



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1601 ~ Shepherds see His Star.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem to be registered in a census, as commanded by the ruling Roman Caesar of the day, there were people everywhere. Mary and Joseph couldn't find a room to stay in. The innkeeper let them have a clean stall in the stables and this was where the baby Jesus was born. Although He would one day become the King of Kings and Lord of all, Jesus' start on earth was very humble. After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. These were long strips of material wound around newborn babies.

"Why," you might ask, "didn't God have Him born in a palace or even a nice upper class house or to one of the priests?" God's plans are often unacceptable to the rich and important people of the land. In Peter's 1st Epistle, Chapter 5, it says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." For the Messiah to be eligible to become the coming king, He had to come from the tribe of Judah as a descendent of King David, so he would not be born into a priestly household.

Mary and Joseph were humble and obedient people. They didn't know how things would develop for this special child of God. Yet God the Father timed everything to work out for a good start for His servant and beloved Son.

After Jesus was born, the angels in heaven understood more of God's plan to redeem human beings. They rejoiced about this and announced to people on earth the Redeemer's birth. But they didn't do this to the people you might have expected.

A Biblical record of the angels announcing the birth of the Messiah to shepherds on a nearby hillside is listed in the Gospel of Luke only. At that time, those who worked as shepherds were looked down upon in society. These shepherds receiving a visit from the angels were probably looking after animals that would be used in sacrifice during Temple worship as a substitute for people's sin.

The role of this first visit to earth by the Lord Jesus as a sinless man was to become the permanent sacrifice for sin for all human beings who've ever lived. Jesus' death satisfied the justice of God. But each person on earth needs to claim Jesus' work of forgiveness for themselves. Being made right in God's sight is done by accepting and trusting in Jesus' final finished work on the cross and that He arose from the grave, never to die again. Only the Lord Jesus has access to His Father in heaven and we can come to God in no other way.

Society has always had rulers and to varying degrees, less important people. And people in society usually know their place. God doesn't always reveal Himself to the most important people first. Remember the Bible account of Gideon? Gideon said that he was the least in his family. But God called him to a special task and Gideon obeyed. After a great victory that God gave the Israelites, the people should have praised and thanked God. But they wanted to elevate Gideon to the position of king instead and his children as rulers after him. Gideon said "No; God was their king". If Gideon had accepted and become their king, it would have been the end of the nation of Israel as God's special people. Gideon knew his place.

Does your place in society make you feel the work that you are doing is unimportant? You think there is no prospect of your efforts changing the world for others? God uses those who love and honour Him for His special tasks. In 1 Samuel, Chapter 2, God said: “Those who honour me I will honour; and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.” Be faithful in small things, for it will be worth it all some day. When Jesus comes back for those who love Him He will reward His faithful servants justly.

If you are doing a humble job for God, don't look with envy at someone else's work. Each person should be the best worker they can while doing what God has given them to do.

In all we do, we are to lift up the name of Jesus by our words and the manner of life that we live. Then others will see that being a follower of Jesus makes a difference for good in a person's life.

When the first angel spoke to the shepherds, they were very afraid. Many times in the Scriptures, angels told people not to be afraid at their presence. For those who love God, angels are valuable protectors and helpers. This particular angel gave the message of good news for all the people. The Saviour of the world had arrived in the city of David, Bethlehem, and the shepherds were told where to find Him.

Then a vast number of angels in the heavens appeared to the shepherds. They were praising God for the birth of God's own Son. The angels' visit to the shepherds is one of the most popular and happy parts of the Nativity re-enactments when celebrated each year.

The angels praised and honoured God. How are we to worship Him? Worship is an active response to God where we declare to Him His worth. The word “worship” was originally from “worthship.” We worship by doing acts of love and respect, praise, confession, thanksgiving and dedication, and also during Sunday morning worship services when in church.

In the book of Revelation, Chapter 5, it says: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever.” We praise God by recognising Him as the Creator and thank Him for all things He has made. We honour God by giving Him the credit He deserves. When our talents and abilities help us to get good results, we should thank God for what He has given us.

We give God glory by exalting and applauding His name. We tell others about His mighty works so that they can praise Him too. And we recognise God’s power when we acknowledge that He alone is able to meet our needs each day.

When we’re in church, we are to be thoughtful and reverent. Take time to speak to God before the service starts. During the service, let God speak to you and afterwards, speak to one another about the things of the Lord. But while worshipping the Lord, be very sure that your thoughts are not on other things or that your heart is far away. We can be distracted from worship by worldly things. And these distractions will never please the Lord.

One famous preacher said: “It’s certainly true that hardly anything is missing from our churches these days – except the most important thing. We are missing the genuine and sacred offering of ourselves and our worship to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

He also said: “Jesus was born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross, and rose from the grave to make worshippers out of rebels!”

Back in the beginning of time when God made the universe, everything was founded on truth. All the laws of nature were built on God's honesty. Then Satan came, causing no end of trouble. Satan has at least five names: the dragon (indicating ugliness and evil), the serpent (cunning and sly), Satan (an evil adversary against us), devil (a deceiver and slanderer) and the accuser (maker of lying accusations).

The Cross of Calvary spelt defeat for the devil. Before Christ, Satan is a defeated foe. He knows this. God knows it and you need to be sure of it too. Over time, all lies will be exposed on facts of truth. In the end times, the Kingdom of God will be the only kingdom that will survive, because it is the only kingdom that has within it the elements of truth and godliness.

The baby Jesus didn't stay small. Yet some people want to keep in their mind the remembrance of Jesus as a helpless little baby in a manger. He came to show us just how great God's love for people really was, and still is. The angels spoke of peace between God and us. Do you have that heart peace in your life? It comes from being right with God. Have you admitted your guilt and sin before Jesus and asked Him to be your own personal Saviour? A God who would give His own Son to redeem us, just simply has to be love. If you are willing to give up yourself to Him and His service, you can do this now. For no one who knows Christ needs to fear death and judgment.

The shepherds told everyone the good news that God's Messiah had come. Are we keeping this good news to ourselves? Do people living and working along side us know that we put Christ first in our lives? Let's not neglect sharing such good news with those in most need of it.

MUSIC

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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