

A. Much of the history that occurred in Bethlehem, from an earthly perspective, is rather unremarkable.

B. In contrast to that is one of the most amazing things we could ever imagine: a multitude of angels singing as a heavenly choir on earth.

I. God's Host

A. The song of the text was sung by a "multitude of the heavenly host," an army of angels who fought a spiritual war as servants of God and his people.

B. When we understand this choir as an army, then the significance of their appearance to the shepherds and their singing becomes plain—a great victory had been won!

II. Their Praise

A. The song that they sung is characterized as *praise* for God.

B. The lyrics of the song reveal that the specific content of their praise was the *glory of God*.

III. Our Benefit

A. The angels appeared not only to testify of the victory and give the praise due to God, but also to announce *peace on earth* won through the birth of the Christ.

B. That glorious peace was declared to lowly shepherds, and to us poor sinners, on account of God's *goodwill toward men*.