A. The Gift (vs. 12):

1. **A sign to you** – The shepherds finding Jesus in the manger is a supernatural act of God indicating His matchless grace. It serves as evidence of the mighty hand operating in human history (Galatians 4:4). Because it is nominative this sign is the subject of the shepherds’ search.

2. **You will find** – There is no question that after careful scrutiny the shepherds will not find baby Jesus.

3. **Baby** - Being in the accusative means that this is the object they are looking for. Christ will be found as a baby.

4. **Baby** – Christ is fully human because He is a gift to us and for us.

5. **Swaddling clothes** – Jesus would be wrapped in strips of cloth, that are more like rags, which means that Joseph and Mary were poor and therefore could afford the standard baby clothes. This present condition is an indication of the life Jesus would have (Luke 9:58; Philippians 2:6-11). This also helps the men to have a clear description of who Jesus is.


7. **Lying in a manger** – Baby Jesus will be found lying down ready for continual service (This word means “to be laid or set,” - the axe that lies at the root of the trees, it does not simply mean that it is laid there, but it speaks also of the necessity of its being taken up and used.)

B. The Blessing (vs. 13-14):

1. **Suddenly there appeared** – Out of nowhere at night (vs. 8), once and for all, an angel stood before shepherds who are known to encounter wild animals and thieves (like David who killed a lion and bear). For these men were not just frightened, they were terribly frightened which means this was something they had never seen.
2. **An angel** - Angels served as messengers of God who came with a specific message to proclaim. Being in the dative means that they are not the object of the message they are only there to deliver the message.

3. **Multitude** – It is interesting that the angel was not even the object when delivering the message that Jesus was born, but the mass of angels, like a large army, was the subject (nominative) of what was taking place. Who was giving God praise was important even if they were not the receptions of His grace.

4. **Host** – They were a heavenly army. This is why Jesus said to Peter that there was no need for him to defend Jesus because there were ‘twelve legions of angels’ available to Him (Mt. 26:53).

5. **Heavenly host** – Outside of Simeon and Anna, the angels were more excited than we were.

6. **Praise** – The angels possessed themselves with the focus on proclaiming the excellent nature of God and the glorious event that had taken place.

   a) **NO on one on earth did this, except Mary (Luke 1:46-56).** The Magi brought gifts and worshipped Christ (bowed or prostrated themselves before Him) but they did not praise God. God sent His Son to save the world (John 3:16). This process was directed by God only because of His love because no man sought Him (Romans 3:11) and the Jews were in a state of apostasy. The leaders can tell Herod where to find Christ but they never looked. It was the leaders who nailed Christ to the cross. God had not sent a prophet until John the Baptist for 400 years. God’s loving grace was honored by the angels. The only people after Mary and the angels to praised God was Simeon (Luke 2:25-32) and Anna (Luke 2:36-38).

   b) **These angels, having been associated with Christ in heaven before His incarnation, knew something about His glory, riches, and majesty. (Isa. 6:1-4; John 12:41).** They had also become aware of men’s fall. And they had been informed that God had provided a way of salvation for man. Gabriel’s announcement to Joseph—"You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21)."[1]

7. **Tell, speak** – They were constantly repeating the same words, found in verse 14, over and over again. This went on for a while as if they had no plans to stop.

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8. **Glory** – Giving God glory is the focus (subject) of their appearance to the shepherds.

9. **Glory** – The angels focused on manifesting God’s excellent divine nature.

10. **Most high** – In the highest is to declare God as the Supreme One. There is no one greater to praise.

11. **Peace** – Man and God, as a result of Christ death and resurrection would be at peace (Ephesians 2:14-16). This is one of the main focuses of God’s plan through Christ.

   a) “Peace” refers here to the fullness of blessing which the Savior/Christ/Lord brings and is essentially a synonym for salvation (cf. Acts 10:36).  

12. **Peace** – The peace is among men, meaning Christ makes it His main focus to remove strife (the Holy Spirit is our peace, John 14:26; and it is one of the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22) and distress among those who are saved (Romans 12:18).

13. **Peace** – As a result of having a relationship with God believers can have a relationship with each other (Matthew 26:36-40).

14. **With whom He is pleased** – Peace can only take place among those believers whose lives pleases God (1 Timothy 2:2-3). Pleasing God takes place when we live by faith (Hebrews 11:6) and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

   a) The phrase means that people are the objects of God’s goodwill. In ancient Judaism, this phrase described a limited group of people who were the objects of God’s special grace. The promise of peace (1:79) and goodwill would come to those who welcome God’s only Son.

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b) ‘With whom He is pleased’ means those who accept Christ and walk in His Word (1 Timothy 2:2-3).

c) ‘With whom He is pleased’ in this passage therefore means those who choose to live by faith (Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

d) This gift only becomes a gift when people choose to live by faith.

e) Living by faith therefore achieves the purpose of the gift; ‘peace among men,’ because there is peace in men’s hearts.

15. **Peace** – When people choose to grow spiritually (John 14:15) they would love each other better (Matthew 26:36-40; John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:16-25).

16. **The gift of Christmas is a true gift when we accept and appreciate God’s gift to men. The angels did!!**