

## THE MIRACLES OF CHRISTMAS

“THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS”

DECEMBER 16, 2018

### THE STORY OF THE SHEPHERDS

LUKE 2:8-20, NLT

<sup>8</sup>That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup>**Suddenly**, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup>but the angel reassured them. **“Don’t be afraid!”** he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup>The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup>And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>**Suddenly**, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup>All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, <sup>19</sup>but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

**God reserves the right to \_\_\_\_\_ at will to accomplish his purposes**

“‘My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the Lord. ‘And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.’ ISAIAH 55:8-9

**God loves to \_\_\_\_\_ in the ordinary**

“That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared...” LUKE 2:8-9

**God loves to hook an \_\_\_\_\_ on to the ordinary**

“Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them...” LUKE 2:9

“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others...” LUKE 2:13

**God’s interruptions are illustrations of His \_\_\_\_\_**

“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” LUKE 2:10-12

• **To \_\_\_\_\_ us**

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.” PSALM 37:23

• **To \_\_\_\_\_ us**

“I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives.” JEREMIAH 17:10

• **To \_\_\_\_\_ us**

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.” PSALM 18:2

• **To \_\_\_\_\_ us = to show His \_\_\_\_\_**

“Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.” PSALM 37:4

**Are you willing to let God \_\_\_\_\_ your schedule and \_\_\_\_\_ your plans as He sees fit?**