

December 18, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Luke 2:8-11 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the LORD. (NIV)

Ok, just for a moment, think about what it would have been like to be out in the fields that night, watching over your sheep. It was at night that wolves would attack the flock. It was at night, when they had no flashlights or headlamps. It was at night when the sounds around them would be just a little louder than usual. And then THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM! The language here means it was sudden and without warning. Quiet and dark and then loud and light! The glory of the LORD shone around them. This is the Shekhinah glory of the LORD that also appeared in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. This is light that illuminates everything in sight. Scripture said they were terrified. The Greek word is **ephobethesan** which means put to flight, to terrify and frighten with reverence. There was no doubt that these shepherds knew Who was speaking to them.

The first thing the angel said was to not be afraid. Isn't it just like God to comfort His children? On those dark nights, lying in bed as a child, it was always comforting when my mother would come in and rub my head and sing to me. The room didn't seem that dark anymore. The LORD was about to enter this world as a human and transform it forever. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ (Messiah) the LORD.

Dear LORD, thank You LORD that You came down so that we could go up. Thank You for Your comfort in times that are frightening. We trust in You. In Jesus Name, Amen