

The Great Expectation Series

“You Got Mail”

December 8, 2024

From the beginning of man’s sin, God established the time, the method, and the day when Jesus Christ would enter the realm of humanity. The Promise of the Messiah was first revealed after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. God said to the serpent: “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*” (**Gen. 3:15**). God foreknew as one man’s sin caused all men to be conceived in sin it would take one perfect man to redeem all mankind. Whereas Adam’s sin brought the curse of death and separation from God, the birth of Jesus and sacrifice would reverse the curse, restoring man’s relationship with God.

Paul said in **Galatians 4:4-6 NKJV 4**. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5**. to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**6**. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

On the **First Sunday of Advent**, the **Prophet's Candle** was lit to acknowledge the role of the prophets in foretelling the promised Messiah. **Minister Doug** shared the promise: “**It’s Worth the Wait,**” and God-fearing Simeon, who lived long enough to see the young King in **Luke 2:25-32**.

Today, the **Second Advent candle** was lit to acknowledge the *Angel's Announcement of Jesus*.

My title this morning is in memory of Elwood Edwards, who passed away last month. He coined the term “**You’ve Got Mail**” in the late 1980s. Inspired by his wife, she worked for Quantum Computer before Quantum became AOL. The term became more popular in the late 1990s.

Scripture Text: Luke 2:8-14 NKJV 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and

saying: **14** “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

VERSE 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

During the time of Christ’s birth, shepherds were considered of low estate in society and spent most of their time in the fields caring for their flocks. They had to ruff it with very few conveniences. One would assume that bathing was far rare with the daily care of their flocks. They were dirty and smelled much like the herd that they protected. It was a lonely job, and I could imagine there was a lot of star gazing at night, meditation, and prayers. Shepherds had a lot of adversity from weather conditions and predators.

Sometimes, they worked in teams, allowing them to rotate breaks as they watched the herd during the day and at night. Wood had to be gathered for fires to cook and provide warmth on chilly nights.

VERSE 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

“**YOU’VE GOT MAIL**” ... Suddenly, an angel appeared before them from the Glory World with illuminating light that quickens your soul as the hair on your skin rises. It was probably a very still night; perhaps if there were crickets or frogs nearby, they became silent. When panic hits, you might feel like passing out... Am I dreaming?

Angels have appeared in various manifestations. They may appear alone as another human or in a group in their heavenly form with wings reflecting Heaven's glory.

In **Genesis 18**, three angels, one of whom was the angel of the Lord, appeared in human form to Sarah and Abraham. They shared a meal, and one told Sarah and Abraham they would have a child the following year, proving that God can do anything.

VERSE 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

When angels appear in their heavenly glory, the sight is often overwhelming, and they must tell people not to fear or worship them. **Hebrews 1:14 NIV** *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?* Angels deliver messages from God and do His will. They point us to God and give Him... glory alone! There are angels around those (unaware) who faithfully serve the Lord and do His will.

VERSE 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The angel announces that the awaited Savior from King David's lineage was born. It wasn't the night Christ came into being. It was the night Christ became our Immanuel (God with us in human form), who lived and walked among us.

God had ended the time of His silence; the time of waiting was over, the prophecy was fulfilled, and a new age had arrived. Christ would be a son of David and David's Lord and Savior.

VERSE 12 And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.

The announcement reveals that God's plan of salvation came to the humble and lowly instead of the powerful, noble, and elite of society. This Angelic appearance to the shepherds is one of the most compelling elements of Christ's birth in Luke. The Bible says, But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (**James 4:6 NKJV**).

God resists the proud because they refuse to trust Him to provide for what they need and what He wants for them, and they insist on getting what they want.

VERSE 13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

God dispatched a host if it wasn't enough to be encountered by one angel. A multitude swiftly shows up by the side of the announcing angel. A host {a Heavenly Militia} of angels by his side demonstrates the declaration's strength and power to be far-reaching.

Applications:

The most unlikely people are given the honor of sharing the Greatest News.

Live with the hope of experiencing God's presence.