

### **GLORIA IN EXCELESIS DEO**

Luke, in (Luke 1-2) recorded five great Christmas hymns with the birth of Jesus Christ.

- (Lk.1:42-45) Eulogium by Elizabeth
- (Lk.1:46-45) Magnificat by Mary
- (Lk.1:68-79) Benedictus by Zecharias
- **(Lk.2:14) Gloria in Excelesis Deo by angelic choir**
- (Lk.2:29-32) Nunc Dimittis by Simeon

“This brief hymn is called Gloria in Excelesis Deo, from the first words of the Latin Vulgate (meaning 'glory to God in the highest'). The angels recognized the glory and majesty of God by giving praise to Him.” (NIV Study bible, Lk. 2:14)

I find it interesting that God sent the angelic military choir to present a **divine peace treaty** to the earth with the birth of His son- “On earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” (Lk.2:14b).

**This great hymn was sung by a travelling angelic military choir:** “And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host (stratia) [army] praising God and saying.” (Lk.2:13) (Angelic military choir) (Matt.26:53)

#### **This lesson will study four aspects of the Christmas hymn, Gloria in Excelesis Deo.**

**1. We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points. It will show the effect of Gabriel's sermon on the angels and Bethlehem shepherds regarding worship of God with the birth of Jesus Christ.**

- Sermon by archangel Gabriel (Lk.2:8-12)
- Song by angelic military choir (Lk.2:13-14) (doxa / gloria)
- Spiritual statement made by Bethlehem shepherds (Lk.2:15-20) (doxa / glorifying)

**2. Gabriel's sermon began the Christmas program with a messianic message to the Bethlehem shepherds. It was followed by this great hymn, Gloria in Excelesis Deo (Lk.2:8-12).**

Plummer believed that they were temple shepherds based on researching David background and temple sheep (1 Sam.17) and on our lesson text (Lk.2:8-20).

The following five questions regarding Gabriel's sermon will help us understand this great hymn.

- What four things did Gabriel message teach Bethlehem shepherds (Lk.2:10-12)?
- What did it teach the elect angels (Lk.2:13)?
- What did it bring to God (Lk.2:14a)?
- What does it tell mankind (Lk.2:11, 14b)?
- What immediate effect did it have on the shepherds (Lk.2:15-20)?

**3. The appearance of the travelling angelic military choir was to the Bethlehem shepherds what Jacob's star was to the Magi (Matt.2:2; Num.24:17).**

This was an important part of Plummer's argument for **temple Bethlehem shepherds**.

As temple shepherds, they would be the guardians of shadow Christology sacrifices.

(1 Pet.2:25) "For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." (Heb.10:1; Ezek.34:10-12; Matt.9:36)

(John 10:11) "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

**4. Gloria in Excelsis Deo announced three important truths to three important places and people regarding the birth of God's Son (Incarnation).**

- Announcement to **Heaven and God**
  - "Glory to God in (en+loc.of place) the highest."
- Announcement to **earth and men**
  - "And upon (epi+gen.of place) earth peace."
- Announcement to **mankind and saved**
  - "Among (en+loc.of place) men (anthropos) with whom He is well-pleased (eudokia/ objective genitive, defining anthropos/ those who accept His Son)."

God's eternal peace is offered to every member of the human race through the gospel of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9) (**Eph.2:14, 16**).

(Lk.2:10-11) "**For behold**, I bring you good news (euaggelizo/ p.a.ind) of a great joy which shall be for all the people. **For today** in the city of David there has been **born for you \_\_\_\_\_ a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**"

(Rom.10:15) "How shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring **good news of good things!**'"

(Col.1:20) "And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made **peace through the blood of His cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven." (Eph.2:12-17).

(Rom.5:1) "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ."; Acts 10:36)

**PEACE WITH GOD IS 1 OF 50 THINGS RECEIVED IN THE PACKAGE OF GRACE SALVATION THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE CAN RECEIVE AS A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS**

**GLORIA IN EXCELESIS DEO**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**