

Luke 2:10-14

Christmas Eve 2022

Have you ever wondered how many there were? Angels. Up in the night sky outside of Bethlehem. We're told that one angel speaks the good news to the shepherds. But a multitude of angels sings Glory to God in the highest.

Now St. Luke does not actually tell us that these angels are singing. Yet how could they not sing? This is the heavenly choir. And don't you think that every single one of God's angels is singing in this choir? None are left out. Thousands, millions, however many angels there are, they are all there up in the sky singing when Jesus is born.

Now this is pretty incredible. Jesus is not born for them, and yet they sing with joy. Jesus does not come to save these angels from their sin, but hearing them sing, you would think that He does. The angels of God have no sin. They are His holy angels. And so, they need no Savior. Why, then, are they singing, every last one of these angels, with such magnificent beauty in their voices and such exuberant joy in their hearts?

It's not because their Savior is born, but because your Savior is born. "*Unto you,*" says the angel, "*is born...a Savior...Christ the Lord!*" And upon speaking these words, the sky is filled with angels, thrilled beyond measure, because of what God has done for you.

You see, these angels know the joy that awaits you. They gaze upon the face of your Heavenly Father. They see His love. These angels were there when He created your world it says in the Bible. And they have seen it all throughout history. God's mercy to sinners just like you and me. They heard His promises to His people, His promises of the coming Christ. They even spoke these promises with their mouths. These angels saw you being born. They rejoiced when you were baptized into Christ. And every time you enter this house to confess your sins, repenting and receiving the good news of forgiveness in Jesus, they again rejoice with singing.

We cannot see them. More, we cannot see what they see. They are heaven dwellers, but we are earth dwellers. And so, we are troubled by sin. The sin in our own hearts and the sins of others. But this is exactly why the angels sing at Christmas. Because the Savior is born. The One who will go to the cross and pay the price for all sin.

Did He pay the price of your sin? He did. Do you believe it? Do you believe what the angels know to be true? Then you will sing with them, won't you? And not just on Christmas, but every Sunday.

Yet here's the thing. The angels have no sin to burden them, and so they sing freely. The angels look upon God's face, and so they radiate joy. But we don't. We are burdened by our sins. And we look upon the faces of other sinners.

But listen, you have a Savior in Jesus. He has forgiven you, yes you, of all your sins. And He has forgiven everyone you look upon. There is no one here, and no one in your family, who is not declared forgiven. All are declared forgiven. Jesus is the Savior of all people.

And so, sing with the angels, sing with the saints who right now are in heaven. Be joyful in your heart. The Savior has come, your Savior, Christ the Lord! Amen.