

DO YOU SEE THE ANGELS?

Luke 2:7-9

The Christian lives simultaneously in two worlds:

1. Material – Seen — earthly
2. Spiritual – Unseen — heavenly

1. Trials of faith in suffering: where is God?
2. God's power revealed in overwhelming ways

Why Paul prays Eph 1:17-23; and commands Col 3:1-3
(cf. Eph 2:6)

Why Book of "Revelation"
Eg 8:1-5 (heaven); then 8:6ff (earth)

Why Elisha prays for his servant's eyes to be opened: to see the angels and have faith that God will take care of them
(II Kings 6:15-18)

This dual perspective nowhere more evident than in the Christmas story.

Eg: Luke 2:7-9: Mary and Joseph seem abandoned by God.
Then there are angels to reveal His Presence!
So Lk 2:1-8 earthly; 2:9-14 heavenly.

Look at the story as a whole:

I. _____

- Mary is pregnant: shame. Joseph about to divorce her
- Forced to walk 80 miles, near time of delivery to strangers
- Unwelcomed
- Delivers in a stable
- Unsavory shepherds are the first visitors
- Chased by Herod to Egypt

Zechariah: Humiliation: this One is devalued – pierced – smitten

II. _____

- Angel appears to Zechariah to announce miraculous birth of John
- Angel announces the birth of Messiah to Mary
- Elizabeth rejoices that John leaps in her womb at the presence of Jesus
- Mary is given her song of Joy
- Angel reveals to Joseph that Mary is telling the truth
- An angel announces the birth to the shepherds and a chorus appears, praising God!
- Astrologers from Babylon (?) come to worship because of the supernatural Light that guided them to the "King"
- They give gifts that will be needed for the trip to Egypt
- An angel warns Joseph of Herod's plot
- Herod is dead in a year, so it is safe to come home

Zechariah: Exaltation: this One is the Priest-King – Unique – Lord of all the earth! To run everything forever!

So see not just the manger, but also the angels.
See not just His death, but also His resurrection!
Recognize that in your trials that resurrection power is available to you (Eph 1:19-20)

Recognize there is always a dual story going on: the manger and the angels.

What we see
What we cannot see

Learn to fix your eyes on God's unseen Presence in the situation.
And His future grace that makes every trial a securing of greater glory (II Cor 4:16-18)!