

Shepherd's Visit

(Based on Luke 2:1-21)

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“Caesar Augustus just passed a law that everybody has to be taxed and we have to go to Bethlehem to pay this tax because we are the descendants of King David,” said Joseph one day.



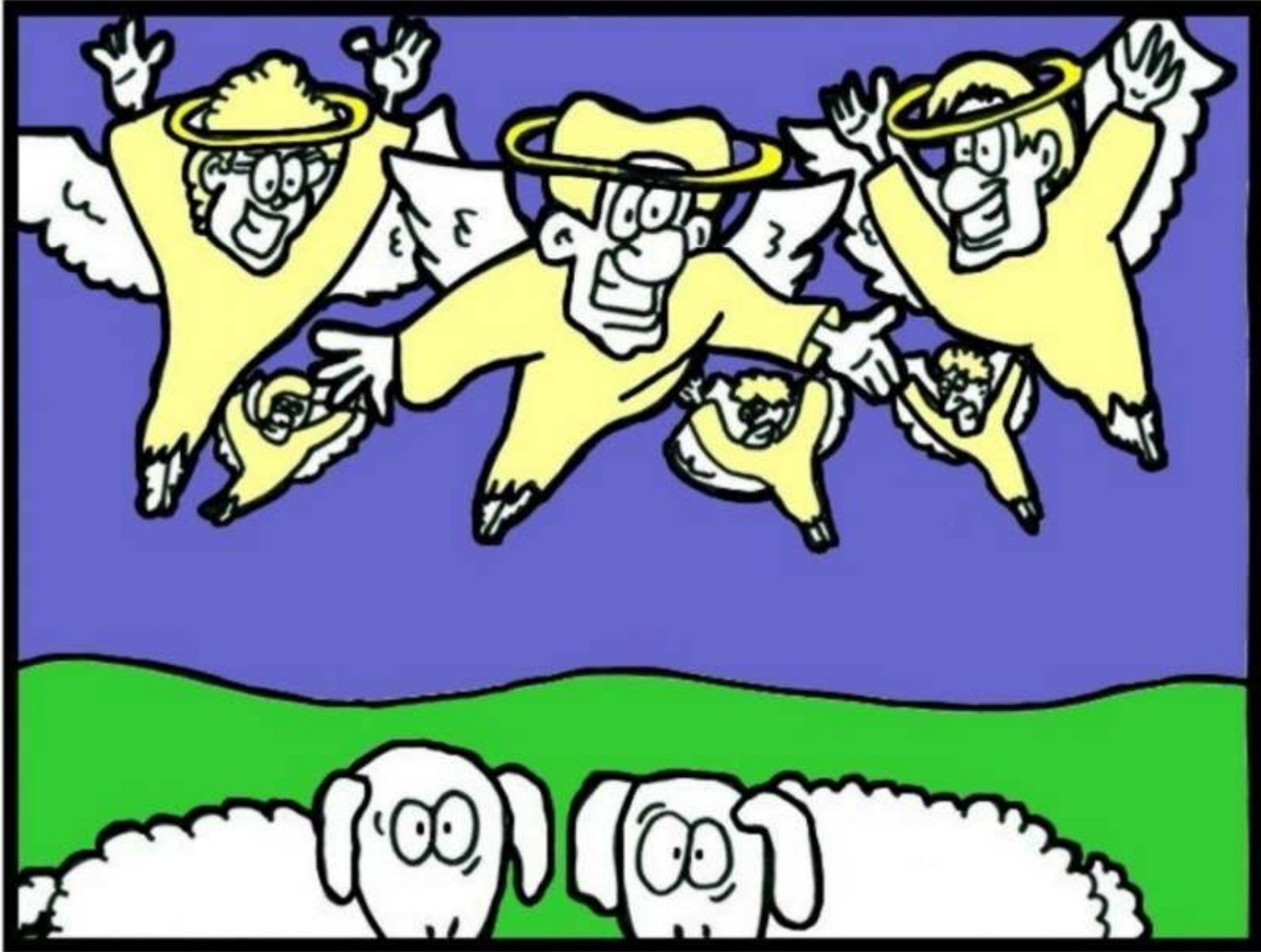
“The baby’s coming!” exclaimed Mary. “But we just got into Bethlehem! Oh boy, oh boy!” Thought Joseph. “There are no more rooms at the Bethlehem Hotel. Where are we going to have this baby?”



The only place they could find was the animal stable. So Mary gave birth to baby Jesus, wrapped him in strips of cloth, called swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, an animal eating-trough.



An angel appeared to shepherds in the field. “Don’t be afraid. I am bringing you good news for all people. Today in Bethlehem the Saviour has been born. And this will be a sign for you: you shall find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”



At that very moment there was with the angel a huge group of angels praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men!” Then the angels went back up to heaven.



“Whoa! Did you see that?”
Exclaimed the shepherds to each other. “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that happened, which the Lord told us.”



The shepherds ran as fast as they could to Bethlehem.



When they arrived it was just like the angel said it would be. Mary was there, and Joseph, and baby Jesus was lying in the manger wearing swaddling clothes.



“Everybody! Everybody!” shouted the shepherds. “The Saviour is born!”



Everyone they told had the same reaction. “Wow!” But Mary, Jesus’ mom just sat quiet and pondered in her heart what the shepherds had said.



Lord, thank you for sending Jesus, and that you have peace and goodwill for every person. I need to take time and think about