**R1039 Rumination for December 22, 2024** (to be Contined on December 25)

The **T**heme: **The Creatures at Christ’s Birth** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *﻿Shepherds…keeping ﻿watch over their* ***flock*** *by night.* Lk. 2:8

**The Thots: Special Christmas Rumination on "The Creatures at Christ's Birth" [See Song below]**

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**A. THE SHEEP SAW THE SIGHT at Night Lk. 2:8-14**

 *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping ﻿watch over their flock by night.*

 *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them…*

**1.** *And they* (the **S**hepherds taking care of the **S**heep) *were* ***A****fraid.* 2:9

1. The **S**ignificance of the **S**heep. [The Sheep when lost is completely helpless.]
2. As representing **M**an.
	* He is a sheep gone **A**stray – *All we like sheep have gone astray; ﻿* Isa. 53:6

*﻿﻿ We have turned every one to his own way; And ﻿the Lord ﻿hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all*

* + He is a sheep gone **A**way – *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, ﻿if he lose one of them doth not leave the ninety and nine ﻿in the wilderness, and ﻿**go after that which is lost, until he find it?* Lk. 15:4
1. As representing the **M**essiah and the **S**hepherd.

 *He is as a* ***L****amb* ***L****ed to the* ***S****laughter, and as a* ***S****heep before her* ***S****hearers*.... Isa. 53:7

 The **S**hepherd and the **S**heep:

* The Shepherd **S**earches for the lost **S**heep - *go after that which is lost, until He find it* Lk. 15:3-7
* The Shepherd **S**acrifices for the **S**heep –

*I am ﻿the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd ﻿giveth His life for the sheep.*  Jn. 10:11, 15

* The Shepherd **S**eals His **S**heep. *He knows His sheep, and is known of them*. Jn. 10:14

b. Then there was a **S**udden “**S***potlight”* - *the glory of the Lord* ***S****hone round about them…* Lk. 2:9

1. On the **S**pots (if any) of the **S**heep bred for the Temple **S**acrifices. Ct *without blemish* Lev. 1:10
2. Cf. Isaiah **S**eeing his **S**infulness in the Temple’s **S**ighting Isa. 6:1-5

*Then said I, Woe is me! for I am ﻿undone; because I am a man of unclean lips,*

 *and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips:* 6:5

1. Man’s **S**in under God’s **S**earchlight – *All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* Rom. 3:23

**2.** But the **S**hepherds were **A**ssured...  **2:10, 11**

 because of the **A**ngelic **A**nnouncement of… *good tidings of great joy* 2:10,12

1. It is **U**niversal in **C**haracter – *which shall be to all people*

 *to ﻿the Jew ﻿first, and also to ﻿the ﻿Greek (Gentile),* thus, the world. Rom. 1:16

b. It is **U**nique and **C**osmopolitan.

i) A **U**nique day in the **C**alendar - *this day*

* The **P**ivot of all **P**eriods - it split the calendar into two - BC and AD.
* The **P**eak of all **P**redictions - on this day the **I**nfinite became the **I**nfant Jesus. Gal. 4:4

 There was no other day before it, nor ever will be after it.

ii) A **U**nique **C**ity - **B**ethlehem in *the city of David*

* The Decreed **C**ity as the **B**irthplace of the Messiah. Micah 5:2 cf. Mt. 2:5

*But thou, ﻿Bethlehem Ephratah…out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ﻿ruler in Israel; Whose ﻿goings forth have been ﻿from of old, ﻿from ﻿everlasting.*

* The Decreed **C**ensus that **B**rought the **B**aby to **B**ethlehem. Lk. 2:1-4, 5

*And Joseph also ﻿went up…unto ﻿the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; ﻿(because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be ﻿taxed with Mary ﻿his espoused wife, being great with child.*

iii) A **U**nique **C**hrist - *a Saviour Who is Christ the Lord*

* As Christ – He is the *Good Shepherd*, come to **R**edeem the lost Sheep. Jn. 10:11

*I am ﻿the good Shepherd: the good shepherd ﻿giveth His life for the sheep.*

* As Lord – He is the *Chief Shepherd* come to **R**eward His Servants. I Per. 5:4

 *When ﻿the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall ﻿receive ﻿a crown of glory ﻿that fadeth not away.*

c. It is "**U**nto you" - a **C**ommitment by God to all those who would accept. Lk. 2:11

 *For ﻿unto you is born this day ﻿in the city of David ﻿a Saviour, which is ﻿Christ ﻿the Lord.*

i. It is **P**ublic yet **P**ersonal.

ii. It is to **A**ll, yet restricted to only those who **A**ccept.

 **To be Continued on Christmas Day in a Special Rumination, as below…**

**B. THE CATTLE SHARED THEIR SHED** because... **Luke 2:7, 16**

**1. There was no Room**. The Shed became … **Lk. 2:7**

**2. There was no Recognition.** because man was ...

**C. THE PIGEONS SPOKE OF SACRIFICE Luke 2:22-24**

**1. The Sacrifice of Pigeons by the Sinning Mother.**

**2. The Substitution of the Pigeons.**

**3. The Sacrifice of our Selves**.

 ***For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.***

**Points To Ponder:**

*Will* ***C****hristmas be* ***CHRIST****mas or Xmas to you - with* ***CHRIST******C****rossed out and other Creatures brought in?*

***THE ANIMALS AT CHRIST'S BIRTH***

**Luke 2:8-24**

Our Brother kind and good, Was humbly born in a stable rude,

The friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus, our Brother, kind and good.

"I", said the **Donkey**, all shaggy and brown, "I carried His mother up hill and down,

I carried her to Bethlehem town." "I", said the Donkey, all shaggy and brown.

"I", said the **Cow**, all white and red, "I gave Him my manger for a bed;

I gave Him my hay to pillow His head." "I" said the Cow, all white and red.

"I", said the **Sheep** with the curly horn, "I gave Him my wool for a blanket warm,

He wore my coat on Christmas morn." "I", said the Sheep with the curly horn.

"I", said the **Dove** from the rafter's high, "I cooed Him to sleep so He would not cry.

We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I." "I", said the Dove from the rafter's high.

So every beast, by some good spell, In the stable rude was glad to tell,

Of the gift He gave Emmanuel, The gift He gave Emmanuel.

Song by Dan Kelly, Kasey Chambers, and Paul Kell