

An illustration of a nativity scene. On the left, three shepherds in orange, red, and blue robes stand with long staffs, looking towards the right. In the center-right, Mary in a blue robe holds the infant Jesus, who is lying down. Joseph, in a dark blue robe, stands behind them. The background is a dark blue sky filled with many white stars of varying sizes. The title text is overlaid in the center.

Shepherds – Witnesses To The Miracle

Christmas Character Series – Part 4

Luke 2:8-18

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

Dr. Dennis E. Bean

December 18, 2016

Luke 2:8-18

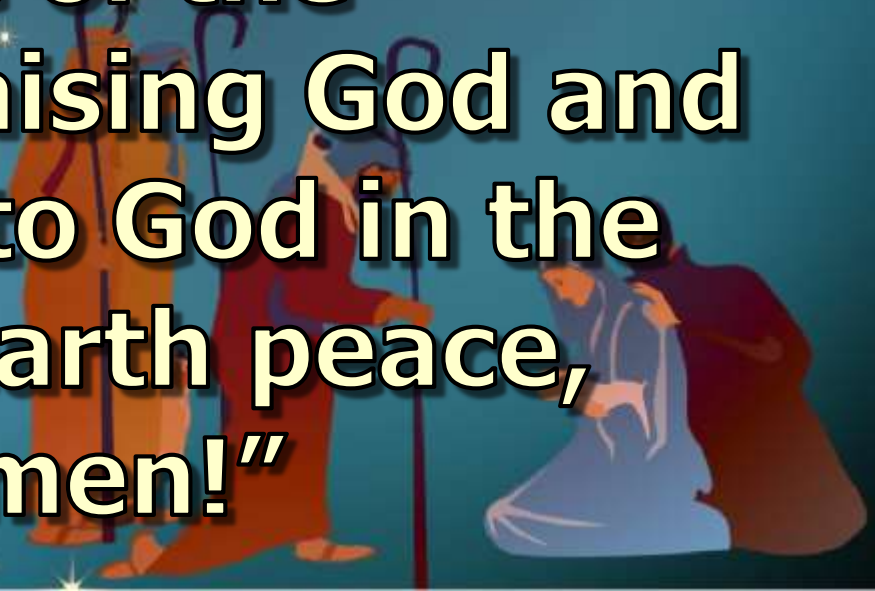
⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.



**10 Then the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid, for behold, I
bring you good tidings of great
joy which will be to all people. 11
For there is born to you this day
in the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord.**



¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”



¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.



17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.-- (NKJV)





**Shepherds – Witnesses To
The Miracle**

1. The Occupation That Was Available.

Luke 2:8⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.-- (NKJV)



Psalm 23:1

**¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.**



Matthew 2:6

6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "



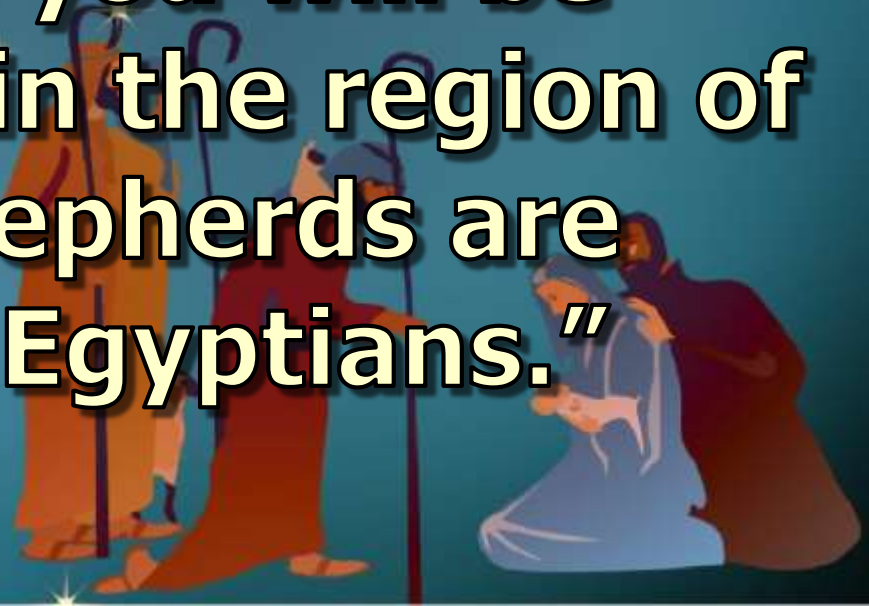
John 10:11

11 "I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays
down his life for the
sheep.-- (NIV)



Genesis 46:34

³⁴ you should answer, 'Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians."



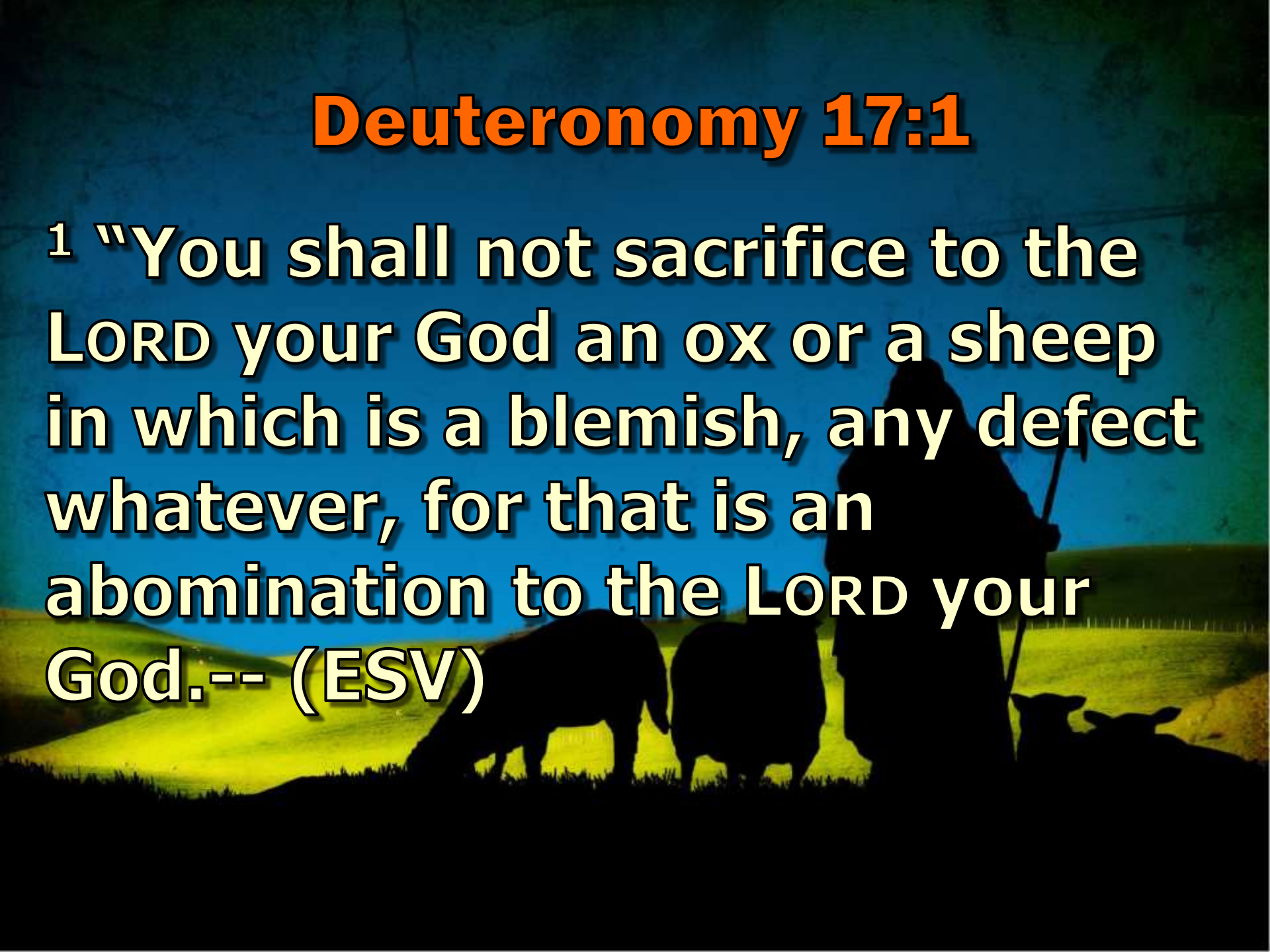
A. The Significance of the Shepherds.

Luke 2:8⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.



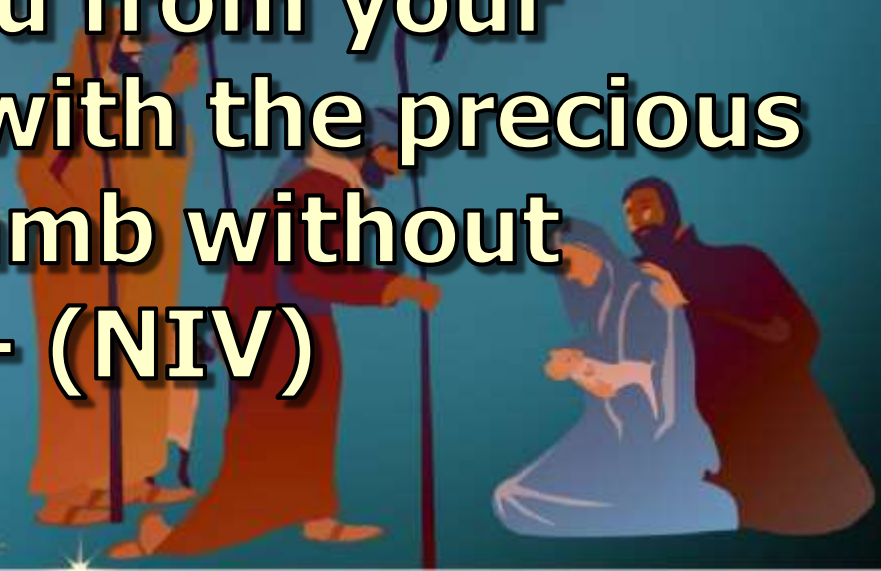
Deuteronomy 17:1

¹ “You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.-- (ESV)

A silhouette of a shepherd standing with a staff, surrounded by sheep in a field during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the ground is dark with some grass visible.

B. The Symbolism of the Sheep.

1 Peter 1:18–19¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.-- (NIV)



29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!-- (NKJV)



John 1:29

2. The Occupation That Was Abandoned.

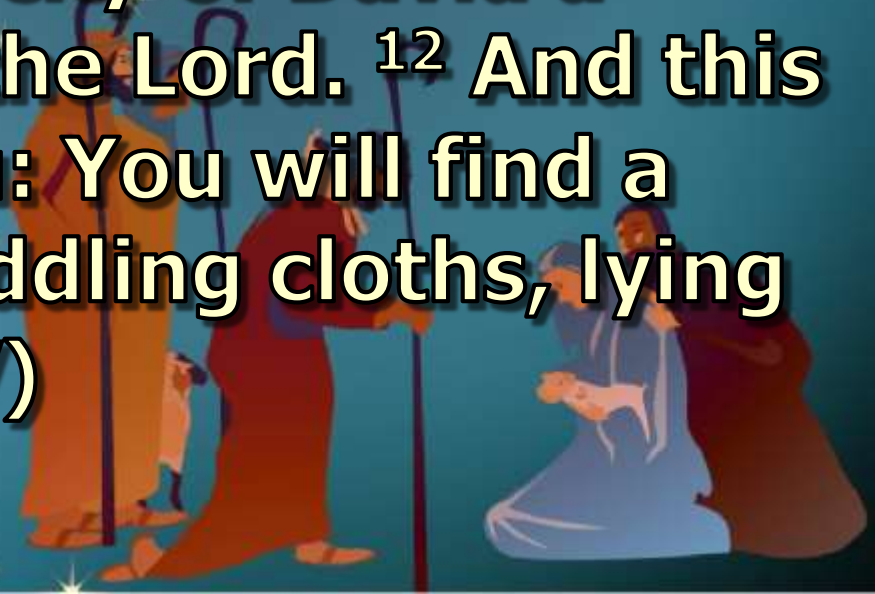
A. A Glorious Appearance.

Luke 2:9⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.



B. A Glorious Announcement.

Luke 2:10–12¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”-- (NKJV)



C. A Glorious Anthem.

Luke 2:13–14¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”



D. A Grand Assessment.

Luke 2:15¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."



3. The Occupation That Was Acquired

A. The Savior They Saw

Luke 2:16¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.



B. The Savior They Shared.

Luke 2:17¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.



God Bless!

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

