

CHRISTMAS 2019 - Part 2

**“The Supporting Cast -
*The Angels, Mary, Joseph and
the Shepherds*”**

Luke 1: 26-38

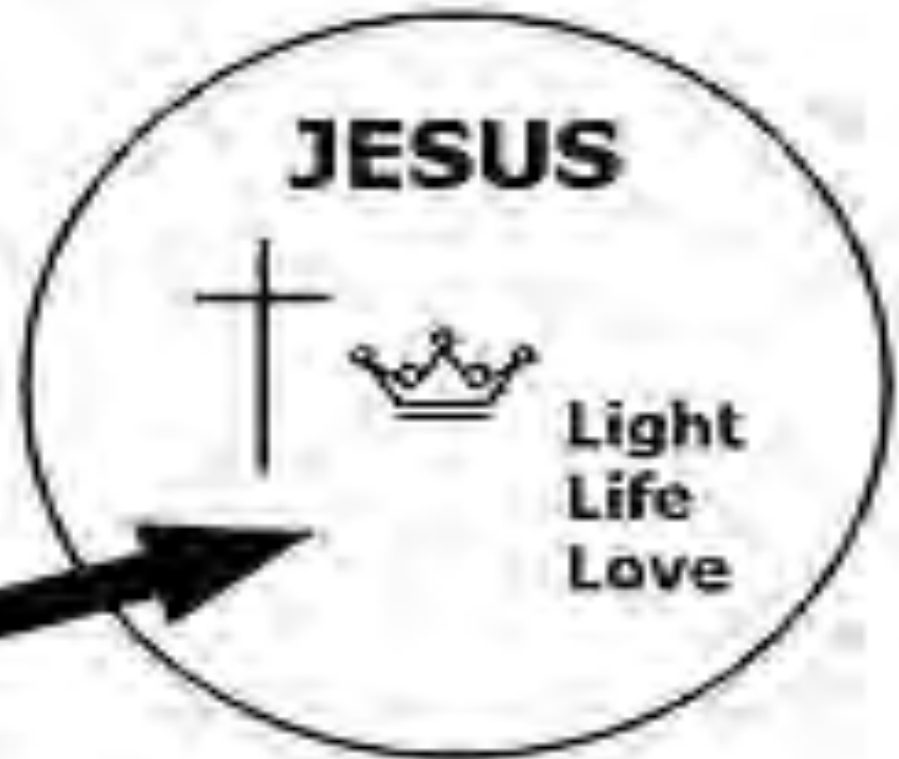
December 15, 2019

Jesus Christ, a *Light* in the darkness is *Good News!*

Kingdom of Darkness



Kingdom of Light



Which king will you serve?

Because of God's tender mercy,
the light from heaven is about to break upon us,

J **e** **s** **u** **s**

to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace.

- Luke 1:78-79

The Angels:

We have learned from our *Book of Daniel* study that the unseen world is real; it is a space we cannot see or touch.

It is a spiritual world where supernatural agents move freely, where battles are fought, and angels are dispatched to do God's bidding.

Gabriel appears to Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1: 14-17

- **John the Baptist's role was clear** - he was to prepare the way for Messiah



**Gabriel appears to Mary to
announce the birth of Jesus -
Luke 1: 26-38**

**-Mary's role was clear, she was
chosen to be the mother of
Jesus**

The Jewish wedding's application to the Church, *the Bride of Christ*:

- 1) The purchased price = the death of Messiah - Jesus gave His life for His bride- 1 Corinthians 6: 20
- 2) The betrothal period = a time of being perfected for the groom (sanctification) - 2 Corinthians 11: 2

The Jewish wedding's application to the Church, *the Bride of Christ*: (cont.)

3) The Groom's preparation = to prepare a place for his bride - John 14: 1-4

4) God's down payment for His bride = The Holy Spirit of promise - Ephesians 1: 13-14

Mary was indeed a special woman -

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to Mary, her cousin,

“ . . . blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” Luke 1: 42

Mary was indeed a special woman -

But, she still needed a Savior -

Luke 1: 47

Mary is special, but she is not a co-redeemer

She is not a mediator between man and God

There is one Mediator and that is *Jesus Christ!!* 1 Timothy 2: 5

The angel (*possibly Gabriel*) appears to Joseph -

- To explain the virgin birth and to name the Child - Matthew 1: 18-25
- Joseph's role was to raise Jesus
- Joseph was the husband of Mary, but not the biological father of Jesus (*the Bible makes this clear!*)
- Joseph had a role to play and then was taken out of the scene

We have a role to play -

**When our last scene is finished,
we will be taken out of the
scene -**

**That is why we are to
*WATCH AND BE READY!!***

Luke 12: 40

Angels appear to the Shepherds -

The role of the shepherds was to be amazed and to make Jesus widely known

The shepherds were from the lower class of society, unlikely role players in this story

GOD'S WAYS ARE CERTAINLY NOT OUR WAYS!! [1 Corinthians 1: 27](#)

God esteems shepherds

The Greatest Shepherd of all is our Lord -

- 1) Jesus is the Good Shepherd -
John 10:11
- 2) Jesus is the Great Shepherd -
Hebrews 13: 20
- 3) Jesus is the Chief Shepherd -
1 Peter 5: 4

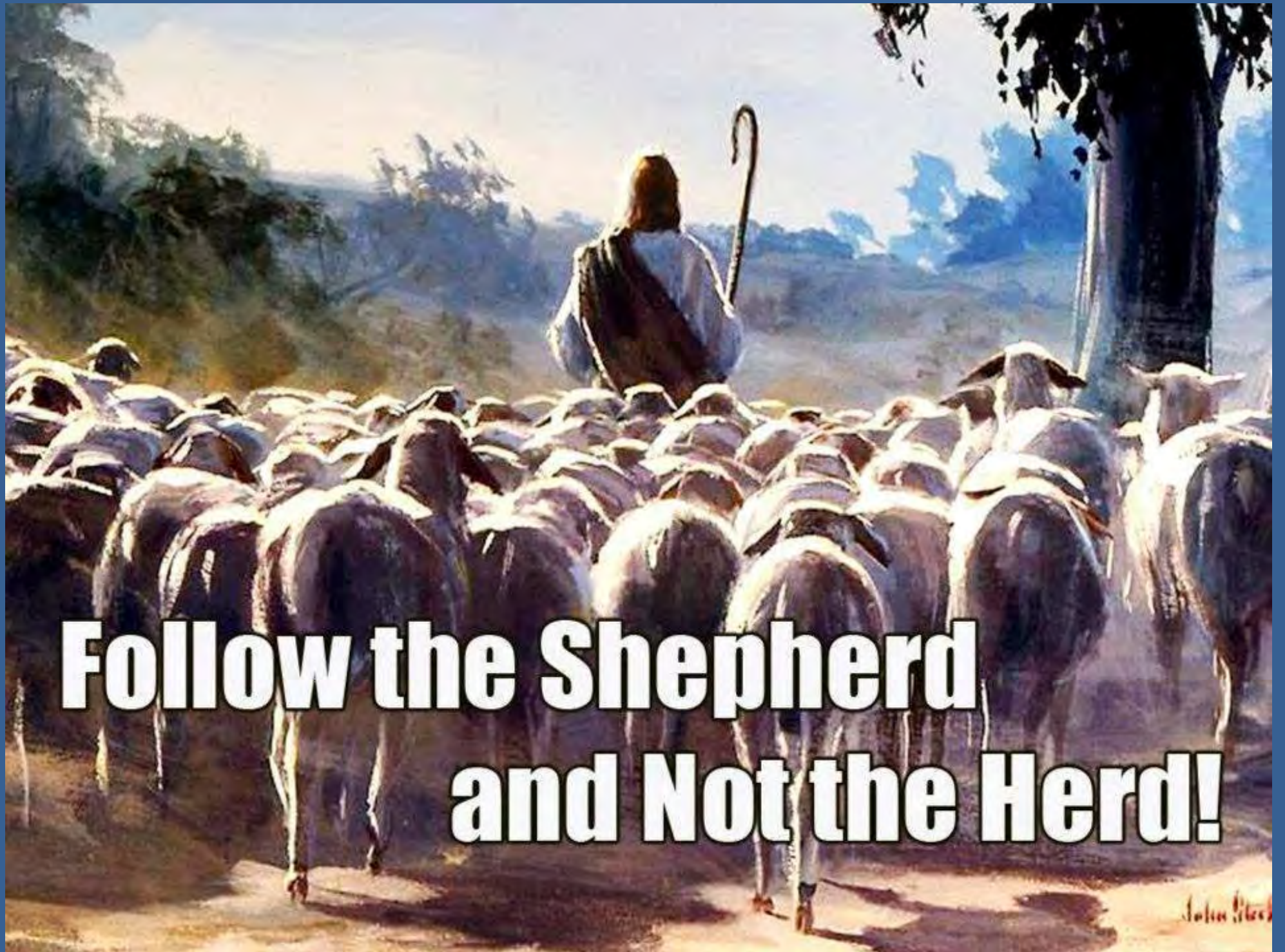
Whenever you feel discouraged,
alone and downcast, remember
the 23rd Psalm:

***“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
I SHALL NOT WANT”***

Jesus said in John 10: 27-28 -

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them (intimacy), and they follow me”

The way that you know that you really are a sheep is that you ***FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD!!***



**Follow the Shepherd
and Not the Herd!**



The shepherds were startled by an angel -

The *Glory of the Lord* shown around them -

They witnessed a heavenly army praising God -

Yet, all this did not compare with seeing the **Baby Jesus** in a manger
THEY WERE CHANGED!!

People, today, need to see Jesus
Christ and be changed!

Then, to go and tell everyone about
the *Savior who changes everything!!*

Closing Thoughts:

Everyone who chooses to believe this supernatural story and embrace the ***One*** who . . .

“ . . . is born to you this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”,

the course of their life will be changed ***forever!!***

These are *eternal decisions* with *eternal consequences!*

These **decisions of faith** that we make daily, (*some large, some small*) once made, will change the direction of our lives *forever!!*

Jesus Christ is *God's Christmas Gift to all humanity* - to those who believe in **Him** (*Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Church believers throughout history and you*)

Nothing else will ever be the same!!

The only questions that remain are:

Do you really believe this story?

and

Have you really received the free gift that has been offered to you?

TODAY WE REMEMBER

*JESUS CHANGES
EVERYTHING!!*