

Thought for the Day – Week Commencing 27th December 2020

Luke 2:13-15 *New International Version – UK*

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’**

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’

What an amazing sight – a heavenly host praising God – these shepherds, first to hear the amazing news, were treated to the excited host of heavenly angels giving glory to God – Give glory to God today for all His amazing gifts to us.

Luke 2:16- 20 *New International Version – UK*

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The shepherds could not keep the good news to themselves, telling everyone who would listen the amazing story of how they found everything just as they had been told. Are you excited about sharing the good news? Pray for those who are called to teach and preach the Good News and all who are called to serve the cause of the Gospel.

Luke 2: 21 *New International Version – UK*

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The name Jesus, meaning God Saves (rescues), was given by the angel who visited Mary – showing that both Mary and Joseph trust what they have been told, their eight day old baby will become the Saviour of the World. Give thanks for the children in our families and our church family and pray they will grow in wisdom and faith.

Matthew 2:1-2 *New International Version – UK*

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’

Wisemen from the east, appear having followed a star, and began looking for the new king in order to worship him and bring their gifts. These men had assumed that a new king would be born in a Palace – they were wrong. Do you look for answers in the wrong places? Pray for those who seek Jesus.

Matthew 2:3-4 New International Version – UK

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

Herod is disturbed by the news, even though the Magi have come seeking a baby – Herod is already calculating the risk this birth would be to his throne. He immediately seeks counsel of those who were carefully reading scriptures to discern where and when the Messiah would appear. Herod links the news of a new king, immediately with those scriptures and rumours about a promised Messiah, a King appointed and anointed by God. Pray for those who are disturbed by what God is doing.

Matthew 2:5-6 New International Version – UK

⁵‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written:

**⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.... Pray for peace in Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:7-8 New International Version – UK

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’

Herod lays his careful plans to discover the whereabouts of the child, but worship was far from his intent. Not all who seek Jesus have the right motives. Worship Jesus today, Saviour, Lord, Messiah, King, Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd.