

Angels from the Realm of Glory

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Angels from the Realms of Glory is a Christmas carol written in 1816 by Scottish poet James Montgomery. The melody, "Regent Square" is by Henry Smart."

ANGELS

- Probably the least considered of all participants in Christmas story; yet played vital role.
- They watch over, encamp around, keep us from harm, minister to us.
- Hebrews 13:2 — when we entertain strangers, sometimes may be angels without our knowing
- Pastor Steve related a personal story about his possible encounter with an angel

Some characteristics of angels in Luke 2:8-14

- **Luke 2:8-14**
Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
- **No pride** — not ashamed/offended to appear to lowly shepherds; not to high priest or Caesar!
- **No envy** — Savior didn't come for fallen angels, some who had been their own; Savior didn't come as an angel—but as a human, a baby at that.
- **No Indifference** — no half-heartedness, glory shines, they sing, praise, declare — almost like the message was for them — and not man!
- **What's the song?** — "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, goodwill toward man."
FACT — they are praising God for the salvation that the Christ-child would bring!

This salvation brings glory to God in the highest!

- Angels had previous reasons to give God glory... God tells Job when...
- **Job 38:4-7**
Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
- "*Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye who sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*"

LISTEN — God received/receives glory as Creator of Universe and all it contains — galaxies, constellations, stars, planets, earth, mountains, valleys, deserts, beaches, plains, oceans, rivers, creeks, trees, grasses, plants, flowers, animals of all kinds...

BUT

*Creation, in all its multi-faceted glory, is but simplistic prose compared to the **glorious symphony of the Savior in the manger.***

God had received glory before, **BUT NOW**, God gets **glory in the HIGHEST**, more than anything previously, **for sending salvation through Jesus!**

This salvation brings peace between God and man.

- **Isaiah 53:5**
But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.
- **Romans 5:1**
Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

FACT — Bethlehem’s manger was the location for God’s peace treaty with mankind. It was signed and ratified in the blood of Jesus on Mt. Calvary 33 years later! Peace with God is guaranteed by the sacrifice and salvation through Jesus!

This salvation demonstrates God’s goodwill toward man.

- **Romans 5:8**
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

FACT — God could demonstrate no greater gesture of His love and good will toward us than the giving of His Son to pay the price for our sins!

LISTEN — God isn’t hateful and angry toward you, He’s not distant and abstract, He has intentional, tangible, sacrificial love and good will for you!

- though you’ve hated Him — He loves you!
- though you’ve cursed Him — He’s blessed you!
- though you’ve done evil actions toward Him — He’s showing good will toward you, while you are still a sinner!

GOD SAYS —

- **Isaiah 1:18**
“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

If you doubt God's love and good will toward you, listen one more time to the angels' song- "Glory to God in the highest, Peace on Earth, Good will toward men, there is good tidings of great joy for ALL people." This salvation is for you, receive it!

One final observation

- The angels sang about what we would experience on earth as we receive and trust Christ as our Savior — glorious salvation, extraordinary peace, through God's good will toward us...
- The angels prophesied about what we'd experience in greater measure when heaven becomes our eternal home.
- Glory beyond description — peace we can't imagine — because God is so good toward us!
- **Isaiah 11:6-10**
"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."
- **Revelation 21:4-5**
"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Friend —

There is a glorious salvation available to you now that will produce peace with God — all because of God's goodness toward you.

There is a far greater measure of that glory and peace to be experienced in heaven — it will last forever and never get old.

Question — *Do you want it, have you received it?*

Discussion Questions

1. Why should the passion of the angels give you confidence in what you believe about Jesus?
2. The same angels who sang creation's story are now proclaiming Messiah's birth? To which event did they give the most glory?
3. Discuss: Bethlehem's manger was the location for God's peace treaty with man.
4. The angels' song says that the good tidings of great joy are for ALL people. Have you recognized that YOU are one of ALL people, and accepted the gift of salvation?