

## Expectant Anticipation

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill toward men!”

This glorious anthem followed the angel’s proclamation that Christ the Savior had been born in the city of David. The shepherds wasted no time, but “came with haste” to see the babe in the manger. Then they made known to others what they had seen and heard (Luke 2:16, 17).

The pondering of the advent of Christ the Lord recorded in Luke 2 should create in us a sense of great anticipation. For the multitude of angels at the birth of Christ is only a foretaste of what will occur in the heavens at His second advent to earth.

Revelation 19 describes the second coming this way:

*After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!” Then a voice came from the throne saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great! And I (John) heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! (Revelation 19:1,5,6)*

This time when Christ appears, it will not be in a feeding trough...a manger. He will ride through heaven’s opened doors on a white horse. On this day, He will return as the righteous judge and mighty warrior. He will not be wrapped in swaddling clothes. Rather He will be clothed with a robe dipped in blood. On His robe and on His thigh this name will be written, “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:11-16).

In anticipation of Christ’s return to earth, is there a sense of urgency in your heart prompting you to tell others of your Christ? Do you make haste to follow where God is leading and to embrace what He is teaching you? Do you share the awe of the Bethlehem shepherds? Do you envision the warrior on the white horse?

As 2006 ends and the New Year begins, ask God to form in you expectant anticipation. Then do as Jesus advised His disciples, “Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).