

**“Behold!”**  
**A Shepherd’s Tale**  
by  
Tom Smith

- What** In this Christmas monologue, a shepherd recounts his experience after the angel of the Lord appeared to announce the birth of the Messiah.  
**Themes:** Shepherd, Christmas, Messiah, Monologue, Good News, Salvation
- Who** Young Shepherd
- When** The first Christmas
- Wear  
(Props)** Robe  
Staff  
Sandals
- Why** Luke 2:10
- How** Imagine yourself in the shepherd’s place as you bring his character to life. How might you react to a visit from the angel of the Lord? Frightened? Excited? Consider how you might respond to the news of our Savior’s birth. Amazed? Joyful? Hopeful?
- Time** Approximately 6 minutes

“Behold!”

*Scene opens with a young, excited shepherd boy, staff in hand, running onto the stage as if he’s headed somewhere in a hurry. He addresses the audience with excitement and urgency.*

**Shepherd:** So much has been happening around here since last night that I scarcely know if I’m coming or going! *(Slight laughter)* And it’s all been so amazing!

*The Shepherd takes a deep breath then exhales. Placing a hand on his chest he introduces himself.*

Please, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Joel and I am a shepherd from the tribe of Benjamin. My brothers and I tend a small flock of sheep just a short distance from here. That’s where we were last night when it all happened. Again, forgive me. I’m getting ahead of myself.

*The Shepherd takes a few steps to the left and then back to the right as he appears to be gathering his thoughts. He stops, faces the audience, and begins telling of events from the preceding night.*

Usually the hours we spend watching our flock by night are uneventful...and last night looked to be pretty much the same. Our sheep were at rest. There was a gentle breeze coming down from the mountains to the north and the evening stars lit up the sky. All was calm. All was quiet.

Suddenly, *(excited with eyes wide open and whispering loudly)* from out of nowhere, an angel of the Lord appeared before us, and the glory of the Lord shown down around us. It was amazing. It was... *(Struggling to find the proper words)* beyond amazing.

Need I tell you that we were terrified? *(Excited and speaking quickly)* Two of my brothers dropped to their knees so quickly I feared for their very lives. And me? *(Slight laughter)* I was much too frightened to even move. I just stood there as a dead man. Imagine, the glory of the Lord shining down around us. How do I even begin to describe such an event? *(Shaking his head)* It is not possible.

*Excitedly waving his arms over his head.*

And that was just the beginning. Then the angel of the Lord said to us, “Don’t be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people.”

“Behold!”

My brothers and I were still trembling. We wondered what this good news, which the angel of the Lord had spoken of, could possibly be. And then we heard the most wondrous news ever proclaimed. “For there is born to you today”, the angel said, “in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

We stood silent. Our hearts leaped within us. Did we dare believe our own ears? Had the angel truly said that the Messiah had been born? The One whom our forefathers had waited ages for?

Then angel of the Lord continued. “This is the sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough.”

And then, just as suddenly as the first angel had appeared, there was a multitude of the heavenly army praising God, and saying (*loudly*), “Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men.” (*Quietly and slightly confused*) And then... they were gone.

*The Shepherd, leaning on his staff, takes another deep breath and exhales as his thoughts seem to drift. Then he returns his attention to the audience.*

When the angels had left us and gone into heaven, we said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So, we quickly gathered a few items and hurried on our way. (*Slight laughter*) In our excitement we nearly forgot about our sheep but two of my uncles agreed to stay behind and care for them.

When we finally arrived at Bethlehem we found Mary and Joseph and the baby just as the angel had said, lying in a feeding trough. He was a beautiful child and Mary told us that his name was Jesus. Once we had seen him, we began telling everyone what we had been told about this child, and about our visit from the angel of the Lord, and about how we were told where we would find Him. Those who heard us were amazed, but Mary just seemed to treasure up all those things in her heart and pondered them.

Soon it came time for us to go. We really wanted to stay but knew that we needed to return to our flock. And we also knew that Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus had need of rest. So, we said our goodbyes and parted with hearts filled with wonder and with joy.

(*Excited*) All the way home we were glorifying and praising God for all the things we had heard and seen, which were just as we had been told.

"Behold!"

*Laughs quietly to himself reflecting on all that has occurred before there is a moment of silence. Then he directs his attention back to the audience and takes on a serious tone.*

My Lord has shown me great favor. And for the rest of my days I will tell the world of the events that happened here last night. *(Humbly)*, a mere shepherd, have been visited by heavenly angels. I have met the father and the mother of my Lord.

And yes, *(lowers his head and whispers)* I have seen the face of God.

*The stage lights dim.*

Glory to God in the highest.

*The End*

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