

This season of the year should deepen our consideration of the miracle that God visited us, our planet; that He became one of us in order to redeem us. While other male heirs to a throne are generally born as “princes,” He was born a King. So profound is the impact of His coming that it has divided time itself (BC, “before Christ,” and AD, “Anno Domini,” “in the year of our Lord.”) Similarly, His death and resurrection have eternal implications for every human being, because a person’s destiny depends on whether he or she has trusted Christ.

The Bible clearly declares this in numerous places:

**John 3:18**, “He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

**John 3:36**, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

**John 14:6**, “Jesus saith unto him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.’”

**1 John 5:12**, “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

**Acts 4:12**, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

The good news of the Gospel is that God offers salvation to every person, and He offers it as a gift, paid for by the Lord Jesus. “*The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23).

This is the message we strive to emphasize not only at this time of the year but throughout the year.

## The King of Kings is Born



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”  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

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 the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Hail the heav’n-born 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.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

## HOW SHOULD A KING COME?



Plutarch describes how Roman General Lucius Aemilius Paullus entered Rome after defeating the Macedonians (Romans called such an entrance a “triumph.”) His victorious procession lasted 3 days. The 1<sup>st</sup> day was dedicated to displaying artwork his army had plundered. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day’s parade displayed all the Macedonian weapons they had captured. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day began with the rest of the plunder borne by 250 oxen, whose horns were covered in gold. Then came the captured and humiliated Macedonian king and his family. **Finally**, Aemilius entered Rome, **riding in a magnificent chariot**, clad in a purple robe interwoven with gold, his laurels in his right hand, accompanied by a large choir singing hymns that praised him. *And he was merely a general!*

## HOW DID THE KING COME?



“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed . . .: And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him **in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn**” (Luke 2:1-7).

## HOW SHOULD A KING COME?

### “How should a King come?

Even a child knows the answer of course,  
In a coach of gold with a pure white horse.  
In the beautiful city in the prime of the day,  
And the trumpets should cry and the crowds make way.  
And the flags fly high in the morning sun,  
And the people all cheer for the sovereign one.  
And everyone knows that’s the way that it’s done.  
That’s the way that a King should come.

### How should a King come?

Even a commoner understands,  
He should come for His treasures,  
And His houses and lands.  
He should dine upon summer strawberries and milk,  
And sleep upon bedclothes of satin and silk.  
And high on a hill his castle should glow,  
With the lights of the city like jewels below.  
And everyone knows that’s the way that it’s done,  
That’s the way that a King should come.

### How should a King come?

On a star-filled night into Bethlehem,  
Rode a weary woman and a worried man.  
And the only sound in the cobblestone street,  
Was the shuffle and the ring of their donkey’s feet.  
And a King lay hid in a virgin’s womb,  
And there were no crowds to see Him come.  
At last in a barn in a manger of hay,  
He came and God incarnate lay.

And the angels cried “Glory, glory to God!”  
Earth was silent so heaven rang!  
“Glory, glory to God!”  
Men were dumb so the angels sang,  
“Glory glory to God,  
Peace on earth good will to men,  
Glory, glory to God,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
“Glory to God, glory in the highest!”

(Carol and Jimmy Owens)