

The Advent WREATH



BUFFALO COVENANT

12/19/21

The Advent Wreath: What Does It Tell Us About Christmas?

with Pastor Max Frazier

The Shepherd's Candle - The Candle of Joy

The Angel's Candle - The Candle of Love

THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE - THE CANDLE OF JOY

The shepherds represented one of the oldest and most important vocations among the Jews.

The role of a shepherd:

He was the protector of the sheep.

He was the provider for the sheep.

He was the guide for the sheep.

He was like a parent to the sheep.

That night they had placed the sheep in a stone corral, and were spending the evening as they had done countless times before.

BUT...God took the routine and turned it into something extraordinary.

Angel: "I have not come to instill fear in you, but joy! I have come to share with you the greatest announcement the world has ever heard. The Messiah has come! He is here!"

Many were looking for a military leader; others for a deliverer from oppression; few understood their need for a restored relationship with a holy God.

The shepherds understood better than most the futility of the sacrifices of sheep.

Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:29

The Perfect Sacrifice had come!

THE ANGEL'S CANDLE - THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Matthew 22:34-40

There is a progression in the candles:

From the prophets, to the city where Jesus was born, to the shepherds to whom the message of the Messiah was given, and then to the angels who delivered that message.

There is a progression in the words associated with the candles:

From hope, to peace, to joy, to love.

What is the connection between the angels and love?

Let's look at the appearances of the angels in the Christmas Story.

First, the angel appeared to Mary. *(Luke 1:26-38)*

Mary's love for Joseph

Mary's love for God

Second, the angel appeared to Joseph. *(Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25)*

Joseph's love for Mary

Joseph's love for God

Third, the angel appeared to the shepherds - The shepherds were in love with Jesus.

AN ADVENT CHALLENGE

Our "joy" is rooted in the amazing love that God has for us.

It was a love that caused God to send His Only Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Do you know that joy?

Have you discovered God's amazing love?

NOTES



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