

# ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*** **(Christmas Carol Theology Series - #3)**

December 24, 2006

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth.

Words: Charles Wesley (1739)  
Music: Mendelssohn (1840)

*Luke 2:8-14*

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

## **Some Christmas history**

Birthdate of Jesus from the Bible: not available  
Birthdates suggested by scholars: 1/6, 3/25, 5/20, etc., etc.  
Birthdate selected: 12/25 (due to existing pagan celebrations of Saturnalia, Juvenalia, and birth of Mithra – all tied to the winter solstice)  
Year that a birthdate was formally selected: 349 AD  
Christmas was banned by the Puritans in the 1600's  
Christmas was not declared an American holiday until 1870.

## **The Story Of This Carol...**

### **The Theology Of This Carol...**

#### **Stanza 1: The Birth Announcement**

Angels  
Shepherds

#### **Stanza 2: Who Jesus Was**

His deity  
His virgin birth  
His incarnation  
His humanity

#### **Stanza 3: What Jesus Offers**

Light and life  
Healing  
Victory over death

## **2 Archaic Words**

Hark  
Hail