

God's Will and Christ's Birth – Part 2

Introduction

- The will of God reveals His intent & purpose
- The will of God is good, acceptable & perfect (Rom. 12:2)
- God revealed His will thru Gabriel to Mary (Lk. 1:26-33)
- Mary's response: shock, submission & song (Lk. 1:29, 34-38, 46-56)
- Pattern: Angel, Fear, Reassurance, Message, Sign [Zechariah, Mary, Shepherds]

I. God Uses A Government Official (v. 1-7)

A. The messenger & message (v. 1-2)

God uses individuals & groups in government for His purposes (Pr. 21:1; Rom. 13:1ff). God ensured that Joseph & Mary would get the message – “decree”, “all the world”.

B. Obedient response (v. 3-7)

All citizens obeyed the decree (v. 3). The decree required Joseph & Mary to go to Bethlehem (v. 4-5). Obedience to the decree led to fulfillment of prophecy & personal blessing (v. 6-7; Mic. 5:2).

God often reveals His will about Christ thru the government.

II. God Uses An Angel (v. 8-20)

A. The messenger & message (v. 9-14)

The messenger is a holy or elect angel (1Tim. 5:21). Same pattern: appearance (v. 9a-b), fear (v. 9c), reassurance (v. 10), message (v. 11) & sign (v. 12). The divine message was that today the Messiah was born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2).

B. Obedient response (v. 8, 15-20)

The shepherd sacrificially cared for sheep (v. 8). Obeying the will of God is more important than any occupation (v. 15-16a). God reveals more about Christ thru obedience (v. 16b-19). Obedience leads to praise without regrets (v. 20).

God may reveal His will about Christ naturally or supernaturally!