

A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

EYE WITNESSES

Luke 2:15-16 “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.”

The story of the shepherds continues. First, they heard through the voice of an Angel God’s announcement of the birth of the long-awaited Messiah, their Lord and Savior, the one sent to take away the sins of the world. Then they heard a choral concern from an Angelic Choir. The Music and Words were pure with perfect pitch and sung with great emphasis by the elated Angels.

Now, as if a huge magnetic force was drawing them, they said, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” Isn’t it true that the same Good News message the shepherds heard drew them to the manger, still draws the world today? As heathen as the world is and as filled with sin as it is, come Christmas Eve, the world takes a deep breath, the hustle and bustle of humanity comes to a screeching halt and the masses flock to the manger.

I presume you have been to the manger again this year. The Holy Spirit deep in your heart led you there to worship the Christ Child, the Son of God, your Lord and Savior. Although you did not hear an Angelic choir, you heard the Christmas anthems proclaim Christ’s birth, His coming into the world to save you from your sins.

Once again God has permitted you to ascend the spiritual mountaintop of Christmas. For to you, on Christmas was born the Christ, the Son of God, come to save. Glory to God in the highest and on earth good news to all human beings. Continue to celebrate God’s gift of gifts He has freely given you. One that will never perish, fade, be lost, destroyed or lose value. Thank You God! Thank You, Jesus!

Prayer: Thank you Lord for another year to stand over the manger and see my Savior. Amen.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky— looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.
(LSB 364)