

THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD

Luke 2:8-19

Text: verse 8 *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

Intro: Our text says, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." The scripture does not say abiding in the fields, but rather in the field singular. I believe that everything in this blessed Book, the Bible, is in it for a purpose. The field that the shepherds were abiding in is called The Shepherd's Field. This field is a special place, a place for raising not just sheep, but some very special sheep.

How appropriate that Jesus, the Lamb of God, would be born near a place where special lambs were born with a special purpose.

I. THE REGION

- A. In the area surrounding Bethlehem, there is excellent grazing land for the sheep; and there are numerous caves to shelter the shepherds from the cold and rain.
- B. The Shepherd's Field was 3/4 of a mile southeast of the little town of Bethlehem.
- C. Not far from the Shepherd's Field is the Herodium, the tomb of Herod.
- D. The Shepherd's Field is near the field of Boaz where Ruth gleaned handfuls dropped on purpose for the needy.
- E. Little David, who became King, tended sheep near here.

II. SPECIFIC, SPECIAL SHEEP RAISED AT THE SHEPHERD'S FIELD

- A. Yes, specific, special sheep were raised at Shepherd's Field.
 - 1. Many of the sheep raised at Bethlehem were raised for sacrifice in the Temple. These sheep were born to die; born so that their blood could be shed for sin.
 - 2. From all over the Roman Empire, thousands of Jews would journey at feast days to offer their sacrifice.
- B. Instead of carrying their sacrificial lambs needed for sacrifice, from home far away, pilgrims would buy them in Jerusalem. The shepherds of Shepherd's Field kept close and careful watch over their flocks for many of them were destined to be offered upon the altar in Jerusalem; they were destined to die. The lambs for sacrifice had to be without blemish (Exodus 12:5,

“...your lamb shall be without blemish.”).

- C. In accordance with the prophecy of Micah 5:2, a very special Lamb was born in Bethlehem nearly two-thousand years ago.
 - 1. This Lamb was born that He might die for sin.
 - 2. Just as the shepherds of the Shepherd’s field watched over their flocks to insure their purity. Jesus, the Son of God, was watched by God the Father to insure the purity of the Lamb for sacrifice.
 - 3. When the time was exactly right, God Himself brought the Lamb to the place of sacrifice for sin.

III. GOD’S BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LAMB

- A. Matthew 1:21-23 tells us of Gabriel’s announcement of the miraculous conception and birth of God’s Lamb.
 - 1. The purpose of His birth is given in verse 21: “...he shall save his people from their sins.”
 - 2. In verses 22-23, we have the Old Testament prophecy of the Lamb’s birth.
- B. After the birth of the Lamb of God, an angel announced the birth to the shepherd’s in Shepherd’s Field. Those who raised lamb’s for sacrifice were first to hear of the birth of the one and only perfect sacrifice. “Shepherds of sheep destined for sacrifice are the first to see the Lamb of God.” (Robert C. Lewis).
 - 1. Just as the scripture had said in Genesis 22:8, God had provided, “himself a lamb.”
 - 2. In Luke 2:20, we read of the shepherd’s returning to Shepherd’s Field. It is a good thing to glorify God and praise Him as did the shepherd’s.

IV. THE SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD

- A. As we have already seen, the lamb of sacrifice had to be spotless, undefiled, and without blemish.
 - 1. The Scriptures proclaim the spotless nature of the Lamb of God:
 - a. I Peter 2:22 says of Christ: “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”
 - b. “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin,” says 1 John 3:5.
 - 2. It is God Himself who made Jesus to be sin for us, to take

our sin upon Himself so that we could be made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21).

- B. It pleased God the Father to bruise Christ the Lamb and to make “his soul an offering for sin” so that, “he shall see his seed.” (Isaiah 53:10) Christ the Lamb was offered for my sin. He is the Lamb born to die. Hebrews 9:14 says: “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?.”

Conclusion: Near Shepherd’s Field a Lamb was born, a Lamb born of the virgin Mary. The birth of Christ the Lamb was right on time as was His death (Acts 2:23-24).

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