Bible say about angels? ...Angels haven’t always existed. According to Scripture, they’re part of the universe God created. In a passage that refers to angels (the “host” or “armies” of heaven), we read, “You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host . . . and the host of heaven worships you” (Nehemiah 9:6)." **Wayne Grudem**, "Angels in the Bible - What do We Actually Know about Them?"

"No one knows what these strange six-winged creatures with feet and eyes and intelligence are. ...Given the grandeur of the scene and the power of the angelic hosts, we had best not picture chubby winged babies fluttering about the Lord’s ears. According to verse 4, when one of them speaks, the foundations of the temple shake. We would do better to think of the Blue Angels diving in formation before the presidential entourage and cracking the sound barrier just before his face. There are no puny or silly creatures in heaven. Only magnificent ones." **John Piper**, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts"

...When we are misinformed about "angelic beings" and they are these "unimpressive, unimposing, cute creatures"—It rather changes the Storyline! —which may mean we don’t fully get” the scene!

?? — What if they weren't on the scene in the fields around Bethlehem to "rejoice" and "sing" like some choir!

- **Earthly Ignorance #1 ...Angels aren't Cute!**

Dan 7:9-10 ⁹ “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

...Peter too was ignorant of the LARGENESS of This Story! ...When earthly forces came to Arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane—Peter pulls out a sword!!! ...He's Going to Engage This Moment with a Little Sword!

Matt 26:53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

- **Earthly Ignorance #2 ...God Isn't Santa Claus! ...And Everyday Isn't Christmas!**

Is 2:12 For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

Jer 46:10 That day is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, to avenge himself on his foes. The sword shall devour and be sated and drink its fill of their blood.

...?? - Why Does Such a Day Exist? ...Why THIS Reaction from God?

Is 65:1-3¹ I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name. ² I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; ³ a people who provoke me to my face continually,

Matt 26:53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

?? - What if the Assignment of Those Angelic Troops at the 1st Christmas was different?

?? - What if that Silent Night, that Holy Night had been the night that God put an end to all human sin!

- **INSTEAD ...it is the scene of "The Incarnation"!!—Jn 1:1-3, 14-15.**

?? - What was being revealed to us? ...that God, who could have RIGHTLY exercised his judgment against us—was expressing His Glorious Grace instead! ...John's Further Explanation of the Incarnation:

John 3:16-20 ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

...This Famous Verse "Gains Some WEIGHT" when I'm Not Ignorant—that Everyday is NOT Christmas Day! ...There IS a Day of JUDGMENT!

The Needs of Our Word--& the Needs of My Life—Are MUCH BIGGER Than We've Imagined!

... Our Problem cannot be solved by mangers and Maji or even someone pulling a sword out and fighting for a cause!

Heb 2:9 ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

...The Birth of the Christ Exists—because the Death of the Christ Needs to Exist! ...but Why??