

The background of the image is a deep purple night sky filled with numerous small, bright stars. A single, exceptionally bright star is positioned in the upper center, emitting a powerful, multi-colored glow that radiates downwards in several distinct beams of light. These beams transition from yellow at the source to a soft pink and then to a pale blue as they descend. In the lower-left corner, the dark silhouettes of the Nativity scene are visible against the glowing light. It includes the figures of Mary and Joseph, with Joseph holding a long staff, and several sheep. The branches of a tree are also silhouetted on the left side of the frame.

The Breakthroughs of God's Light in the Christmas Story

The Center of It All

Jesus Is The Light of The World

- ▶ **John 8:12** “I am the Light of the world. If you follow Me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the Light that leads to Life.”
- ▶ **1 John 1:5** “God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” Jesus is God; Jesus is God’s Light
- ▶ **John 1:5** “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.”
- ▶ **John 1:9** “(Jesus is) the one who is the true Light, Who gives Light to everyone.”
- ▶ **John 4:19** “God’s Light came into the world...”
- ▶ **John 9:5** “I am the Light of the world.”

Prophesied: the breakthrough of heaven light into earth via the conception and birth of Jesus

- ▶ **Luke 1:78-79 (John's father Zechariah):** “the morning light from heaven is about *to break upon us*, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death...”
- ▶ **Rev 22.16:** reference to Jesus, Who calls Himself “the Bright Morning Star”

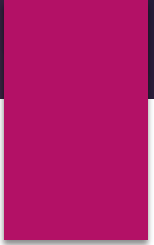
OT prophecy: Isaiah 9: 2,6

The great prophecy of the
birth of Messiah Jesus:

- ▶ “The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.”

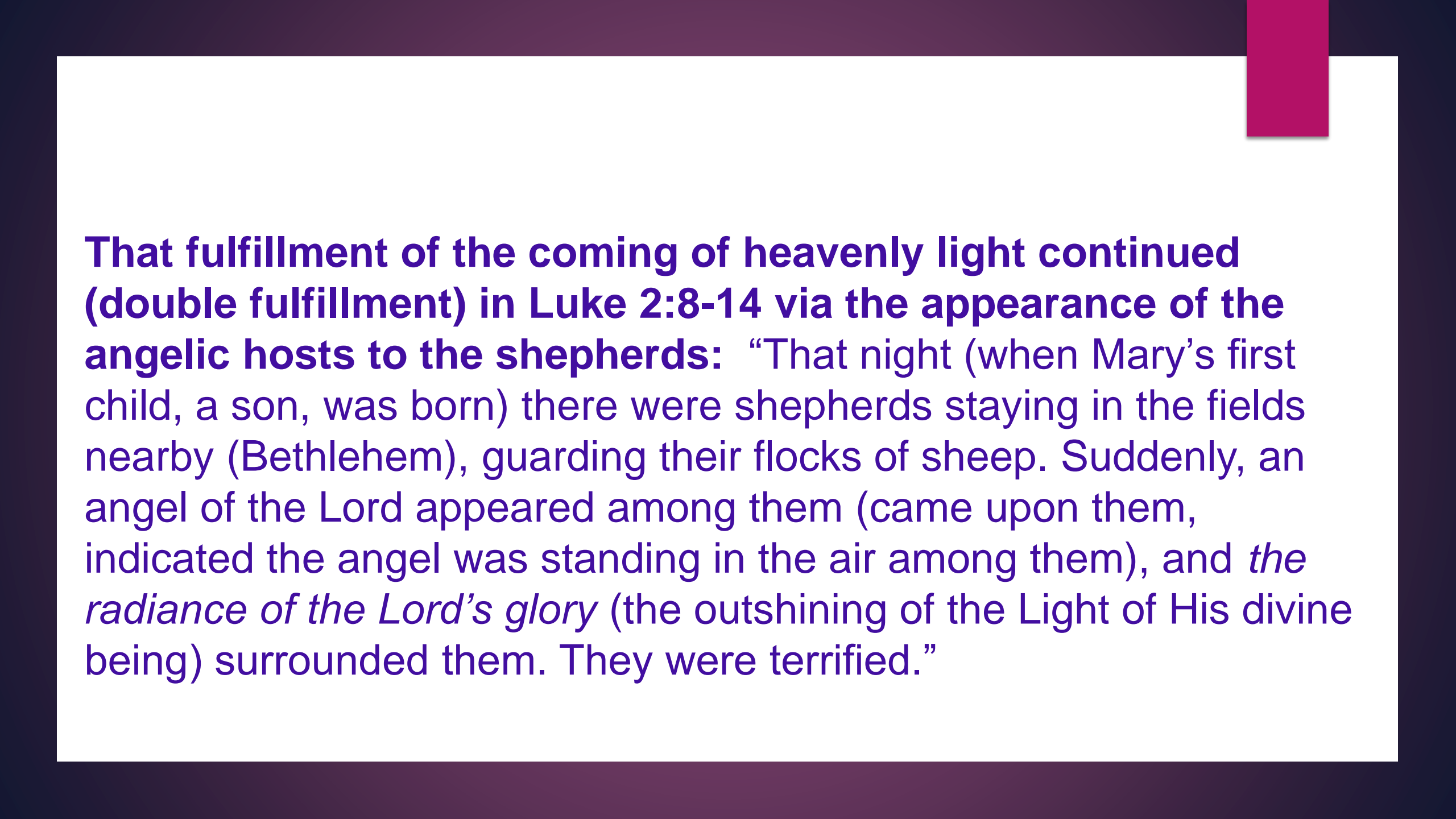
The fulfillment of Isaiah 9: 2,6 started with Gabriel's announcement of the conception of Jesus

- **Luke 1:31-33:** “You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. (Luke 1:31-33) He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David. And He will reign over Israel forever; His kingdom will never end.”



Luke 1: 35—“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” This “overshadowing” (*covering over, enveloping*) is referred to also in Jesus Transfiguration and in the presence of God’s luminous, shining, cloud of glory in and above the Tabernacle of Moses and in the Temple—the Shekinah glory of God –the heavenly “light” of His presence –

Shekinah glory—the white shining cloud of dazzling brightness accompanying the divine presence—the fire in the burning bush, the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites by night, the luminous cloud of God that filled and hovered over the Tabernacle and the Temple



That fulfillment of the coming of heavenly light continued (double fulfillment) in Luke 2:8-14 via the appearance of the angelic hosts to the shepherds: “That night (when Mary’s first child, a son, was born) there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby (Bethlehem), guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them (came upon them, indicated the angel was standing in the air among them), and *the radiance of the Lord’s glory* (the outshining of the Light of His divine being) surrounded them. They were terrified.”

Is the Luke 2:8-14 angel Gabriel's in his third appearance in the gospel of Luke, though not mentioned by name?

1. He announces good news of births (as he did in his two other NT appearances (to Zechariah and to Mary).
2. He speaks of the Messiah, Jesus – as he did in all three of his appearance (to Daniel in Dan. 8, to Zechariah, and to Mary);
3. He speaks the identical introductory words to the shepherds as he did to Mary: “Don’t be afraid.”

One more evidence of heaven's breakthrough as light in the Christmas story: The Bethlehem Star – (notes)

The “great light” (star)—triple fulfillment?-- seen by the Magi--

--so it may not have been a natural object at all—**may have been an angel**—no evidence that angels always appear as humans

--Paul says in 2 Co. 11:14—Satan disguises himself as an “angel of light.”

--was the “star” an angel of light? -- especially the re-appearance of the star that traveled north to south when guiding the Magi to Bethlehem.


--was this Gabriel at it again, announcing and guiding?

Personal Application: Jesus as God's Light in and through us

1. **Hebrews 12:2**—"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus..."—

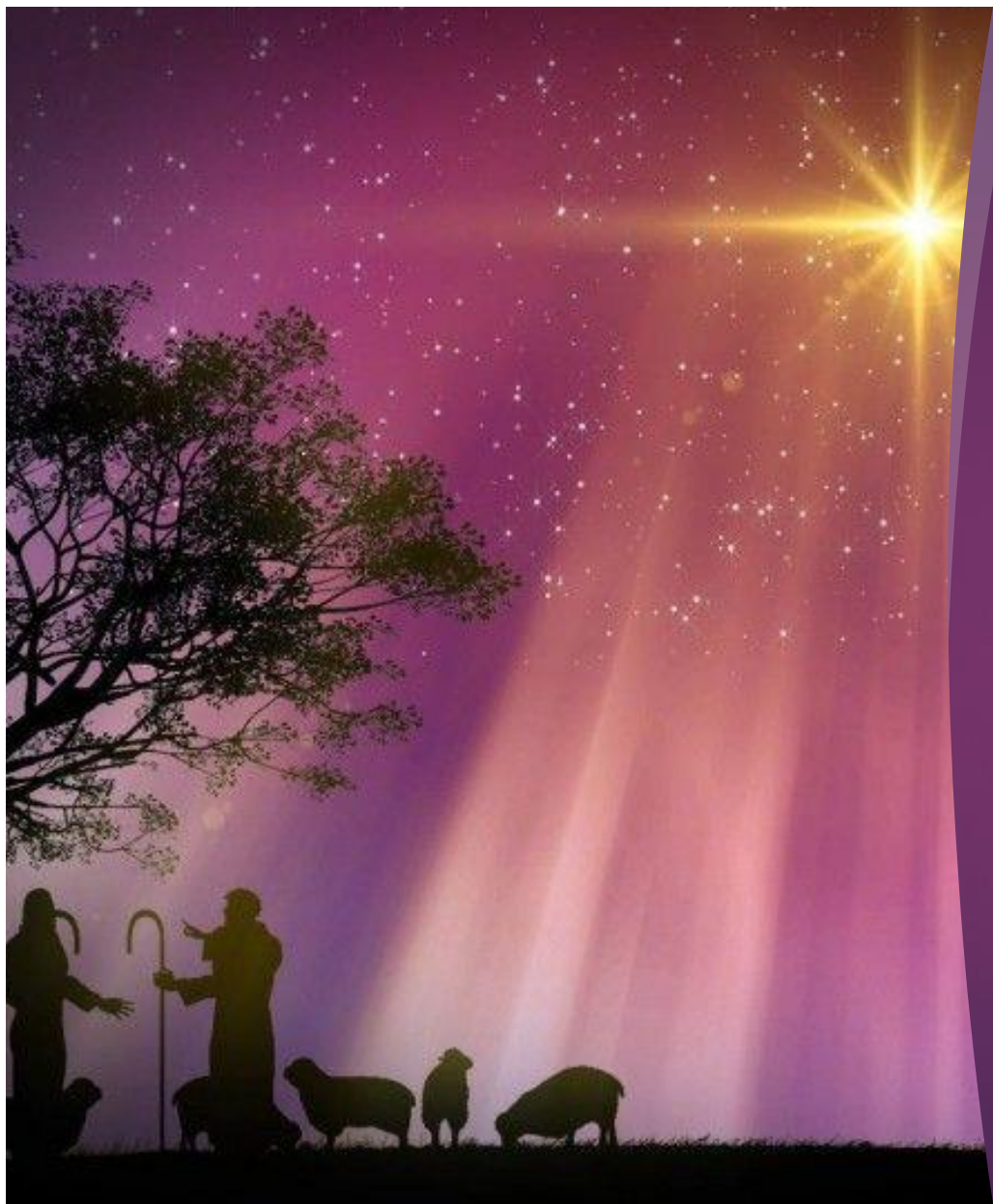
He is God's Light--focusing our spiritual eyes on Him and the things of Himself and His kingdom will cause His light to fill our beings—

2. **Matthew 6:22**—"Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. If your eye is good/single/generous, your whole body is filled with light" – Having our souls focused on Jesus fills our entire beings with His light—which will radiate out to all we meet, always--



3. How Does He Radiate From us? –through love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24—“Let’s see how we can stimulate each other **to love and good deeds.** ---

- a. **love:** putting the interests of others above our own,
- b. **good deeds**—overcoming evil with good, showing blessing in the place of cursing, giving to those in need, looking to give and serve rather than to take and be served. Living as Jesus in the world—
- c. **Prov. 11:25**—“the generous man will be prosperous; he who waters will himself be watered.”



John 1:9 “Jesus is the true Light, who gives light (through us) to everyone.”