

# Luke 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

## Analysis

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Those who heard the shepherds 'wondered at those things which were told them.' The Greek 'ethaumasan' indicates amazement or marveling, but not necessarily saving faith. Wonder is appropriate initial response to Christ's birth but insufficient for salvation. The shepherds' testimony created curiosity and astonishment, preparing hearts but not guaranteeing conversion. This demonstrates that proclamation of truth doesn't automatically produce faith—God must grant understanding and belief (John 6:44). The hearers' amazement shows that the testimony was compelling and unusual, yet many who wondered at Jesus's birth would later reject Him. Hearing truth creates responsibility but not necessarily transformation.

## Historical Context

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Bethlehem's residents hearing shepherds report angelic announcements would naturally wonder at such claims. Yet most who heard this testimony didn't become Jesus's followers, showing that proximity to revelation doesn't guarantee faith. Wonder must progress to worship and obedience.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What is the difference between wondering at Jesus and worshiping Him?
2. Why doesn't hearing testimony about Christ automatically produce saving faith?
3. How can initial amazement at Christ's birth develop into genuine faith?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	πάντες	τῶν	ἀκούσαντες	ἐθαύμασαν	περὶ
And	all	those things which	they that heard	it wondered	at
G2532	G3956	G3588	G191	G2296	G4012
τῶν	λαληθέντων	ὑπὸ	τῶν	ποιμένων	
those things which	were told	by	those things which	the shepherds	
G3588	G2980	G5259	G3588	G4166	
πρὸς	αὐτούς·				
them	G846				
G4314					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 2:47** (Parallel theme): And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

**Luke 4:36** (Parallel theme): And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

**Luke 2:33** (Parallel theme): And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.