



Arrival

Message Notes, December 10, 2017

Luke 2:8-10

In the “title song,” if you will, of our Arrival message series, Pastor Mike Hofer leads us through Luke’s account of the Christmas story, which reveals not only the arrival of the Christ child, but also the arrival of the presence and prophecy of God, and the common to the uncommon.

The Presence of God

The common shepherds, at the bottom of the social chain, were “keeping watch over their flocks” and suddenly an angel appeared, “and they were terrified” ...

- Biblical angels were not huge, winged, glowing figures; they were ordinary, human-looking messengers. It wasn’t actually the angel that was ominous and terrifying; it was “the glory of God that shone around them.” They knew (historically) that when people came into the presence of holy Yahweh, they were destroyed.
- So the angel quickly puts them at ease – “do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy – unto you is born this day a savior who is Christ the Lord!”

The Prophecy of God

- After 400 years of prophetic silence, the angel declared the long-awaited fulfillment of the prophecy. The shepherds, along with all the Hebrew people, had long remembered, recited and recounted the prophecy that a Messiah deliverer would be born. He has come. He has *arrived!* Good news indeed.

The Christ Child

The shepherds were clearly stirred – “let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened ... and they hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby.”

- “This thing,” they remarked – perhaps they were still unsure, confused, maybe just curious, but when they saw the child, their hearts were filled with joy, wonder and worship.
- May we respond in like manner – to the indescribable wonder that the One who created the heavens and the earth, would shrink Himself down to be born as a frail, vulnerable infant. All to the end of paying our ransom with his very life. Incarnation is the greatest arrival in all eternity.

The Common to the Uncommon

All three arrivals above are the story of our uncommon God breaking into our very common existence. These arrivals open the way for this fourth arrival.

- By God’s grace, we can, through humble faith, enter into His glorious story. Our common stories get absorbed into His uncommon glory.
- This season of Advent gives us great opportunity to surrender anew our common lives to His uncommon glory.
- For some, perhaps this is the time you will actually arrive into His uncommon, transforming story, as you trust for the first time in the “Savior who has been born unto you – Christ the Lord.”

Joyous Advent to all!