

Jesus' Birth - The Other Witnesses - Sunday AM 12/16/18

Introduction:

The "Christmas Story" of Jesus' birth has been told and retold many times. Some of the story is just that, a story, but lacking in factual information. But some things are forgotten or slip through the cracks. We want to look at some of those who saw the child shortly after his birth.

I) The _____, *Luke 2.8-20*

A) The first birth announcement.

1. Unlike the "wise men" the shepherds actually saw Jesus in the manger, *v. 12*
2. They went out and told others what they had seen and heard, *v. 18*
3. They praised God for what they had seen and heard, *v. 20*

B) Why Shepherds?

II) _____, *Luke 2.22-35*

A) The required sacrifice, *Lev. 12.2, 8*

B) Simeon

1. Described _____. The word "devout" is used only by Luke.
2. He was waiting, looking forward to something.
3. The"_____".
4. By the _____ he knew he was looking at the Christ. *V. 26*

C) The message – this child would bring about (Simeon's Song)

1. Sovereign Lord – God does not answer to man but man to God.
2. _____ - to both the Jews and Gentiles.
3. Jesus would be a blessing to those who accepted Him and a curse to those who rejected Him.
Matthew 10.34-39

III) _____, Luke 2.36-38

A) Anna means Grace (unmerited favor).

1. She was a _____, *1 Peter 1.10.*
2. Gives us her father's name, Phanuel; and her tribe, Asher.

B) What had she done?

1. She used her life to serve God in the temple. *1 Corinthians 8.32, b. 1 Tim. 6.9-10.*
2. She spoke to all who looked for _____, *v. 38.*
 - a. Redemption is _____.
 - b. This child would grow up to be the Redeemer.

IV) The _____, *v.13-14*

- A) Even the angels did not know the complete plan of God.**
- B) They waited just as Simeon and Anna and all of Israel had waited. *1 Peter 1.12.***

Conclusion:

From the shepherds, Simeon, and Anna we learn. The time for waiting was over. It has been said that before Jesus' birth everything looked forward and after His death everything looks backward. His birth meant everything was about to change. The law of Moses would be nailed to the cross, *Colossians 2.14*, the prophecies of the Messiah would be fulfilled, redemption had come to mankind.