

My Loved Ones:

God says in Luke 2:14 - "Glory to God in the highest, / And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing was written by the great Charles Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist movement. As we sing the meaningful phrases, it soon becomes clear that this is something more than a simple Christmas carol. "God and sinners reconciled" reminds us that Jesus came to this earth, not to enforce a government or political peace, but to bring peace between God and man. It is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:19 - God is Christ reconciling the world to Himself." this brings the result of Romans 5:1 - "Since we have been justified in His sig, we have peace with God though our Lord Jesus Christ." This is the peace promised by the angles on that first Christmas night.

Wesley probes the mystery of Jesus coming in the flesh: called the "incarnation." The King of Heaven Who is worshipped by angels, lays aside the glory which is properly His and condescends to be born of a virgin in a dark, dirty stable. Philippians 2:6 says "He made Himself of no reputation and was made in the likeness of men." Of course, Jesus is still God, and He displayed God's power and glory many times. But most men didn't recognize Who He really was because His being God was "veiled" in human flesh. He was pleased to dwell with us on this dirt ball called "earth." This explains his Name "Emmanuel" which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

This hymn also reminds us of some more actions, characteristics and Names of Jesus. He is called in Isaiah 9:6 "The Prince of Peace." Malachi 4:2 calls Him "The Sun of Righteousness." The physical sun is our source of light and through it we continue to have life on this planet; without the sun, life would die. In the same way, Jesus christ is the source of our spiritual light and life.

Jesus' birth has many mysteries in it. He who is immortal was born a mortal in order that man might live eternally with Him. He was born once in order that we might born again. He was born for the purpose of dying so that we might live eternally.

Many who will be singing this song this Christmas don't know what they are singing. It has been said that as long as we can keep Jesus as a charming little baby in a manger, He makes no demands upon our lives. But Jesus was born to die! He grew to manhood, lived a perfect life, then died on the cross, and rose again for our salvation. This is the true Jesus of Christmas, and we must acknowledge Him as our Lord and Savior if we are to celebrate this season properly.

We love you and are praying for you today.