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The Savior

*God's Greatest Gift
Possible - His Son*



Jesus (Jehovah is salvation)

*You will be with child
and give birth to a son
and you will give Him the name Jesus
Luke 1:31*

*She will give birth to a son,
and you are to call his name Jesus,
because He will save His people
from their sins.
Matthew 1:21*

*Today salvation has come to this house
... For the Son of Man came
to seek and to save what was lost.
Luke 19:9,10*

Mary

If you've ever had a baby
you no doubt had gone by car
And checked in at a hospital
which wasn't very far.

The doctor and the nurse in charge
did the admission stuff
And put you in a nice clean bed
and gave you meds enough
To help you through the labor pains
until your child was born
And then you got to see your babe,
though you were tired and worn.

I wonder if you've thought about
how Mary, great with child
Could travel many weary miles
and still be meek and mild
When they would come up to the Inn
where she could get some rest
And find the place was all filled up,
though Joseph did his best.

I wonder just what Mary thought—
do you think that she sighed
When she lay on a bed of straw,
and maybe even cried?

I doubt she had much stuff along
to make a cozy place—
She must have prayed to God a lot
to give her strength and grace.

Who ever thought this humble place
would welcome such a Guest
Who truly is the King of kings,
the Best of all the best!



The Innkeeper

I wonder if you've thought about
the man who ran the Inn,
He may have felt uptight all day
with travelers checking in.
It must have been a busy place--
folks milling all about,
Besides those dusty travelers
were hungry and worn out.

It must have been a hassle
to find beds for everyone,
No doubt it dragged into the night
before the work was done.
The donkeys and the camels
that the travelers rode that day
Must be tied up and bedded down
and given grain and hay.

I wonder if those tired folks
found they could not relax
Because they'd traveled many miles
to pay their dreaded tax.
And so with Inn and stable full
they found a little space
Where Mary, who was great with child,
made this a holy place.

And here is where God's Son was born,
 among the cows and sheep,
And though a manger was His bed
 He still could soundly sleep.
Sometimes we feel so hassled
 with the stuff we do all day
That we don't make room for Jesus
 as we hurry on our way.

We miss a lot of blessings
 like the man who ran the Inn
And then we wonder what went wrong
 if we've no peace within.
There're no two ways about it, friend,
 if you would have the best
You've got to spend some time with God
 to find both peace and rest.



The Wise Men

Have you thought about the wise men
 who traveled from the east?
According to our Christmas cards
 each rode upon a beast.
They seem to think that camels
 were the animals they rode,
Those big ships of the desert
 sure could carry quite a load.

The Bible doesn't say a word
 of how they made the scene,
It simply said they're from the east,
 whatever that could mean.
But facts are there in black and white
 that these three men were wise
And may have been astronomers
 because they watched the skies.

So when they saw a shining star
 much brighter than the rest
That really seemed to ring a bell;
 they started on a quest
For they were looking for a King
 long prophesied of old
And they brought frankincense and myrrh
 along with lots of gold.

They must have had a lot of faith
in what the prophets said
Because they left their folks at home
and plunged right on ahead.
The other folks who saw the star
outshining all the rest
Could well have wondered what was up,
but staying home seemed best.

It's not too different now today—
wise men are seeking still
To find the Christ who sets them free
and can their lives fulfill.
While others kinda' stay at home
and Christ they do not find
Because they do not seek the Lord
with all their heart and mind.



What If?

If Jesus Christ had not been born
two thousand years ago
Our lives would be much different,
knowing not which way to go.
We wouldn't have a Christmas time
that comes around each year
Reminding us God gave His Son
to live with folks down here.

We wouldn't know that angels sang
to shepherds watching sheep
And told them where they'd find the Babe,
which woke them from their sleep.
I wonder if they ran so fast
they hardly touched the ground
To find the manger where Christ lay—
with animals around.

To be the first to see the Babe
by angels invitation
Would make a shepherd's heart to sing
in joyful jubilation.
They had no gifts to offer Him,
but they were very smart;
They gave to Him the best they had.
They gave to Him their heart.

Then when the shepherds left that place
and went back to their flock
It's not hard to imagine
that excitedly they'd talk.
The angels, and the singing,
and the trip to Bethlehem,
And then to see the lovely Babe,
was all so new to them.

One thing the shepherds knew for sure
as they did homeward plod
Was that they'd never be the same—
for they'd been touched by God.

Luke 2:8-20



Still At the Manger

A lot of folks will celebrate
the birth of Christ the Lord,
When Christmas time rolls 'round each year
we find they are not bored.
They like the parties and the trees
with ornaments galore
And like the cards and packages
delivered at their door.

The baby Jesus looks so nice
while in His manger bed
They even stop and listen
to the things the shepherds said.
But then it seems they soon forget
what Jesus came to do
And leave Him in the manger bed
until the year is through.

They don't think about the folks He healed,
the multitudes He fed,
And they don't seem to care a lot
about the things He said.

His death by crucifixion
they don't really think about,
They much prefer the manger scene
and cheerful things, no doubt.

We all like Christmas with its joy,
goodwill, and gracious love,
But had He not both lived and died
and gone to Heaven above
We'd never have a Savior
Who can take away our sin
And if we give our heart to Him
we'll have great peace within.



... we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

*Christ Came . . .
and Will Come Again*

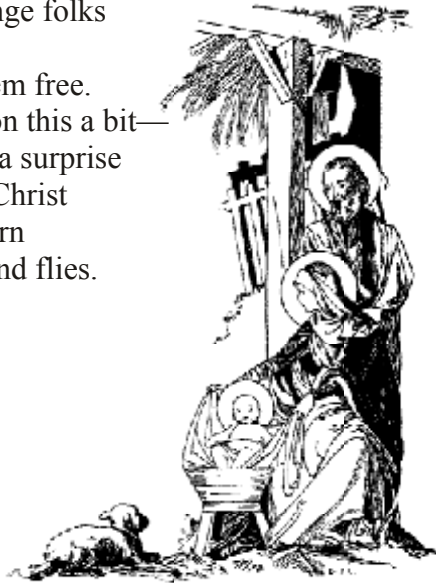
For many years the Israelites
looked forward to Christ's birth,
The prophets told long years ago
that He would come to earth.
Some may have thought they'd figured out
quite how he would arrive
But when He came they knew Him not
though He was quite alive.

It didn't happen as they thought
and so their hearts were dim
But angels told some shepherds
to make haste and worship Him.
So after angels sang their song
and took their upward flight
Those shepherds took off on the run
on that most Holy Night.

The angels told them where to go
to find that tiny Babe:
A stable with a manger
was where Jesus Christ was laid.

The common folks and well-to-do
had filled up every space,
And so the Keeper of the Inn
gave them this humble Place.
I'm sure the folks who filled the Inn
and roamed about that night
Knew not the King of Kings was born
by simple lantern light.

And who'd have thought this little Babe
would so important be
That He would change folks
by His love
and really set them free.
Sometimes I think on this a bit—
how God pulled a surprise
Of how and where Christ
would be born
'midst animals and flies.



continued



Friends, Jesus Christ in coming back,
it could be night or noon
And many folks who love the Lord
hope that it will be soon.
It seems some folks have figured out
how they think this will be
But I would guess they'll be surprised
when Jesus' face they see.

I know the Bible gives some clues
of what will come to pass
Before He calls all Christians Home
and they will leave en masse.
But if our Lord comes differently
than some folks think He might
We'll find no matter how He comes
He'll really do it right.

The Real Christmas

Maybe some folks look for Christmas
inside a shopping mall
Where there are lots of things to buy
for both the large and small.
The merchants have their merchandise
all gussied up a bit
In hopes you'll buy a lot of stuff
before you up and quit.
You could look through a thousand stores
in search of special stuff
And have your shopping bags so full
it makes you huff and puff.

E'en though you've seen the ornaments
and tinsel strewn around
And thought you saw old Santa Claus
about to leave the ground
And get his reindeer and his sled
away up in the sky
It still would not be Christmas,
and I'll just tell you why:
You can't buy Christmas
anywhere
though you check every mart--
The real Christmas comes to those
who have Christ in their heart.



Easter

When Easter comes around this year
I hope you'll think above
The colored eggs and Easter clothes
and think about Christ's love.
No other person God has sent
to live with folks below
Has taught them how they ought to live
and what they ought to know.

It's almost inconceivable
that those who knew Him well
Would hang Him on that cruel Cross
before the darkness fell.
'Twas only just a week before
they tried to make Him King;
Now He's forsaken by the crowd
and that changed everything.

Who ever thought one of the twelve
would stoop to turn Him in
To people who believed Him not
and really lived in sin.
But though they hung Him on a Cross
He prayed to God above
To please forgive those sinful folks,
now that was perfect love.

The tomb they buried Jesus in
could not hold Him too long—
For Sunday morning He arose
and gave the world a song.
Although it's been two thousand years
since He rose from the dead
The world has never been the same
that once was filled with dread.

So now when Easter comes this year
lift up your voice and sing
For Jesus Christ is Lord of all
and that's worth everything!

Because I live, you also will live.
John 14:19

