

The Coming of Jesus

Genesis 1v1 – The Beginning

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and
- **He separated the light.....from the darkness.**

Isaiah prophesies 'in the dark' in 650 BC

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; **on those living in the land of the shadow of deatha light has dawned.**

John the disciple writes:

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.
- Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
- **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it.**
- The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

Peter the disciple writes:

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to **a light shining in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the **morning star** rises in your hearts.

Do You See What I See?

Said the night wind to the little lamb:
Do you see what I see?
'Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star
Dancing in the night,
With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy:
Do you see what I see?
Shining thru the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you see what I see?
A Child, a Child
Sleeping in the night.
He will bring us goodness and light.

Genesis – a promise from God - in the dark

- The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, You are cursed!
- And I will put war between you and the woman, and between your children and hers; **one of your children will crush your head**, and you will strike his heel."

A letter to Jews after the coming of Jesus:

Since the children have flesh and blood, Jesus too shared in their humanity so that by his death **he might destroy him who holds the power of death**—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing
you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on
Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power when we
were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father a blessed
angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings
of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of
God by name.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “Let nothing
you afright
This day is born a Saviour of a pure Virgin
bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from
Satan’s power and might.”

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

And when to Bethlehem they came where
our dear Saviour lay,
They found Him in a manger where oxen
feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did
pray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

The real miracle is that God would destroy the devil's authority on earth through a fragile human life - His own nature in a child, growing to a man. Not by using His own power or authority. It would be a triumph of pure goodness over pure evil.

Isaiah sees it: (650BC!)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.

God foretells it through Isaiah as 'a sign'

Then Isaiah said, " the Lord himself will give you a sign: A virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel, meaning 'GOD WITH US'

Child in a Manger

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all,
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived below.
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious over each foe.

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne.
Worthy our Saviour of all our praises;
Happy forever are His own.

What would Jesus's natural family be?

A Jewish King called David (1000BC) was taken by God from his home village of Bethlehem where he was just a shepherd boy. God says through a prophet, 'I took you from feeding sheep, to shepherd My people'.

This character - of a **humble shepherd king** - was the family characteristic God chose for Jesus to be born into.

Isaiah 11 - The 'Branch From Jesse' (David's father)

- A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -

Isaiah 9 - The coming King - like David

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will 'reign on David's throne and over his kingdom', establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

So where is 'Royal David's City'?

Well – it's humble little Bethlehem, of course.

God told Micah the prophet in 650 BC!

"But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, **out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel**, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Matthew the disciple tells us:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Matthew the disciple tells us:

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
though least among the families of Judah;
out of you will come a ruler who will be the
shepherd of my people Israel

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see you lie!
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in your dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in you tonight.

O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!
For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!