

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Message 2 of 4 in the series: "Something to Sing About"

"Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth and mercy mild, **God and sinners 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.'

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. **Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,** Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King.'

Hail the heav'n-born **Prince of Peace!** Hail the **Sun of Righteousness!** Light and life to all He brings, **Risen 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. Hark! The herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King.'" Charles Wesley (1739)

A. Sometimes we need help to understand some of the things said about Jesus in the Bible.

"The Holy Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and walk along beside the carriage.' Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, **'Do you understand what you are reading?'** The man replied, **'How can I, unless someone instructs me?'** And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth...' The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?' So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus." Acts 8:29-35 (NLT) (See also *Isaiah 53:7*)

B. The angel armies of heaven thought Jesus' birth was something to sing about.

"That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. **The Savior—yes, the Messiah (Christ), the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!** And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.' Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'" Luke 2:8-14 (NLT)

1. Jesus didn't come to save angels. He came to save us!

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die... **We also know that the Son did not come to help angels;** he came to help the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people."
Hebrews 2:14-17 (NLT) (See also *Galatians 3:7, Ephesians 3:1-6*)

"This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward... **It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.**"
1 Peter 1:10-12 (NLT)

2. Jesus is fully God and fully human at the same time. God came into our world veiled in flesh in order to reconcile sinful mankind to Himself.

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth... Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For **God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself.** He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and

actions. Yet **now he has reconciled you to himself** through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.” Colossians 1:15-22 (NLT)

“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, **he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.** When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:6-11 (NLT)

3. Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness. He radiates righteousness. He is the **source** of all that is holy, good, right, and pure.

“But for you who fear my name, **the Sun of Righteousness** will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.” Malachi 4:2 (NLT)

“The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.**” John 1:4-5 (NLT)

Life Application: Through a personal relationship with Jesus, my sins are washed away, and I am made righteous in God’s sight. “I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and **draped me in a robe of righteousness.** I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.” Isaiah 61:10 (NLT)

4. Jesus has healing in His wings. He radiates health and life. He is the **source** of life.

“John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ‘Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?’ Jesus told them, ‘Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—**the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life,** and the Good News is being preached to the poor.’” Matthew 11:2-5 (NLT)

Note: When sick people who were “unclean” touched Jesus, they didn’t make Him sick and unclean. He made them physically healthy AND ceremonially clean. “Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, for she thought, **‘If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.’** Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, ‘Daughter, be encouraged! **Your faith** has made you well.’ And the woman was healed at that moment.” Matthew 9:20-22 (NLT) (*See also Matthew 8:1-4*)

Life Application: Through a personal relationship with Jesus, we will be made holy and healthy forever in heaven. “He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and **there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.** All these things are gone forever... Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. No longer will there be a curse upon anything.” Revelation 21:4 & 22:1-3a (NLT)

5. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.** His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

“I am leaving you with a gift—**peace of mind and heart.** And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27 (NLT)

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**” Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

“Sing all. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half-dead or half-asleep. Do not bawl so as to be heard above the rest of the congregation but strive to unite your voices together. Sing in time and do not sing too slowly. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. So shall your singing be such that the Lord will approve here and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.”

John Wesley (1769)