

42-01-05.wpd —Glory to the Newborn King!

Christmas, Incarnation, humanity, King, new birth, creation, angels

Luke 1:26-35

No human king is worthy to rule over creation except the Son of God.

INTRODUCTION: (Luke 1:26-35 as Scripture Reading)

–"Listen...." (pause) That's what "hark" means in the carol "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." They're singing, "*Glory to the newborn King!*"

–What they really sang that night long ago was "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" But in the Annunciation passage, which was the **text** for our Scripture reading, we hear another angel named Gabriel say to Mary, "*You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.*"

–Gabriel's words identified Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. But 1800 years later, Charles Wesley wrote "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" to expound the theological glory that was manifested in that newborn king. This child was like no other. He was both human and divine, the God-Man, and He had to come, OR God's original plan for the human race to rule over creation would never be fulfilled. **HOM.idea**, and this familiar Christmas carol we sing every year explains why....

- I. **1st:** 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 th'angelic host proclaim,/ "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 - A. Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation, because **He Brought Peace on Earth.**
 - B. Earth isn't the physical center of the universe, but what happens on this planet with human race is central to the destiny of the whole physical and spiritual creation.
 1. The reconciliation of God and sinners means that the universe can "get back with the program" that Satan side-tracked before God's purposes for humanity had even left the runway....
 2. *All...nations* ought to rejoice over this birth, because they are only symbols of human hope for an eternally strong, stable, peaceful, and just Government that no earthly nation can ever promise or provide, a Kingdom that only this *newborn King* can establish.

3. This King's arrival is *the triumph of the skies*, because presently there is spiritual war going on. Only this King's Reign will bring peace to the angelic realm, because only a real Human was meant to be Lord over both the material and the angelic realms, and now that King has entered human history: *Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

- II. **2nd:** Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;/ Christ the everlasting Lord;/ Late in time, behold Him come,/ Offspring of a virgin's womb./ Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;/ Hail th'incarnate Deity./ Pleased with us in flesh to dwell./ Jesus our Emmanuel.
 - A. Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation, because **He Is the Only Human Who Is Also God.**
 - B. Jesus is not just *by highest Heav'n adored*, but before angelic realm existed, He was *the everlasting Lord*, yet He did not shirk the task of condescending to become a human baby in *a virgin's womb*.
 1. Creation wasn't meant for an invisible Ruler: The *Godhead* is now *veiled in flesh*; *Deity* is now *incarnate*, and all should welcome Him!
 2. No other human ever chose to be born.... This King alone freely chose human birth, because He was *pleased to dwell in flesh with us*.
 3. There's *cold loneliness* for humanity in any *deistic* view of a God standing personally aloof from creation. Human selfhood is both *imaginary* and *meaningless* in *pantheistic* or *materialistic* views of the universe. *Jesus* alone, whose name means *Savior*, is the only human King who can bring us hope in our despair, because He is *our Emmanuel*, "God with us."
- III. **3rd:** Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!/ Hail the Sun 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.
 - A. Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation, because **He Redeemed Lost Humanity.**
 - B. Sin threw the human race into turmoil and death. Only this *heav'nly Prince*, by laying His glory by, could bring back *Peace* and *life to all*.
 1. He did this as the *Sun [s-u-n] of Righteousness* by shining forth from the Cross with the *Light* of a true justice that brought us salvation.
 2. He was *born* as man and died for man *that man no more may die*.
 3. He was *born into this world* to *break the chains of physical death* in order *to raise the sons of earth* by a resurrection like His own.

4. He was born a human into a world of spiritually dead humans to breathe on them again the Word of life and give them second birth.

IV. 4th: Come, Desire of nations, come./ Fix in us Thy humble home;/ Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,/ Bruise in us the serpent's head./ Now display Thy saving power,/ Ruined nature now restore;/ Now in mystic union join/ Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.

- A. Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation, because He Fixed What the Devil Broke.
- B. Whether they know it or not, Jesus is the Desire of nations, because He's *the woman's conqu'ring Seed* of Gen 3:15, where God said to Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." When we allow this King to Fix in us His humble home, He can display His saving power:
1. The Ruined nature of humanity He will restore, and later all Nature!
 2. Our broken relationship with God is mended in mystic union.
 3. To bestow on us His divine nature, He adopted our human nature, joining His to ours, and ours to His.

V. 5th: Adam's likeness, Lord, efface./ Stamp Thine image in its place:/ Second Adam from above./ Reinstating us in Thy love./ Let us Thee, though lost, regain./ Thee, the Life, the inner man:/ O, to all Thyself impart,/ Formed in each believing heart.

- A. Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation, because **He Is the Firstborn of the New Human Race.**
- B. Jesus said in Luke 19:10 that He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." What we lost through the sin of moral independence from God was a mutually loving relationship with God. The only way to regain it was for the fallen *Adam's likeness* in us to be *effaced*, and the *image of the Second Adam from above* to be *stamped in its place.*
1. Jesus renews our inner man, reinstating us fully in God love.
 2. By His own divine Life, He started the human race all over again.
 3. He wants to *impart Himself to all*, so that through His Holy Spirit, God's image and likeness can be again Formed in each believing heart.

CONCLUSION:

–**Jesus is the only human king worthy to reign over all creation,** because He's the only one worthy to rule in human hearts. *Hark*, to what the *herald angels sing*. Give glory, and your heart, to the newborn King.

Luke 1:26-35 (NIV)

26In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

31You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

32He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

34"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.