

## Christmas Surprises

Christmas introduces God's great surprises. Though our Christmas gifts may surprise family and friends, they don't compare with God's surprises.

**First**, there was the shock to lowly shepherds tending their sheep just outside Bethlehem. Suddenly "an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were very afraid." Luke 2.9

But "the angel said to them, "Fear not!"

**Second**, to their further surprise they then learnt that God was sending this sinful world a Saviour!

And, **third** – surprise, surprise – this message wasn't being delivered at the highest possible level! – not to powerful political leaders, not to society's most influential citizens, and not at a respectful hour!!

No. In the dead of night it came to a few humble shepherds while they were out in some remote field minding their sheep!

But there's more. On that first Christmas no one knew that this Saviour was destined to die a criminal's death on a Roman cross – dying for the sins of the world so that all who believed in Him would receive God's forgiveness!

Any further surprises? Yes! The Saviour wants repentant sinners to dwell with Him in heaven for all eternity!

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### GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

As a Christmas present, surprise a friend with this great news.

**Ken Packer**