



## Knowing Peace

Angel's Song • Luke 2:8-20

*Perhaps no other passage in the Bible is more associated with Christmas than this one. It contains the shortest of the four songs, but the one that reaches the farthest—from the highest in heaven to lowest on earth!*

How does this song help us to live in harmony with God's purpose for our lives?  
How can we align our lives with the rhythm of our Redeemer as we wait for His second coming?

- ♪ What was it like the **first time** you heard the “good news” about the Lord Jesus Christ?
- ♪ What was it like when you **finally understood** and **accepted** the “good news”?
- ♪ What was it like the **first time** you shared the “good news” with someone else?

*Do we proclaim the Good News of Christmas out of DUTY or DELIGHT? Out of FEAR or FAITH?  
Do we proclaim the Good News at all?*

### Overview of the Passage:

- The Saying of the Angel (vv. 8-11)
- The Sign of the Angel (v. 12)
- The Song of the Angels (vv. 13-14)
- The Sharing of the Shepherds (vv. 15-20)

### Two Reasons to Break the Silence of the Season:

1. Hearing the “Good News” Is R.A.R.E.! Luke 2:9-14

*It is R.A.R.E. because It Is...*

#### 1. R-REVEALED from Heaven by the Lord!

- ↗ The Good News is from the LORD! (vv. 9, 13-15, 20)
- ↗ The Good News is God's REVEALTION! (vv. 10-11, 15)
- ↗ The Good News is God's revelation from HEAVEN! (vv. 13-15)

The Gospel Is Revealed by the Highest of the Highs!

#### 2. A-ANNOUNCED by Angels!

*“And behold, an angel... stood before them... Then the angel said to them... and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying....” (vv. 9-10, 13)*

The Gospel Is Announced by the Strongest of the Strong!

#### 3. R-RECEIVED by Shepherds!

*“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night... before them... around them... to them... I bring you... to you... to you.” (vv. 8-12)*

The Gospel Is Received by the Lowest of the Lows!

#### 4. E-EXPLAINS the Message and Meaning of Christmas!

The Gospel Explains the Greatest of the Great!

*The Saying of the Angel EXPLAINS the MESSAGE of Christmas (vv. 11-14, 17)*

📖 The Baby born in Bethlehem is our **SIN-BEARER!**

The “**Savior**” who meets the greatest need of all people!

📖 The Baby born in Bethlehem is God’s **PROMISE-KEEPER!**

The “**Christ**” who fulfills the greatest promises of God to His people!

📖 The Baby born in Bethlehem is the **GOD-REVEALER!**

The “**Lord**” who explains the greatest mystery of all: How God became one of us to save us from our sins and give us eternal life in the Spirit!

1 Timothy 3:16

The Song of the Angels EXPLAINS the MEANING of Christmas

🎵 “Peace on earth” (NKJV) = God has graciously chosen to make His salvation **available** down here on earth!

🎵 “Goodwill among men” (NKJV) = God has graciously chosen to **announce** His salvation to all people and graciously chosen to **elect** some people to receive it!

➤ **A Common but Wrong Explanation:** “Peace on earth due to people who are characterized by good will.”

NKJV “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

NIV “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace **to men on whom his favor rests.**”

NET “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace **among people with whom he is pleased!**”

NAS “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace **among men with whom He is pleased.**”

NLT “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth **to those with whom God is pleased.**”

➤ **A Biblical and Correct Explanation:** “Peace on earth among people on whom God’s gracious will rests.”

**Note:** See this same idea in *Ephesians 1:5-6, 9, 12, 14*

“The peace promised is not given universally to men who possess good will toward God but individually to men who are the recipients of His favor and grace.” ~Charles Ryrie

“God’s peace is not given to those who have good will, but to those who are recipients of God’s good will or favor.” ~ John Martin

“God’s gift of ‘peace’ will come not to all humanity but to those whom God is pleased to call to himself.” ~ ESV Study Bible

“The phrase means ‘those upon whom God’s will/favor rests’, and expresses the thought of God’s free choice of those whom He wills to favor and save.” ~I. Howard Marshall

**Note:** God’s gracious will to make salvation available through the incarnation includes both His general call to all and His effective call to the elect. Both are connected in the angelic chorus: His general call to all men to be saved is now available to all on earth **and** His effective call to His elect is now applied to those He has chosen. Both are clearly affirmed in Luke-Acts and rest of the NT.

“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.’ ~Jesus in Luke 10:21

“Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” ~Dr. Luke in Acts 13:48

🎵 Glory to God in the highest = God should be greatly **praised** for His gracious gift by all those who are chosen to receive it by faith through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ!

## 2. Sharing the “Good News” Is a **J.O.Y.**! *Luke 2:15-20*

**Sharing the Good News Is Always a J.O.Y. When...**

### 1. **J-JESUS** Comes First in Our Lives!

“the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go... and they came with haste’” (vv. 15-16)

### 2. **O-OTHERS** Come Second in Our Lives!

“Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told to them concerning this Child” (vv. 17-18)

### 3. **Y-YOU** Comes a Distant Third in Our Lives!

“Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.” (vv. 19-20)

## Break the Silence of the Season

*Break it by singing His praises and by sharing Him with others!*

*Suggestions: Play Christ-centered Christmas songs, celebrate Advent in your home, purchase Adopt-a-Family gifts, send a special note with a personal appeal to a lost friend, host an open house, make a special point to share the gospel with a neighbor or co-worker, invite a friend to Christmas Sunday!*