

December 25th



*“To know oneself is, above all,  
to know what one lacks.”*

—Flannery O'Connor

# Advent 2022

—A SEASON OF LONGING—

## “THE ANGELS & SHEPHERDS: LONGING TO SEE”

### Introduction:

Because we live in a fallen world and we await the consummation of God’s plans and purposes, our lives cannot but be characterized by longings. We often feel these longings in connection with the vocations to which we have been called. In these longings, however, we have hope because God will keep His promises just as He has said He will, and Christmas assures us of that.

**Key Point:** Our cause for celebration at Christmas is that the incarnation of the Lord Jesus has implications on both the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ levels.

### The Angels

- From the time of their creation, the angels of God have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ His works.

Job 48:4,7—<sup>4</sup> “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ...<sup>7</sup> when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Heb. 1:14—Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

- The angels were sent to proclaim the message of the \_\_\_\_\_ coming of the Lord to His people.

Luke 2:10-11, 14—<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord... <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Isa. 40:9-11—<sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

**Key Point:** The angels’ longing centers on the unfolding of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and purposes for the world.

### The Shepherds

- Though shepherds at times did not have the best reputations, their \_\_\_\_\_ was vital in an agrarian society and became an image of provision and protection.

Psa. 23:1-2—<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Ezek. 34:23—And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

- The shepherds received the message concerning Messiah and immediately \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Luke 2:15-17—<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

**Key Point:** The shepherds’ longing centered on \_\_\_\_\_ the promises of God for themselves.

## The God of the Angels & Shepherds

- In the incarnation, the longings of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ are met!

1 Pet. 1:10-12—<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.