

## VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE

## Introduction

I. The Angelic Visitor to Zechariah, Lk. 1:11-20A. When the Visitor appeared *Gabriel, vs. 19*

1. As he was doing the Lord's work
2. Suppose he had been absent from church that day?
3. Angels observe our prayers and worship

B. The Message of the Angelic Visitor

1. Fear Not
2. Prayer Answered
3. Prophetic description of John the Baptist

C. The effect of the visit

1. He was troubled
2. He did not believe
3. He was judged for his lack of faith
  - a. Unbelief is a great sin.
  - b. What silence we would have today if every unbeliever were stricken dumb!

II. The Angelic Visitor to Mary, Lk. 1:26-38A. The name of this angelic Visitor.

1. Gabriel, the Power of God, vs. 26
2. Same angel as had 6 months previously appeared to Zecharias.

B. The place of the visit.

1. Nazareth, an obscure little village
2. The blessings of God will reach God's children, wherever they are.

C. The person to whom the angel appears -- Mary.

1. He addresses her as a favored human being.
2. He does not worship her as a goddess.

D. The message he brings of the Son to be born.E. The effect of the visit on Mary

1. She was afraid
2. She believed
3. She quietly & humbly accepted the favor bestowed upon her.

- NOTE also - the angelic visitor to Joseph - Matt. ch. 1:20-21



The best place in all the world to be is  
at the post of duty.

Nowhere else can such blessings be so confidently  
looked for.

If your duty calls you to stay at home  
and care for your loved ones,  
then stay there, and never suppose that you can have a  
bigger blessing somewhere else.

If your duty calls you to be in another city,  
or out in the streets or fields,

or at a prayer meeting,  
or in a store or factory,

or at a church function,  
or in the home of a friend,  
then be there, at whatever cost or inconvenience,  
and understand it is best for you to be there  
and nowhere else.

Be in the place of God's appointment,  
and stay awake and alert.

Suffer not your eyelids to shut,  
but sift and shake your own heart.

Examine yourself, and remember what a blessing and  
privilege it is to be a watchful shepherd,  
that an angel of comfort may come  
and sing redemption's song unto you.

C. The time was night, and the sky was cloudless.  
Hill & dale slept under the beath of the clear moon,  
and the quiet flocks were gathered to the  
shelter of the fold.

To such a scene came the first news of the Savior's birth!  
Not to man's busy places, where trouble & sorrow reign  
but to those peaceful folds,

sleeping in the bosom of the voiceless hills,  
came these welcome visitors from God's great outer space.

When the angels came with their messages of peace  
on earth, they came to a scene of green woods  
and grassy vales & solemn hills.

D. The glory of the Lord which came to this peaceful scene was the Shekinah glory of God which had appeared many times in early ages.

<sup>in Eden</sup> ~~It~~ It had gleamed as a flaming sword, turning every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

<sup>in Horeb</sup> It had flickered as a lambent flame in the burning bushes.

<sup>in Sinai</sup> It had hung as a great canopy <sup>OVER</sup> the mt. of the law  
<sup>in the wilderness</sup> It had marshalled the hosts of Israel for 40 years  
towering like a pillar of cloud by day and like a pillar of fire by night;

It had hovered as a glittering sun above the cherubim  
overshadowing the mercy-seat.

It had filled the temple of Solomon,  
flooding it with a brightness so intense that the priests could not enter to minister.

It was ~~the~~ the radiant cloud which ~~enfolded~~ out of sight the ascending Lord.

And It will shine from the cloud with which the Lord shall return in the glory of his second advent.

But never had it served a purpose so great and so blessed as on this most memorable of nights when, after centuries of eclipse,  
it suddenly reappeared and shone around these

<sup>\* This Shekinah Glory signaled the</sup> astonished shepherds <sup>near</sup>  
<sup>Deep</sup> Descent of Jesus to Earth <sup>Bethlehem.</sup>

E. And what did these humble shepherds do after their visit with the angels?

They believed; they moved and acted on their faith and demonstrated it; they witnessed of the Savior, and they returned to their occupation.

At first they were naturally afraid and excited, but their fear soon gave way to action.  
When the angels had gone away,

they said to one another,  
"Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see" ---  
not IF the thing is come to pass, but ---

"this thing which is come to pass."  
They did not go because they doubted,  
but because they believed.

It was a grand journey of faith -- this journey of the Shepherds from the sheep-fields to the manger.

BENEDICTION? May you have the Gladness of  
Christmas which is Hope;  
the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace  
that passes understanding;  
and the heart of Christmas which is  
the Love of God ~~which~~ in Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

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WAC Chapel - 18 Dec 77

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Nowood B.C. " " " " 1985

What is OUR attitude to God's Divine announcements?  
Do we as readily believe & act on our faith?

Having seen the Infant Savior,  
they immediately made known their story, first to Mary,  
and then to the busy crowd of travelers  
bustling about the inn.

No sooner had they found Christ for themselves,  
than they began to tell others about Him.

But the scripture record does not leave them here  
as evangelists in the streets of Bethlehem.

We are told in the 20th verse that they "returned"--  
returned to their ordinary work,  
to their flocks and folds,  
to those vales & hills from which they had come,  
and there in their own quiet life  
they "faught the good fight, and kept the faith."

God does not call every man to be an apostle.  
He wants preachers in private as well as in public.  
He wants the gospel to be told in sheep-folds,  
and in markets, and in shops,  
just as in places set apart for its proclamation.

And if God has met and forgiven you,  
then in the place where your daily lot is cast,  
in the sphere of your common duties and labors,  
stand forth<sup>as</sup> a witness for righteousness and for God;  
tell the glad tidings of peace & salvation to the  
sin-stricken, sorrow-laden men and women all around you.

Although the shepherds went back to their regular work  
and to their ordinary occupation, it was forever  
afterward bright with something of the angels' glory,  
and echoed the music of their hallelujah chorus. They  
went back to the same place and to the same work,  
yet it was different.

And after you meet God in a personal religious experience  
you may go back to your same job, yet it will be different.  
Lowly secular and manual tasks will be sanctified by  
a new and glorious motive and joy and meaning.

Common things will be transfigured,  
and all of life will be a sacrament,  
when you learn to do everything to the glory of God.

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