

LIFE Groups: Advent 2025

Week 2 - Peace & Conflict

When God Got Angry at...Shepherds?!?

Luke's Gospel records the visit of a gathering of angels to shepherds in the fields on the outskirts of Bethlehem, but these are not a choir! They are the "host of Heaven", an angelic army! What was the meaning of this visit?

1 - "Check-in" with your Group -

Invite each person to share briefly about how their week is going, and what they are looking forward to with anticipation in this season of Advent.

2 - Watch Pastor Scott's Video on Advent 2, "Angry at Shepherds?"

- We usually think of the angels described in Luke 2 as a choir - how does it change the scene to know they were an army?
- Read on to consider some of the Messianic expectations of Jesus' time, based on prophecies in the Hebrew Bible...

Read Luke 2:8-18 - *If the shepherds were seeing an angel army, it makes sense why they were afraid!*

Now read Zechariah 14:1-5 - *This scene had been prophesied 400 years earlier and is likely what the shepherds thought they were seeing! When the angel (likely **Michael**, the Captain of the Host of Heaven) tells them they bring a message of peace, it was likely a surprise. Note that this scene also mentions the Mount of Olives, where Jesus appeared on Palm Sunday.*

Next read Revelation 19:6-16 - The Second Advent yet-to-come!

This is the future event when Zechariah 14 will be fulfilled and the Heavenly host again appears in the sky singing God's praises. They advance to defeat God's enemies exalting NOT the baby laying in a manger, but the King of Kings! The angel army announce both Jesus' first AND second Advent!

Read Ezekiel 34:1-3, 11-12, 23-25, 30-31 - *This is God's message to the "unfaithful shepherds" (religious leaders of Israel). What parts of this prophecy point to Jesus?*

Spiritual Formation practices - Celebrate in Community!

- *Celebrate with your LIFE Group - take pictures to send to Pastor Scott!*

Pray together!

- **Pray for each other! Let's live in expectation of Jesus' return!**



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