

An angel with long dark hair and large, feathered wings is depicted in a classical style, looking directly at the viewer. The background is dark and atmospheric.

*An angel of the Lord appeared.*

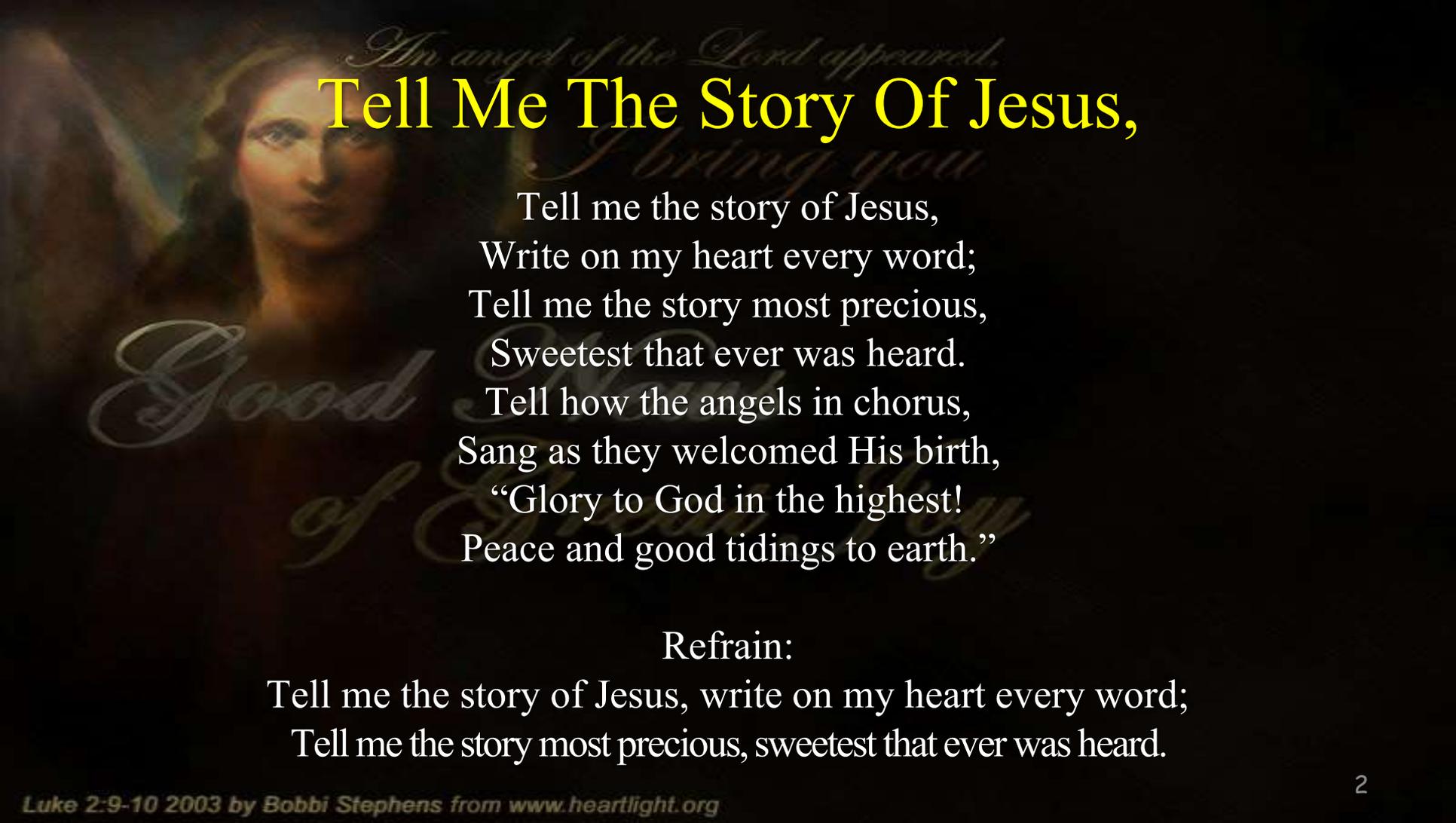
***Good News***

***For All***

***The People***

*Good News  
of Great Joy*

***Luke 2:8-11***



# Tell Me The Story Of Jesus,

Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.  
Tell how the angels in chorus,  
Sang as they welcomed His birth,  
“Glory to God in the highest!  
Peace and good tidings to earth.”

Refrain:

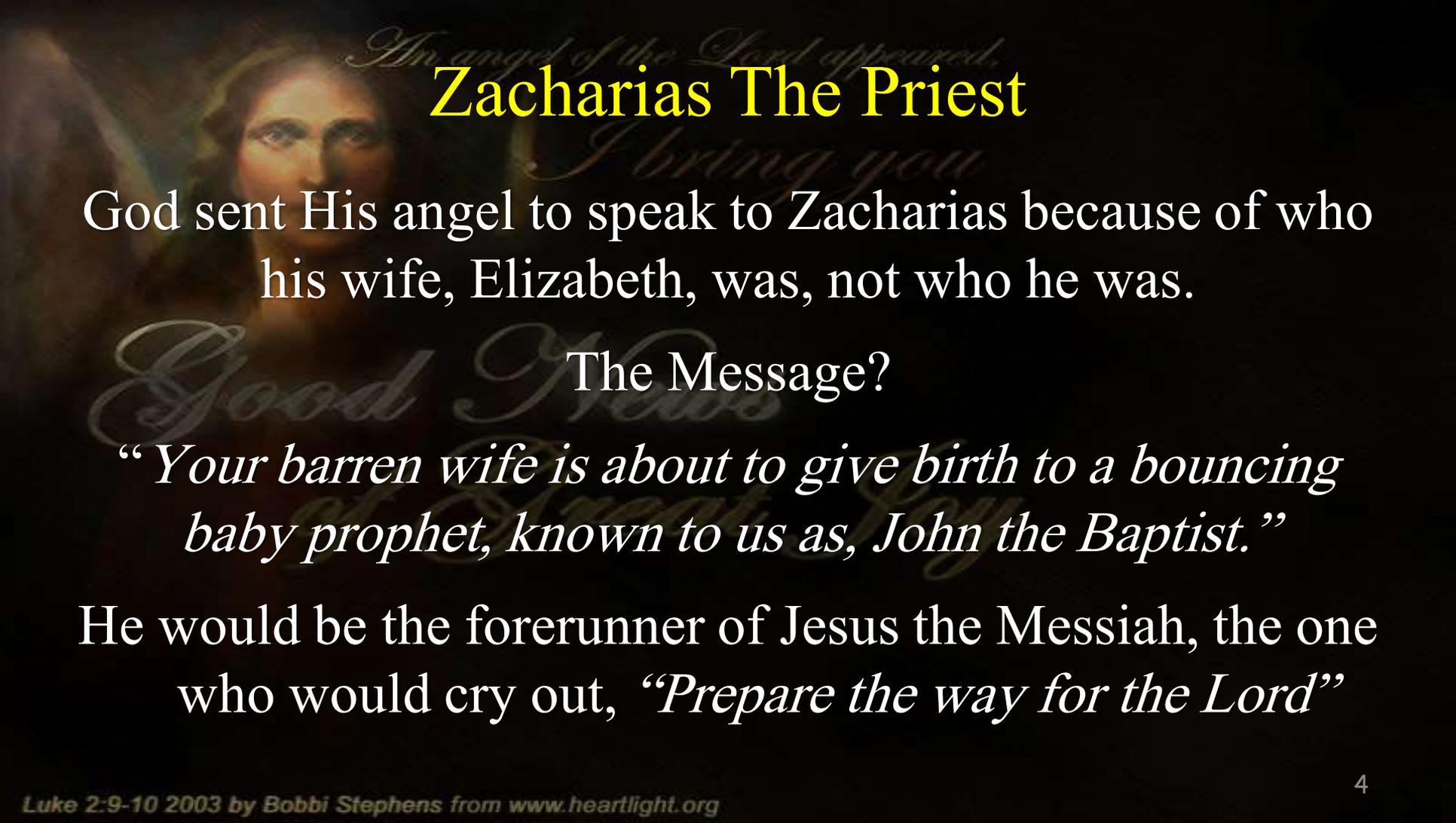
Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard.



*An angel of the Lord appeared,  
saying to you  
Good News  
of Great Joy*

# The Angels Visited An Interesting Cast of Characters

- Zacharias
- Mary
- Joseph
- A Group Of Shepherds



## Zacharias The Priest

God sent His angel to speak to Zacharias because of who his wife, Elizabeth, was, not who he was.

The Message?

*“Your barren wife is about to give birth to a bouncing baby prophet, known to us as, John the Baptist.”*

He would be the forerunner of Jesus the Messiah, the one who would cry out, *“Prepare the way for the Lord”*



*An angel of the Lord appeared.*

## Mary, A Virgin Betrothed

She will be the Mother of Jesus, the Messiah.

She will conceive Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

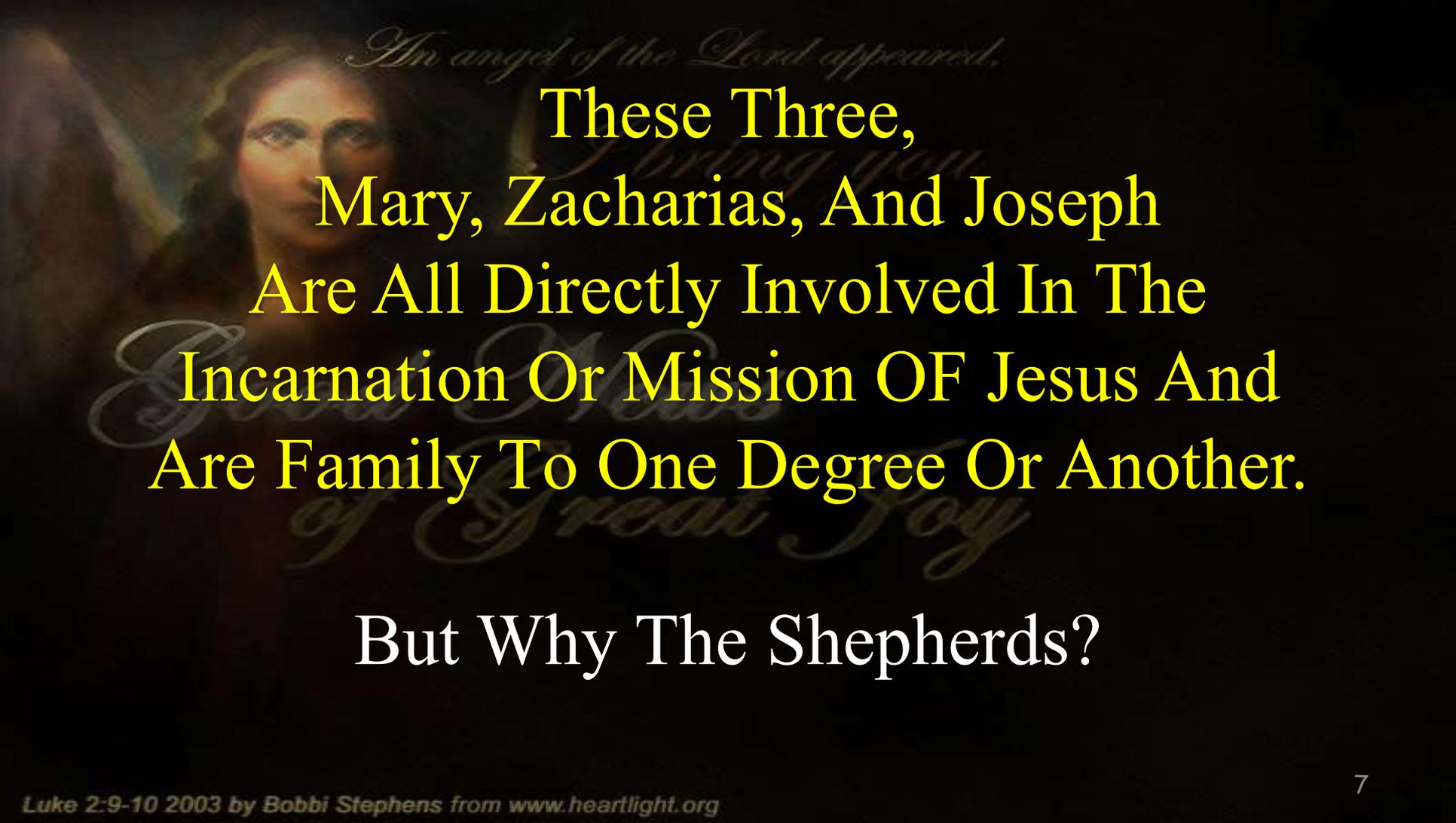
She will give birth to, and nurture, the Messiah of Israel,  
the Savior of the World.



*An angel of the Lord appeared.*

## Joseph, A Carpenter Betrothed

- He will determine the fate of Mary and a be a husband to her.
- He will be the earthly father of Jesus, who is Messiah , Immanuel, God with us.



*An angel of the Lord appeared,  
bringing you  
Good News  
of Great Joy*

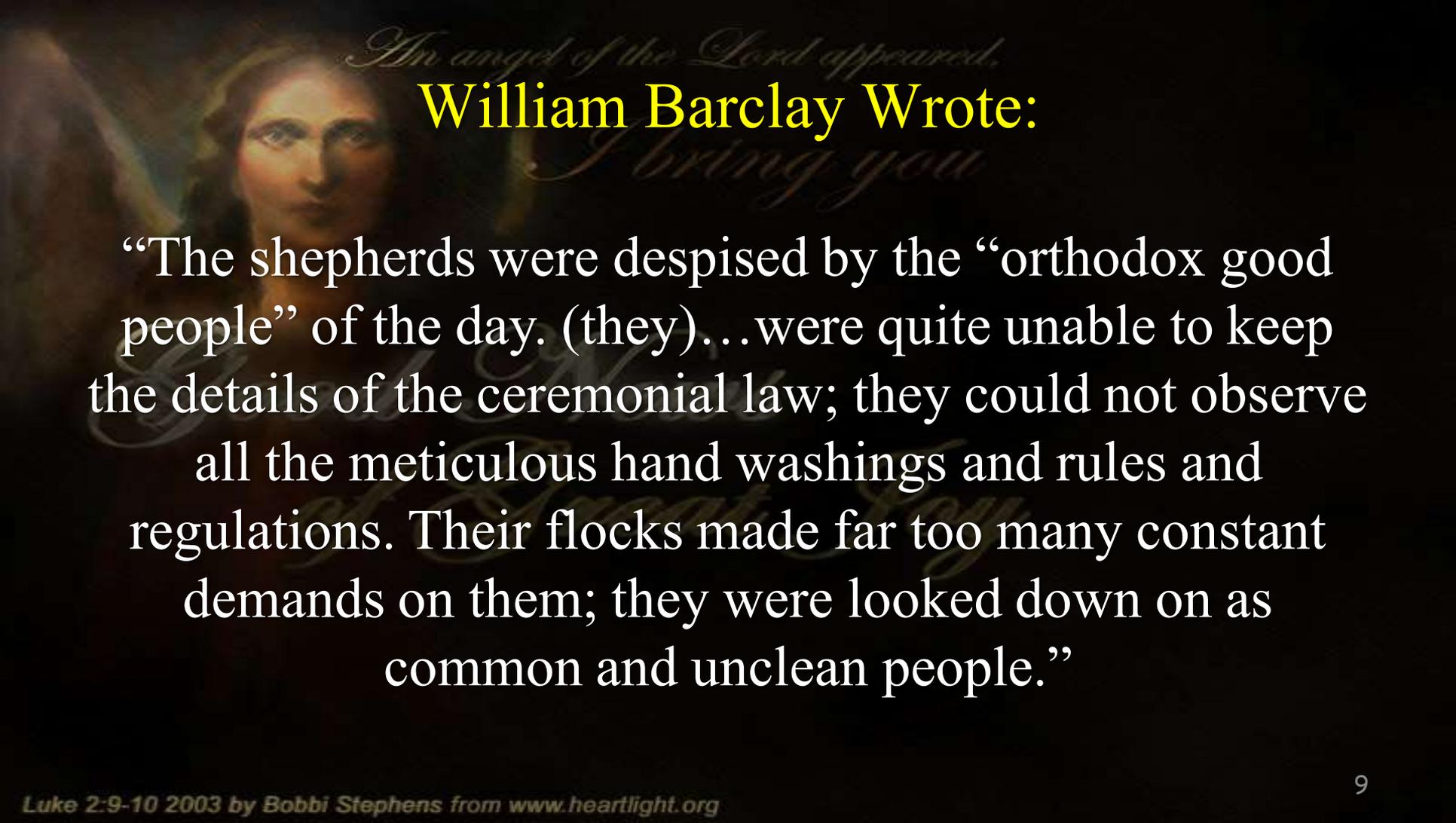
**These Three,  
Mary, Zacharias, And Joseph  
Are All Directly Involved In The  
Incarnation Or Mission OF Jesus And  
Are Family To One Degree Or Another.**

**But Why The Shepherds?**

# Shepherds Seem To Come Out Of Nowhere In This Event. They Are Nobodies.

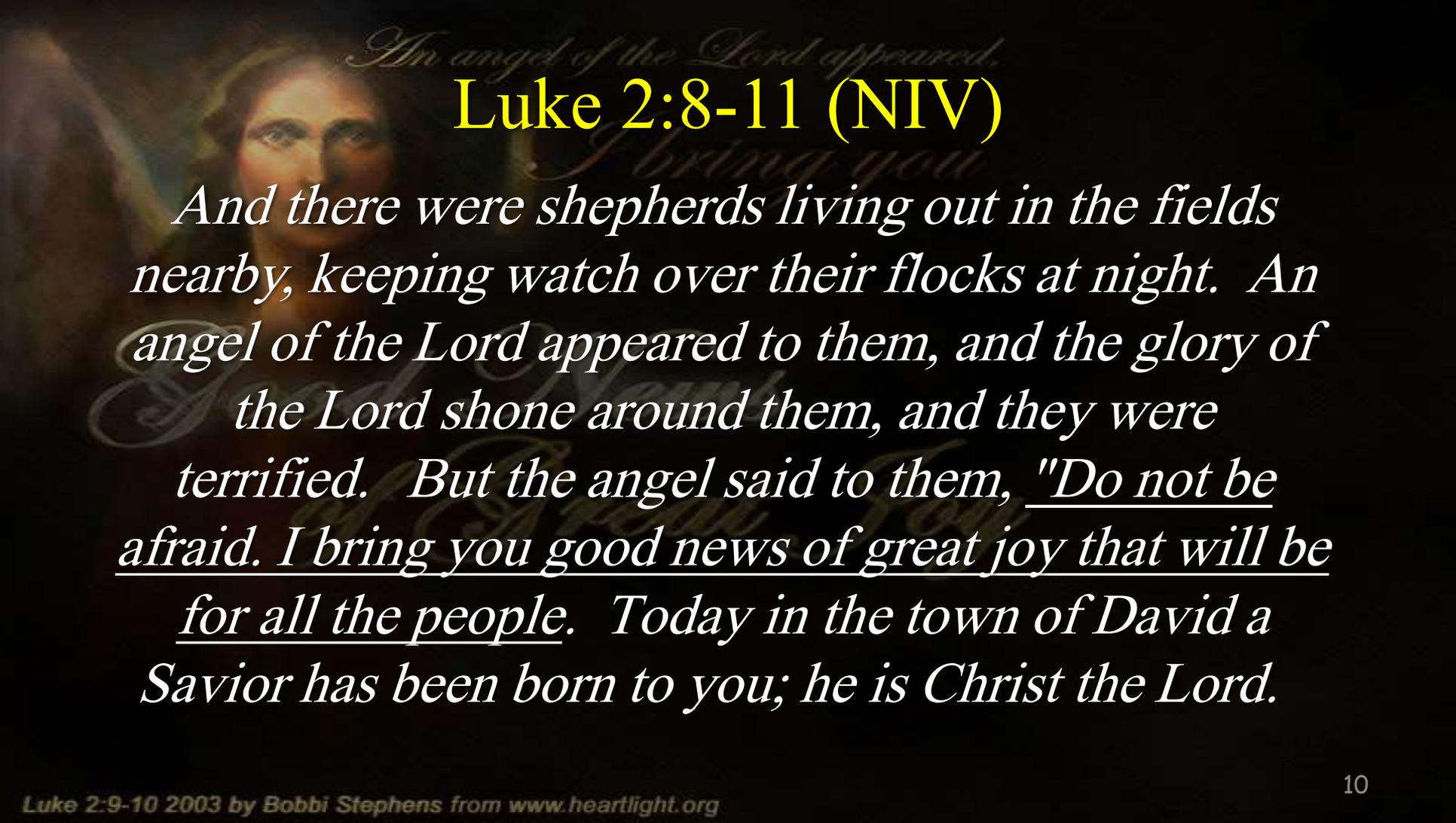
- Shepherds were not admired in Biblical times.
- Considered “detestable” by Egyptians, Genesis 46:34.
  - Considered a punishment in Numbers 14:33.

*“And your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they shall suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.”*



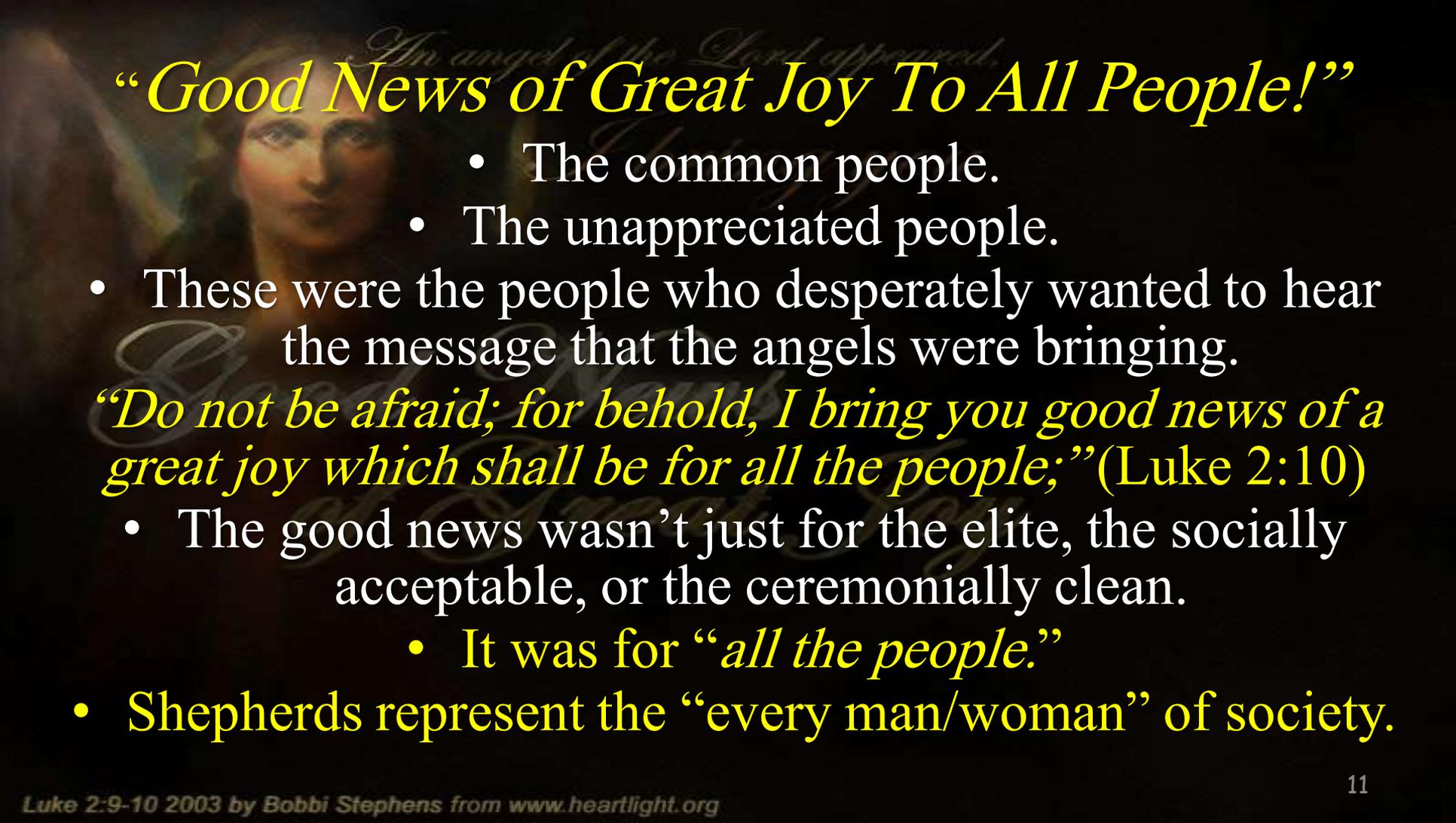
**William Barclay Wrote:**

“The shepherds were despised by the “orthodox good people” of the day. (they)...were quite unable to keep the details of the ceremonial law; they could not observe all the meticulous hand washings and rules and regulations. Their flocks made far too many constant demands on them; they were looked down on as common and unclean people.”



## Luke 2:8-11 (NIV)

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*



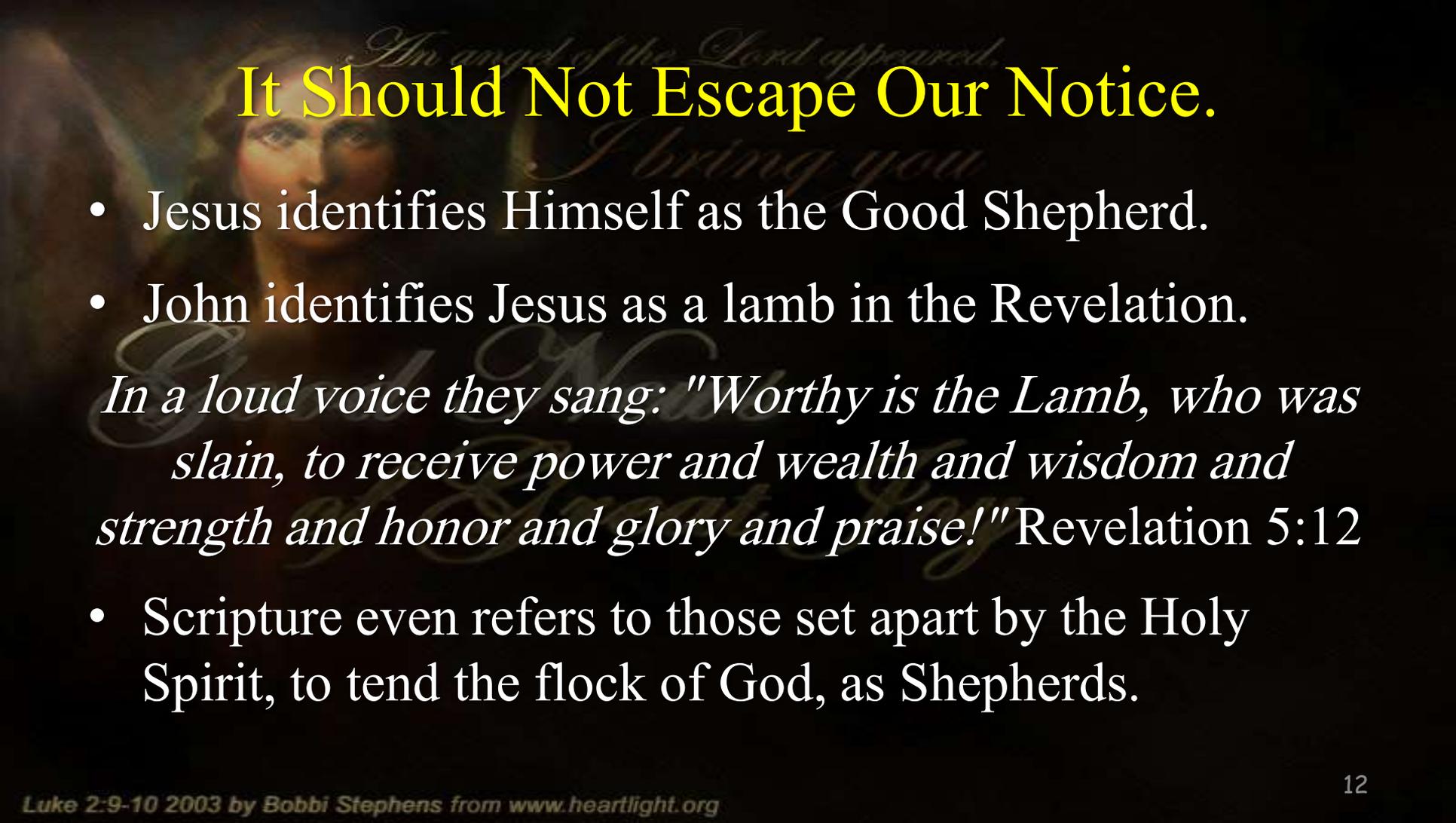
*The angel of the Lord appeared*

# *“Good News of Great Joy To All People!”*

- The common people.
- The unappreciated people.
- These were the people who desperately wanted to hear the message that the angels were bringing.

*“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;”* (Luke 2:10)

- The good news wasn't just for the elite, the socially acceptable, or the ceremonially clean.
  - It was for *“all the people.”*
- Shepherds represent the *“every man/woman”* of society.

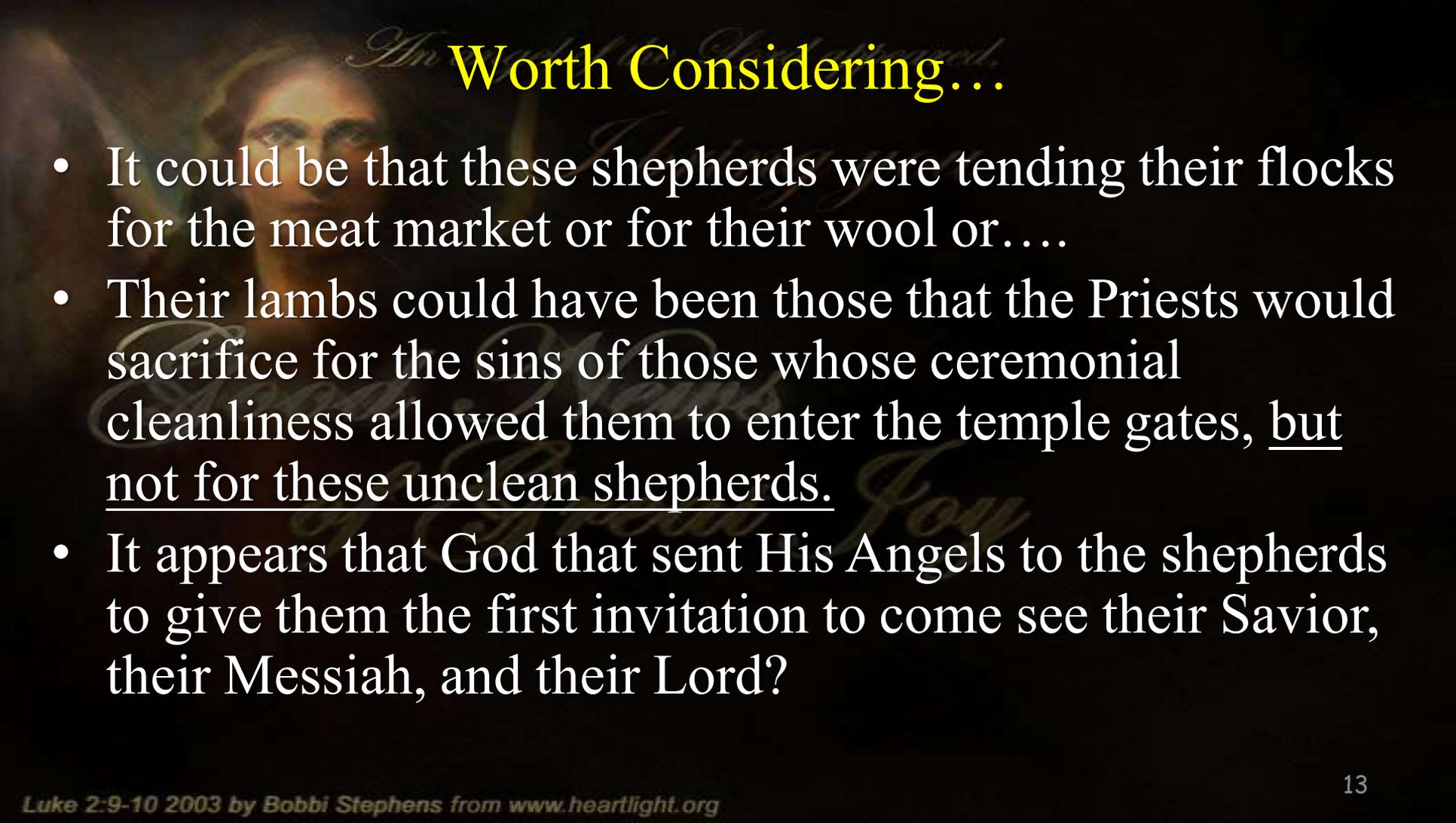


## It Should Not Escape Our Notice.

- Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd.
- John identifies Jesus as a lamb in the Revelation.

*In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"* Revelation 5:12

- Scripture even refers to those set apart by the Holy Spirit, to tend the flock of God, as Shepherds.

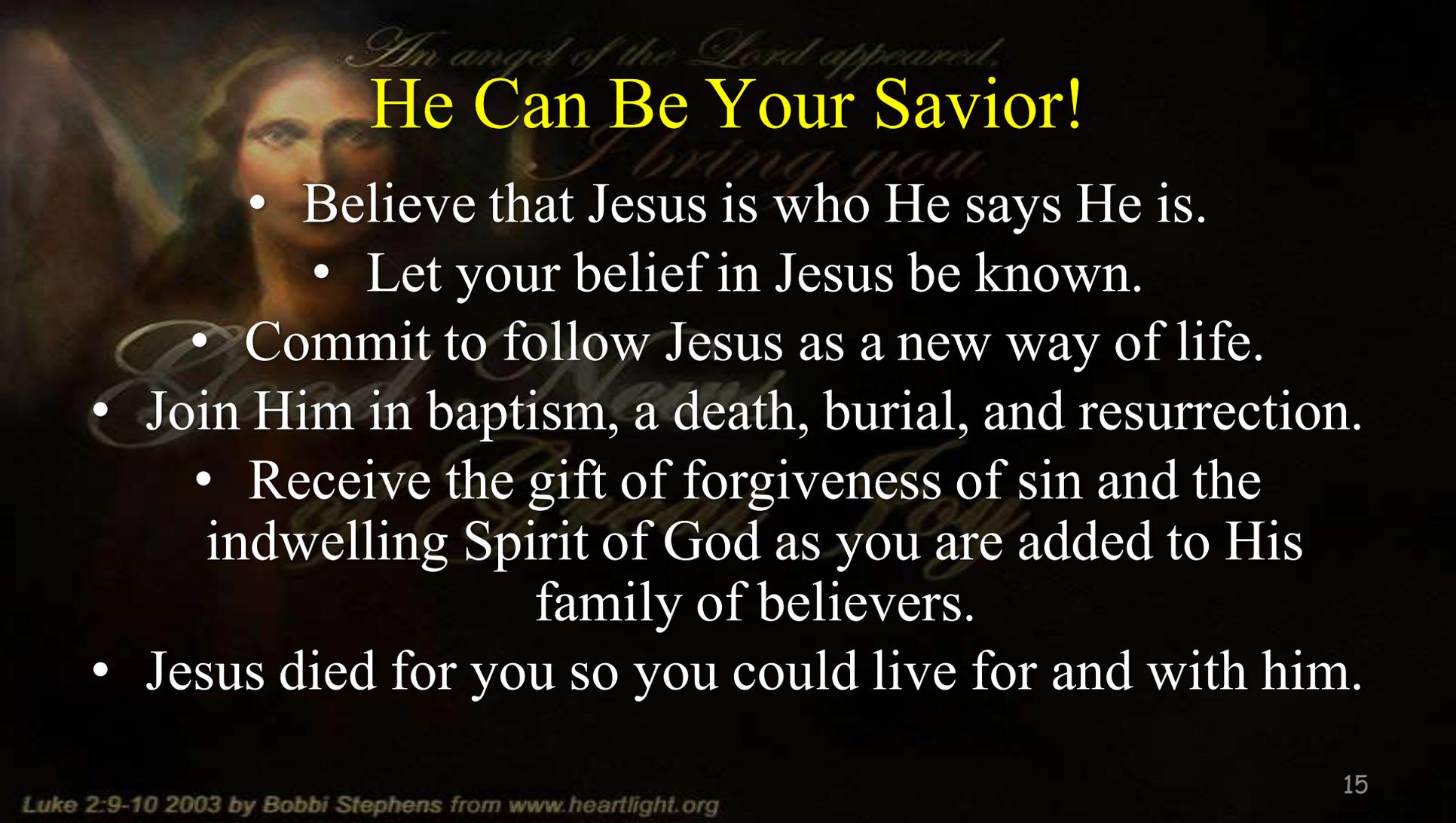


## Worth Considering...

- It could be that these shepherds were tending their flocks for the meat market or for their wool or....
- Their lambs could have been those that the Priests would sacrifice for the sins of those whose ceremonial cleanliness allowed them to enter the temple gates, but not for these unclean shepherds.
- It appears that God that sent His Angels to the shepherds to give them the first invitation to come see their Savior, their Messiah, and their Lord?

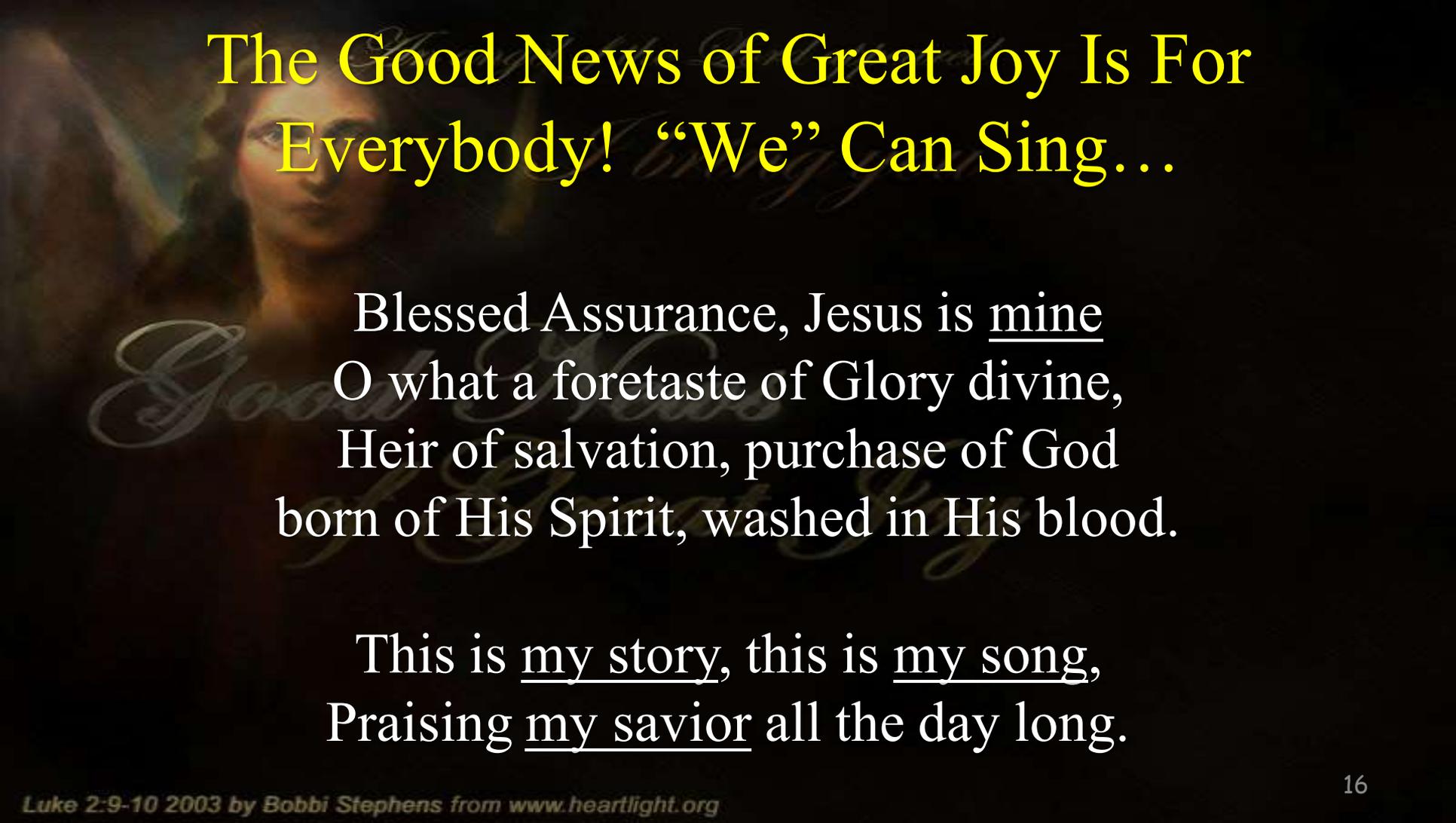
## It Was Good News of Great Joy

- As God sent His angels to those who need to know...
  - To Mary, who carried Him and cared for Him
  - To Zechariah, a temple Priest
  - To Joseph, a Carpenter, Husband and earthly father.
- He also sent angels to tell another group, Shepherds who spent their lives watching lambs, some of which that would be sacrificed for the sins of others, to say,  
They needed to know “Your Savior is born.”



## He Can Be Your Savior!

- Believe that Jesus is who He says He is.
  - Let your belief in Jesus be known.
- Commit to follow Jesus as a new way of life.
- Join Him in baptism, a death, burial, and resurrection.
  - Receive the gift of forgiveness of sin and the indwelling Spirit of God as you are added to His family of believers.
- Jesus died for you so you could live for and with him.



# The Good News of Great Joy Is For Everybody! “We” Can Sing...

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine  
O what a foretaste of Glory divine,  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my savior all the day long.