

December 23: Angels Proclaim the Birth of Jesus



Angels are spiritual beings. When God created the angels, he gave them free will just like he does with people. He let them choose if they wanted to love and obey God, and live with God in Heaven or not. The good angels chose to love God and obey him. The bad angels disobeyed God and are now called devils. The good angels are happy and serve God and his people. Some of them are our guardian angels. Sometimes angels bring messages

from God. On the night that Jesus was born there were shepherds in the fields watching their sheep. An angel appeared to them telling them not to be afraid as he brought "good news of great joy". He said that today in the City of David, a Savior had been born who is Christ the Lord. Then many angels appeared praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will."



"The Angel's Song, illustration from *The Boyhood of Jesus*, by Anonymous, 1905



Luke 2:8-14. ⁸ There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. ⁹ Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. ¹¹ For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough."

¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army praising God, and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men."



"Sistine Madonna" (detail of angels), Raphael, 1513-14