

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

For an occasion as important as the birth of JESUS, one song just isn't enough! Charles Wesley (1707-1788), who wrote almost 9,000 hymns, wrote his own song about JESUS' birth. His original version started with "Hark, how all the welkin rings," but thankfully for us, his friend George Whitefield changed it to what we sing today. The song starts by calling us to listen to the angels singing about this Baby's birth. Hark basically means "listen up!" and herald angels are messengers from GOD who have a really important message (as if anything they say *isn't* important). While "Angels We Have Heard On High" tells the story of the shepherds, Wesley's hymn starts there, but goes on to say Who JESUS is, and to marvel at the mystery of GOD being born as a tiny little Baby.

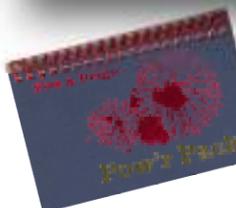
So, who is that Newborn that the angels sang about? Wesley explains that He is the King Who will bring peace between GOD and sinners...and even though He is adored by even the most important and impressive beings in Heaven, He was pleased to become a Man - 'veiled in flesh' on earth. Wesley imagines JESUS as a frail little baby, and yet calls us to 'Hail Him' (which is like cheering for somebody), because He is the Prince of Peace Who brings Deliverance, Healing, Light, and Life to all!

The hymn's final stanza sings about the work of Christ as the second Adam, which erases the image of Adam (representing sinful man) and stamps you with the image of Christ (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Singing this hymn not only celebrates JESUS' birth...it also reminds you of the larger picture of what He did with His life, bringing salvation...how honorably He died and how miraculously GOD raised Him from the dead to His ascension...for YOU!

"Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the New-Born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
GOD and sinner reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise...
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! The Herald angels sing,
Glory to the New-Born King!"



**JOY to the
WORLD...
The LORD HAS
COME!**



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"Be near me, LORD JESUS, I ask
Thee to stay close by me forever and love
me I pray; bless all our dear children in
Thy tender care...and take us to heaven
to live with
Thee there."



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Submitted by Jerry Becker - story by Kenneth E. Hagin

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD BLESS YOU!

This story is better than any greeting card: A man by the name of Bob didn't believe much in GOD and was quick to let anyone know. His wife, however, was a Believer and raised their children to have Faith in GOD. One snowy Christmas Eve, Bob's wife and children pleaded with him to go with them to church. He refused, saying, "Christmas is nonsense! Why would GOD lower Himself to come to earth as a man?" So his wife and the children left, and Bob stayed home.

A while later, as the wind howled outside, Bob relaxed in front of the fireplace. Suddenly, he heard loud honking noises; he looked out the window, but the blinding snow hindered his view, so he went outside to see what was going on. In the field, by the barn, Bob found several wild geese that had gotten separated from their flock. They had lost their bearings in the snow and were wandering around aimlessly.

Bob knew the geese wouldn't last long in the storm. They needed a shelter where they could stay until the wind and snow stopped. He opened the barn doors and waited for the geese to go in, but they stayed in the field. Bob got behind the geese and tried to shoo them into the barn, but this only scared them; then he got grain and laid a trail on the ground to the barn door; but the geese still would not go in.

All of Bob's efforts to help had failed. He realized the geese would never follow a man and said to himself, "If only I were a goose, I could save them." Then he had an idea...he went into the barn, picked up one of his geese, carried it outside and set it down behind the wild geese. When he released his goose, it flew through the flock and straight into the barn. One by one the wild geese followed it to safety. Bob stood silently for a moment, considering what he had just said, "If only I were a goose, I could save them!" Then he remembered what he had said earlier to his wife: "Why would GOD lower Himself to come to earth as a man?"

Suddenly, it all made sense; mankind was like those geese...blind, lost and perishing. GOD sent His Son to become like us so He could save us! Now Bob understood what Christmas was all about and why JESUS Christ had come. Bob fell to his knees in the snow and prayed, "Thank You, GOD, for coming as a human to get me out of a storm of sin!"

Have the howling winds and storms of life caused you to lose your way? Are you struggling just to get by? There is Someone ready to help you. Receive GOD's wonderful Gift of Salvation through Christ JESUS. This Christmas give yourself the best Gift you have ever received by making JESUS your Savior and LORD....

Say this with me, "Father, I come to you admitting things haven't been going well, and I want to make things right with You. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth JESUS is LORD, and Believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved. So, I'm doing that - confessing with my mouth 'JESUS, You are LORD', and I Believe in my heart that GOD raised You from the dead. Thank You for forgiving my sins and helping me to see that I needed You...I have a new heart.... You have given me a fresh start; I am Born-again!" "Because GOD's children are made of flesh and blood, the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." (Hebrews 2:14)

The best Gift you will ever get!



The Bible In The News...

Think About This - You may not realize it, but it's 100% true...



there has been only one christmas - the rest are anniversaries. -W.J. Camer

1. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way....
2. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
3. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
4. You mean the world to someone...remember, GOD Loves You!
5. If not for you, someone may not be living.
6. You are special and unique, made in the image and likeness of GOD!
7. Even when you make a big mistake, something good can still come from it.
8. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world....With GOD you can turn it around!
9. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
10. Always remember the compliments you received...forget about the rude remarks; life will be more fulfilling. "People may not remember what you said or what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel!"
11. Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.
12. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great. Remember, JESUS said to love your neighbor as yourself...Love 'em!



"Therefore GOD highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name...that at the Name of JESUS every knee shall bow of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that JESUS Christ is LORD to the Glory of GOD the Father!" (Philippians 2:9-10)

CHAOTIC CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Your favorite Christmas carols have been jumbled up! Rearrange the letters to see the unscrambled melodies. (Hint: The number of words, the amount of letters in each word, and the punctuation are already in the correct place). A list of the Christmas carols are on the right hand side...you can cover them up to make it harder :) ANSWERS are at the bottom....

1. STCH ISILH HT DWIA? _____
2. YAMG AI N ERNWAA _____
3. NENL! AEG AGSSHA DRHIHT ERKL _____
4. N ILYO TGH OH _____
5. ELHD LSH CAEKT _____
6. STNHIG LINTE _____
7. O FELLBN EWTO IL ETOETMHTH _____
8. TO OUH IERY HDRA A WAEH? _____
9. OSR TLEG NE EYDEN TEGYRMMRE _____
10. AHGVHE LE OEHD NGS AI EW RHAN _____
11. HOO OY EJT WLDRT _____
12. UO INLL TN MI EON ATGOTTHE _____
13. U ROOR, M LEOC, OCMNAEMM _____
14. NTE THFIR OELS _____

- Angels We Have Heard On High
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- Away In A Manger
- O Holy Night
- The First Noel
- What Child Is This?
- Joy To the World
- Deck the Halls
- Silent Night
- O Little Town Of Bethlehem
- GOD Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- Go Tell It On the Mountain
- Do You Hear What I Hear?

1. What Child Is This? 2. Away In A Manger 3. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 4. O Holy Night 5. Deck the Halls 6. Silent Night 7. O Little Town Of Bethlehem 8. Do You Hear What I Hear? 9. GOD Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 10. Angels We Have Heard On High 11. Joy To the World 12. Go Tell It On the Mountain 13. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 14. The First Noel

The Secret In The Box...



Over the phone, my Mom told me, "Mr. Belser died last night; the funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through my mind like an old newsreel as I quietly remembered my old childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?" "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him; I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," I replied. Mom continued, "Well, he didn't forget you; every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it; I loved that old house he lived in. You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," Jack felt his mother's words, "He's the one who taught me carpentry; I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important...I'll be there for the funeral," and I hung up the phone. As busy as I was, I caught the next flight to my home town. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away. The night before I had to return home, Mom and I went by the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, I paused for a moment; it was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as I remembered. Every step held memories...every picture, every piece of furniture...and then I stopped in my tracks. "What's wrong, Jack?" Mom asked. "The box is gone!" "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk; I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" I told her with a hint of sadness...it was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how I remembered, except for the box; I figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day I discovered a note in my mailbox: "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day I went to the post office and retrieved the package. The package was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught my attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. I took the box out to the car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope; my hands shook as I read the note inside: "Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. My heart was racing, and tears filled my eyes, as I carefully unlocked the box. There inside I found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running my fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, I unlatched the cover; inside I found these words engraved: "Jack, thanks for your time!" - Harold Belser.

"The thing he valued most was...my time!" I held the watch for a few minutes, then called my office and cleared my appointments for the next two days; my assistant, Janet, asked why. "I need some time to spend with a friend," I said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!" And...thank you, my Friend, for Your Time!



Feliz Navidad from... Home Of Refuge Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable



Don't ever think that you are not used of GOD; as long as you remain willing, GOD will use your gifts - small or great - when given out of love. As we close this year and look forward to a New Year with all its challenges and also all of its opportunities to save more children living in the streets, we want you to read these words from II Thessalonians 1:11-12:

"To this end also we pray for you always, that our GOD will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of Faith with Power, so that the Name of the LORD JESUS will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the Grace of our GOD and the LORD JESUS Christ!"

We hope that your heart rejoices as much as ours does at the fruit of your giving... your reward is great in heaven! We love you, and we look forward to meeting you one of these days in Heaven....

Working together for the Kingdom, Tony & Rosa Home of Refuge - PERU

