

HEAVEN IN THE REAL WORLD

December 8, 2013 Luke 2:8-21 by Bob Branch

MAIN IDEA: The angel's announcement of Jesus' birth is an invitation for us to seek and find him, who he is and what he does and to live in this mode of discovery.

1. Jesus gets the HIGHEST ENDORSEMENT.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." **Luke 2:9**

2. Jesus' IDENTITY and MISSION are revealed in the angel's announcement.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." **Luke 2:11**

SAVIOR (*soter*) Deliverer

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

MESSIAH (*christos*) Christ

Reigns.

"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the *kingdom* [reign] of God has come upon you." **Matthew 12:28**

LORD (*kurios*) Master

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" **Luke 6:46**

3. The Jesus EFFECT changes people.

GREAT JOY. (v. 11)

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." **John 15:11**

PEACE. (v. 14)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." **John 14:27** (Phil. 4:6-9)

GOD'S FAVOR. (v. 14)

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."... The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him... "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." **Luke 4:18-21**

4. His arrival was OUTSIDE-THE-BOX, the way God seems to like to work.

The ways of God are frequently different than we expect.

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" **Mark 4:41**

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." **Hebrews 13:2** ESV

How should we respond?

AMAZEMENT. (v.18)

Value it and take hold of it like **TREASURE**. (v.19)

PONDER it in your heart (v.19)

Glorify and **PRAISE** him. (v.20)