



Pastor Ken Nelson's Sermon

ADVENT HOMILY – “THE SONG OF THE ANGELS”

LUKE 2:8-14

DECEMBER 4, 2022

“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “glory to God in the highest and peace among those with whom he is pleased.” This is known as the “song of the angels” in Luke. Though we rightfully assume they were with Him in heaven when He was creating all that is seen and unseen, no song of the angels is recorded in Genesis. They had to have seen it all unfold, when He started letting things unseen be seen, beginning when light pierced the darkness. In the beginning waters shrouded in misty cloud at once shown forth as dazzling seas with light prancing on its surface like so many little diamonds.

Then God pushed the waters aside here and there to let dry ground appear – the land was given color and variety, power and permission to produce all by itself in season and out. Lowlands, high lands, wet ones and dry ones all had “their kinds” of beauty. Then little lights appeared in the sky which weren’t really so little after all – just phenomenally far away as to appear so. God created big but can make it look so small. Then he turned himself back to the water, beautiful but incomplete – so He filled them with creatures – imagining a whale and a minnow – big and small again. With the sky he did likewise – big and blue like the seas, clouds that are big but look like little cotton balls and birds with no two beaks alike and knees that bend backwards!

Then lambs that eat grass and wolves that eat...we’ll have to inquire about that sometime! Finally, the two whom God said “bear His image” – to whom He gave life and a will – *“a mind of their own”* as they say. You suppose the angels sang when God said...*“it is good, it is very good”* – the world’s very first echo song! Maybe they sang it every new day until the day it wasn’t anymore...when those created *“with a mind of their own”* made up their mind to do what pleases them.

We don’t know – we can’t. But maybe the angels stopped singing that day. Until it pleased God to go down to the ones made in his image and assume theirs. If we made to be like God would not, He would become like us. Revelation 21:3 says, *“I heard a loud voice say the dwelling place of God is among men, and he will live with them.”* You don’t suppose that “loud voice” could be angels singing? Luke tells us God sent angels to sing that night – and one can’t help but wonder if the song hadn’t been brewing for a good long time.

Do you suppose that during whatever period of time when Genesis says all was good, God and man, heaven and earth united – of one mind, division between nothing and no one, the angels might actually have sung *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.”* Well of course God was pleased – we were at peace with him – and each other. And if so, does that begin to help us understand what happened when *“he came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all”* – but to make it that way once again? AMEN

