

Luke 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Analysis

The shepherds returned 'glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.' Their worship flows from finding everything exactly as the angel promised—perfect correspondence between revelation and reality strengthens faith and produces praise. The distinction 'heard and seen' encompasses both the angels' announcement and its confirmation in finding the infant. Their glorifying God (not the baby or Mary) demonstrates proper theological understanding—worship belongs to God alone. That they praised 'as it was told unto them' shows their joy came from God's faithfulness to His word. The shepherds model the pattern: revelation received, faithfully investigated, completely confirmed, resulting in worship and testimony.

Historical Context

The shepherds returned to their occupation (watching flocks) but transformed by what they had experienced. Their return to normal life while praising God models how divine encounter should affect ordinary living. They fulfilled their role as witnesses and worshipers before returning to daily duties.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to His promises naturally produce praise?
2. Why is it important to glorify God rather than His instruments or creation?
3. How should extraordinary divine encounters transform ordinary daily living?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπέστρεψαν οἱ ποιμένες δοξάζοντες καὶ αἰνοῦντες

And returned the shepherds glorifying And praising

τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν οἵς ἤκουσαν καὶ εἶδον καθὼς

God for all the things that they had heard And seen as

ἐλαλήθη πρὸς αὐτούς

it was told unto them

G2980 G4314 G846

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 29:19 (Parallel theme): The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Acts 11:18 (References God): When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Psalms 106:48 (References God): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 107:21 (Parallel theme): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:8 (Parallel theme): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalms 107:15 (Parallel theme): Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Matthew 9:8 (References God): But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

Luke 18:43 (References God): And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org