

Sounds of the Season (Part 2)

Hark! The Herold Angels Sing

(Luke 2: 8-13)

Introduction: For an occasion as important as the birth of Jesus, one song just isn't enough! The news of Jesus' birth is one of the greatest events in the saga of God's eternal plan! Charles Wesley--who wrote almost 9,000 hymns, wrote his own song about Jesus' birth.

"*Hark the Herold Angels Sing*" starts by calling us to listen to the angel's message about Jesus' birth. But, it goes on to say who Jesus is, and to marvel at the mystery of God being born as a tiny little baby.

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 us with the image of Christ. Singing this hymn not only celebrates Jesus' birth, it also reminds us of the larger picture of what He did with his life, and through His death, resurrection and ascension.

This Carol finds its biblical foundation in (Luke's gospel 2:11)

As we examine this carol, we must ask; who is this one the angels were announcing? While the angel does not use His earthly name, as he did when he announced His birth to Joseph (Mt. 1:21). He does identify the baby born that night by His heavenly titles and purpose.

I. He is the savior :

A. The angel revealed the glory of God (v. 9)

1. **When the angel stood before these shepherds, it was a spectacular sight!**
2. **Other times this has happened in the Bible** (Ex. 33:20-23; Ex. 40:34-35; 1 kg. 8:10-11; Ezk. 8-10; Rev. 21:23)

The significance and importance of this night is that it represented the return of the glory of God to earth – not in a tent or building; but in human flesh in the person of the Messiah (the savior)!

B. The angel introduced the gospel of God – (vv. 10, 11)

1. **While salvation was first promised to the Jews, this was good news to "all people!"** (Lk. 2:30-32) (Isa. 60:1-3; 9:2; 42:6; 49:6-9)
2. **While this Savior's salvation is available to "all people"** (of every race, and standing) He must be personally received and believed upon –

II. He is the Christ:

1. **The confusion** –It is a title which means (in both the Old and New Testament – "Messiah or "*The Anointed one*" (Dan 9:25 - 26)
2. **The clarity** – (Phil 2:9-11; Jn. 18:37; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:11 -15; Heb. 1:1, 2; Matt 16:16).

III. He is the Lord:

A. He is the Lord God –

1. **To Say Jesus is Lord is to say He is first and foremost God!** (Jn. 1:1; Phil. 2:6-8)
2. **This is directly related to and a requirement of our salvation** (Rom. 10:9)
3. **To confess Jesus as Lord is to imply all the sovereignty and authority to Jesus as one who is God!** (Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 10:30; 14:9)

B. He is the Lord who is in complete control - (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Gal. 4:4, 5)

C. Jesus Christ is the Lord of Christmas. But, we don't dare leave the baby in the manger!

Conclusion: Charles Wesley's Christmas carol *Hark the Herald Angels sing*; starts with a message the angels shared. But, it goes on to say who Jesus is, marvels at the mystery of God being born as a tiny little baby. Then the final stanza goes on to sing of the work of Christ as Savior. And singing this hymn not only celebrates Jesus' birth, it also reminds us of the larger picture of what He did with his life, death, resurrection and ascension.

And this brings us to the question: *Are we worshiping Jesus this Christmas and all year long as our personal Savior, Messiah, and Lord?*

I pray you are. And if you are; you are sharing this good news with as many others as you can!