

Luke 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Analysis

The shepherds 'came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger' demonstrates that faith is rewarded with finding what God promised. The detail 'with haste' emphasizes eager urgency, not panic. That they 'found' confirms the angel's specific directions were accurate and God's revelation reliable. The listing order—Mary, Joseph, the babe—emphasizes the human context of divine incarnation. The repetition 'lying in a manger' confirms this was indeed the sign the angel gave (v12). Their finding exactly what was promised validates faith in divine revelation and demonstrates God's faithfulness to His word. Simple shepherds received the privilege of being first human witnesses to the incarnate God.

Historical Context

The shepherds' successful finding of the infant based on the sign (manger) confirmed the supernatural nature of the announcement. In Bethlehem's small size, a newborn in a manger would be unusual and identifiable. Their witness as first visitors emphasizes God's choice of the lowly.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does finding what God promises strengthen faith in His revelation?
2. What does God's choice of shepherds as first witnesses teach about His values?
3. How should successful finding of what God promised affect our testimony?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἦλθον σπεύσαντες καὶ ἀνεῦρον, τὴν τε Μαριὰμ
And **they came** **with haste** **And** **found** G3588 G5037 **Mary**
G2532 G2064 G4692 G2532 G429 G3137

καὶ τὸν Ἰωσήφ καὶ τὸ βρέφος κείμενον ἐν τῇ
And G3588 **Joseph** **And** G3588 **the babe** **lying** **in** G3588
G2532 G2501 G2532 G1025 G2749 G1722

φάτνη·
a manger
G5336

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:12 (Parallel theme): And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 19:32 (Parallel theme): And they that were sent went their way, and found even as he had said unto them.

Luke 2:7 (Parallel theme): And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 22:13 (Parallel theme): And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

Luke 1:39 (Parallel theme): And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

