

# BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS  
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

December 20, 1956

THE YOUNGEST SHEPHERD  
By Helen Seymour  
(with illustration #3)

Simon turned over and tried to find a more comfortable position. He was finding it hard to go to sleep this night, even though he had piled extra brush and dry leaves on the ground to make his bed softer. The other shepherds were kind. Because he was the youngest of them all, only eleven years old, they never made him take his turn at watching the sheep by night.

But tonight he couldn't get to sleep. Even with his eyes closed, it seemed that the sky was unusually light. And he heard the other shepherds talking; not just the two who were supposed to guard the sheep during the first watch, but all of them. They sounded excited, and a little frightened. Simon wondered if some wild animal were near -- a bear, or a lion, threatening the sheep? But no, in that case the men would be hurrying around, trying to find a way to kill it without hurting the sheep.

Finally, he just had to know what was going on, and he opened his eyes. The sky was almost as bright as day, and there was a huge star, brighter than any Simon had ever seen. He jumped up and hurried to the other shepherds to ask what they made of it when suddenly an angel appeared above them. He saw the men grasp each other's hands as if they were frightened. Simon wasn't frightened. It was a beautiful angel. Surely he didn't mean them any harm.

Then the angel spoke. "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

Soon there was a great choir of angels surrounding the first one, and they all sang with beautiful voices, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

When the angels were gone again, Simon heard one of the shepherds say to the rest, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass."

"Please, please, may I go too?" Simon begged.

The men looked at one another. Simon's legs were short, and he would slow them down. Then one spoke up: "The angels said their news was to all people."

"Yes," the other shepherds joined in, "Of course you may go, Simon."

Simon looked back at the sheep, peacefully sleeping. He glanced for a long moment at the sky from which the angels had appeared. Then lifting his robes to keep them out of the way of his flying feet, he ran to catch up with the other shepherds.

THE BETHLEHEM STAR  
By Elsie Simon

The years of time can never dim  
The star that shone on Bethlehem,  
It's shining still in hearts today  
Of everyone who kneels to pray,  
Rejoice, its power is as bright  
As on that first great Christmas night!

(Baptist Press Syndicate, all rights reserved, used by author's permission.)

-30-

THEY ALL DARED  
By Mildred L. Ackerman

Who were the following people who dared to take a certain stand and stick to it?

1. He gave up his tax collector's profession to follow Jesus.
2. He showed his loyalty and obedience to God by his willingness to sacrifice his only son.
3. He dared to kneel and pray to God three times a day in spite of the king's decree against it.
4. She dared to risk her life to help her own people by approaching the king with a petition.
5. He was willing to become a servant in the home where he had been a cherished son.
6. She was willing to go to a strange land rather than desert her husband's people.
7. He risked being beaten by robbers in order to help a stricken man.
8. He dared to fight a soldier much bigger than himself.
9. After being released from prison he dared to preach about Jesus although warned not to do so.

ANSWERS:

1. Matthew (Luke 5:27-28)
2. Abraham (Gen. 22:2-3)
3. Daniel (Daniel 6:7-11)
4. Queen Esther (Esther 4:16)
5. The prodigal son (Luke 15:18-19)
6. Ruth (Ruth 1:16-17)
7. The good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35)
8. David (I Samuel 17:45-46)
9. Peter (Acts 5:29-32)

(Baptist Press Syndicate, all rights reserved, used by author's permission.)

-30-