

The background of the page is a soft, painterly illustration. On the right side, several angels with large, feathered wings are depicted in white and gold robes, looking down towards the left. On the left side, a group of shepherds in simple, earthy clothing are shown. One shepherd in the foreground is looking up at a bright star in the night sky, holding a long wooden staff. The overall scene is set in a dark, starry night sky, suggesting the nativity scene.

And the Angels Sang

One of the most popular songs of Christmas is *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* – a psalm that was in use in Christian churches by the 4th century A.D. Its title comes from the Latin Bible’s translation of the words proclaimed by the angels as they announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Here are the lyrics in English:

*Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace to people of good will
We praise You
We bless You
We adore You
We give thanks to You for Your great glory
Lord God, Heavenly King, God Almighty Father
Lord Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
You who take away the sins of the world, hear our prayer
You who sit at the Father’s right hand, have mercy on us
For You alone are holy
You alone, Lord
You alone the Most High, Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father
Amen.*

Beautiful lyrics, and an inspiring proclamation brought by the angels. If angels do anything, they worship God. In the Bible, we find them doing many things on earth – delivering messages, guarding and coming to the aid of saints, doing battle.

Acknowledging the roles angels play, Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor of the Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif., and author of the book *Turning Points*, added: “But in the heavenly places, the heavenly host seems to have one primary agenda: to proclaim the glory of God forever and ever. It is not surprising that at the birth of Jesus, the glory of God was the first thing on the angels’ lips. They were not unaware of the cosmic struggle going on between Satan and man. When the Father’s own Son was dispatched to earth to defeat the enemy, angels accompanied the announcement by proclaiming God’s glory.”

What about us today in the 21st century? Shouldn’t we be imitating the angels this Christmas by declaring the glory of God to someone who has not beheld it and needs to be told?

– Beecher Hunter