



Joy in Believing

Luke 2:8-15(NIV): "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Luke 2:7,8(NIV): "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night."

Why the shepherds?

Genesis 46:34(NIV): "...all shepherds are *detestable to the Egyptians*."

"It is much safer to be feared than loved." Niccolo Machiavelli

Amun/Khnum (Egyptian Deities)

Role	Supreme ruler
Relationship to Humans	Hierarchical and distant
Symbol of Power	Ram: Dominance, conquest, and fertility
Human Response	Ritual offerings to appease
Nature of Leadership	Top-down

Amun/Khnum (Egyptian Deities)

Good Shepherd (Hebrew Bible)

Role	Supreme ruler	Humble servant-leader, caring for His flock.
Relationship to Humans	Hierarchical and distant.	Personal, intimate, and nurturing.
Symbol of Power	Ram: Dominance, conquest, and fertility	Shepherd: Humility, care, and guidance.
Human Response	Ritual offerings to appease	Trust and dependence
Nature of Leadership	Top-down	Bottom-up, sacrificial and relational.

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge." Simon Sinek

The Bible introduces us to the only leadership style that truly works: Servant Leadership

"that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." President Abraham Lincoln

"The Bible is for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people." John Wycliffe(14th century Bible scholar/translator in his preface to the Bible)

To find fulfillment, STOP chasing it, START serving it!

Joy: Hedva

A Deep, Internal Joy

Gives Life Meaning & Purpose
Rooted in Community

Joy is incomplete unless it's shared: I can't have joy unless you have joy.

Reframe your Life, Career, Relationships, Politics, Money, Time, Energy

Make the Christmas story **THE**

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.