"What Child Is This?"

(Luke 1 & 2)

Introduction:

***** ***6 Responses*** ***of amazement to Christ's Incarnation:***

I.John leaped in His mother's womb at Christ's presence
(Luke 1:41, 44)

II.Angels from Heaven rejoiced and glorified God at Christ's birth
(Luke 2:10, 14)

III.Shepherds broadcasted abroad the news of Christ's birth
(Luke 2:17-20)

IV.Simeon's main goal in life became reality when he saw the new born Christ.
(Luke 2:25-35)

V.Aged Anna gave thanks & testimony when she saw the new born Christ
(Luke 2:36-38)

VI.Doctors of God's Law were astonished at the wisdom & answers of the 12 year old Christ (Luke 2:46-47)

Concl: *"What Child is This?"* Not an ordinary child!
But God, the Son! The only Redeemer & Savior of the world.

"What Child Is This?"

(Luke 1 & 2)

Introduction:

--A dramatic narration from the perspective of a shepherd.

"He's here! He's here! He has arrived! He is in the world! I saw Him with my own eyes. He's in Bethlehem! The angel told me who He was! . . . Oh, hello. Let me introduce myself. I'm a shepherd who lived almost 2,000 years ago, and I would like to tell you how my life was changed forever. It all happened one night . . ." **(Luke 2:8-12)**

"I was not the first one to meet the Christ child. You see, 15 months prior to that night, a certain priest named Zacharias . . ." (Tell the story from **Luke 1:5ff)**

***** ***6 Responses of amazement to Christ's Incarnation:***

I.John leaped in His mother's womb at Christ's presence
(Luke 1:41, 44)

John did not leap because of Mary's presence but because of the one Mary had in her womb. He knew that the Lord (though not even a month old) had entered into his mother's house.

II.Angels from Heaven rejoiced and glorified God at Christ's birth
(Luke 2:10, 14)

God in His sovereignty used Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfill His Word (Wiersbe, p. 175).

Micah 5:2 - *"But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."*

Angels never appeared and rejoiced at the birth of any other person! Not prophet, king or president!

The angels rejoiced at the redeemer's coming into this world, even though He came not to redeem them but instead to redeem fallen humanity.

III.Shepherds broadcasted abroad the news of Christ's birth
(Luke 2:17-20)

Bethlehem was some distance away from where the shepherds were tending their flocks, yet with haste the shepherds rushed *"even unto Bethlehem."* "Halford Luccock called this "the first Christmas rush'." (Wiersbe, p. 176)

Shepherds are normally quiet, "to themselves" people, who mind their own business of tending their flocks. Yet when they realized the arrival of the Messiah, they came out of their shell and went everywhere announcing the *"good tidings of great joy"* which were *"to all people."*

IV.Simeon's main goal in life became reality when he saw the new born Christ.
(Luke 2:25-35)

Simeon lived his whole life anticipating the Messiah's arrival. Now he was a very old man and feared that his goal in life (the one thing he hoped for) was about to pass by unfulfilled in his life! Until the Holy Spirit, through the Old Testament prophecies of Scripture, assured him that he would not die until he had seen the Christ, the Savior of the world.

Simeon, no doubt, studied Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:25-26) and knew that he was living during the time when Messiah should enter the world.

"How important it is for people to see God's salvation, Jesus Christ, before they see death" (Wiersbe, p. 177).

V.Aged Anna gave thanks & testimony when she saw the new born Christ
(Luke 2:36-38)

Anna, who had been a widow for 84 years, was well over 100 years of age. Yet she, with the vigor and strength of a youth, went and witnessed to all who were looking for redemption in Israel - telling them that the Redeemer had come!

VI.Doctors of God's Law were <u>astonished</u> at the wisdom & answers of the 12 year old Christ (Luke 2:46-47)

These great Bible scholars, who were like graduates of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton divinity schools, were dumbfounded by the brilliance of this young boy. Where did He get such knowledge? He never went to seminary! He wasn't taught by Gamaliel or Hillel or Shamei. He had no formal rabbinic training. How could He ask and answer questions that those learned men could not?

Concl: *"What Child is This?"* Not an ordinary child!
But God, the Son! The only Redeemer & Savior of the world.