

Christmas Day 2025  
John 1:14; Luke 2:1-20  
The Manger: God with Us (Christ)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” and there he was lying in a manger. John 1:14  
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” John 1:1

So who is the Word? Who could have been around before creation? Not a mere man for they had not yet been formed by God’s own hand. This Word Was and Is Jesus Christ, now human as well as God. The Word was the one promised by God the Father to be the Savior of the world from sin.

The Savior coming into the world is what matters because without his birth there could be no substitute to take the punishment for our sins. Does it matter if it was December 25<sup>th</sup> or not, when he was born? No. It seems many people think if they make a false claim loudly enough that Christians picked the wrong date for Jesus birth that perhaps we will think his birth didn’t happen. What seem to be true is that Jews at Jesus’ time didn’t place much importance on birthdays and in Jesus’ case since he came to save us, his death and resurrection are far more important than the day he was born. What matters is that he was born for us.

What happened on that day becomes important however because the things that happened in the life of Jesus and how it caused reactions and memories in the lives of people is what matters. The things that impact faith matter while the date we choose to remember these events does not.

On that night of Jesus’ birth shepherds witness the appearance of angels and receive the message that in the city of David the Savior, Christ the Lord has been born. The angels give glory to God for carrying out the promised rescue of mankind from their sins as he said he would do all the way back to Adam and Eve.

God receives glory while the people on earth receive peace, at least those who are waiting in faith for the Savior to come. Some might ask how you can have peace when Roman soldiers occupy the land or while there are those who would revile and persecute you. This seems like a time for war, not peace.

But hey! How often do you see and hear angels giving you this kind of news? Even if you didn’t grasp everything about the message it sure seems like you should do as instructed. “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

How did they know the Lord had made this known to them? Well, where else do you think a throng of angels would come from who are praising God? The message carried weight because of who it came from, just as the Holy Scriptures carry weight because of where they came from. Inspired by God the Word goes forth to the people to be heard and believed. How do we know we can believe them? Who would knowingly tell a lie and be willing to be killed for it?

Shepherds apparently weren’t considered to be good sources of testimony but on this night they came and saw the baby lying the manger, just like the angel told them, and they were willing to

wake up the neighborhood proclaiming that the Savior had been born. If some people might have liked them even less than they did before it didn't matter because this was the truth of what happened, For those who were waiting for news like this to come it was a welcome disturbance of the peaceful night's sleep. While a good night's rest is nice, what is even better is rest for the soul.

Grandparents are thrilled to hear when their grandchildren are born, even in the middle of the night. How much more thrilling must it have been to know the baby had come of which generations had been waiting. Imagine how the shepherds may have reacted 33 years later when Jesus rose from the dead. It might have been something like, "Yes! That is the confirmation that what the angel said was true. Jesus is Christ the Lord, the chosen one of God. May our praises never cease and may we have eternal peace. Amen.