

# ARE YOU EXPECTING?

Quite a question -- but relevant to this Season of the year. We're referring to the Second coming of Jesus Christ to earth to redeem His Church.

We are in the throws of Celebrating His Birth -- but let us not forget to keep in this celebration that He is Coming Again -- the First time to bring Salvation -- the Second time to bring Redemption.

We sing with Joy the many beautiful Christmas Hymns -- and rightly so -- but there is another we should remember also -- *"Redeemed how I Love to Proclaim it -- Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb."*

Jesus came to this earth the first time to establish His Church -- He is coming the second time to Redeem His followers. Both are acts of Love on His part -- we cannot have His Redemption without His Birth -- we cannot Celebrate His Birth without acknowledging His Sacrifice on the Cross for our Salvation.

The Shepherds come to mind at this point -- they were doing their job watching the sheep -- basically just minding their own business -- when suddenly they were startled with, *"an Angel of the Lord stood before them, and the Glory of the Lord shown round about them, and they were greatly afraid"* (Luke 2:9).

*"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. For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you -- you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in A MANGER' "* (Luke 2:10-12).

*"And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the Heavenly Host Praising God and saying -- Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will to men!"* (Luke 2:13-14).

What an experience the Shepherds witnessed -- an Angel from Heaven -- the Good News -- the Heavenly Host proclaiming Peace and Good Will to all -- WOW -- what an experience! It is no wonder they immediately left the sheep and sought out Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

The Shepherds were NOT Expecting this event that night. The personal question now comes to us -- are we Expecting the Lord's Return at any moment just as He promised? Are we watching and waiting for Him? Do we have this Hope in our hearts of seeing Jesus come as He promised? (Revelation 22:7,12,20)

The Excitement of Christmas is upon us -- even with the unbelievers attempting to scuttle the Spirit of the Season -- yet we can boldly proclaim that Christ the Savior was also the Babe in the Manger. Let us stand firm in the knowledge of the Bible -- let us reaffirm our Faith in God's Word -- let us hold fast and not be swayed by the condemning negative proclamations of the naysayers.

