WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

Hymn Devotion – December 1

Scripture: Isaiah 21:11-12

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
What its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, o’er yon mountain’s height,  
See that glory beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
Aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes—it brings the day,  
Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;  
Higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
Peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
See, it bursts o’er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,  
For the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,  
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;  
Hide thee to thy quiet home.  
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,  
Lo! the Son of God is come!

John Bowring (1792-1872)

This seems to be a conversation between a watchman – being Isaiah for the most part and a traveler, could any soul longing for the morning – If burdened we want to know if there is any promise – the watchman tells the traveler to look over the mountains of trouble and see the glory-beaming star – The question to the watchman is does these beauteous rays have aught – have anything whatever to tell of joy or hope? The answer is yes it brings the day – promised day of Israel – Jesus.

1. What can watchman tell us of?
2. What is being looked for?
3. What is the traveler to see?
4. Aught means anything at all - What might the beam foretell?
5. What is the result?
6. Verse 2: What happens in the night?
7. Portends is to indicate. What does the course indicate? (list all)
8. What is the question about the beams of the star?
9. What is the traveler told of the beams?
10. Verse 3: What happens to the night?
11. What happens when the darkness takes flight?
12. What should cease?
13. Where can we hide?
14. What is the declaration to the traveler?

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Hymn Devotion – December 2

Scripture: Matthew 1:20-21

Haggai 2:7

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Jesus was long expected and to the Jewish people who do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah – They are still waiting. Jesus accomplished many things – He sets His people free – from sin and fear – we find rest in Him. He is Israel’s strength and consolation and He is the hope of all the earth – Dear desire of every nation and joy to every longing heart – every heart that longs to know Jesus personally.

He was born to deliver His people, born a child and yet a King and born to reign in us forever – now – bring your gracious kingdom. By Thine own eternal spirit – the Holy Spirit – God rules in each of our hearts alone. He has sufficient merit to raise us to His glorious throne – This Christmas let Jesus be the only One that rules your heart.

1. What was Jesus in time?
2. List all the “Born” statements:
3. How do we find our rest in Him?
4. What was He to Israel?
5. What to all the earth?
6. What is He to every nation?
7. What does He bring joy to?
8. Verse 2: List all He was born to do:
9. What do we want Him to bring?
10. How does He rule in our hearts alone?
11. What does He have?
12. Where do we want to be raised?

HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED

Hymn Devotion – December 3

Scripture: Psalm 72:1-4

Hail to the Lord’s anointed,

Great David’s greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,

His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,

To set the captive free;  
To take away transgression,

And rule in equity.

He comes in succor speedy

To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,

And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,

Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,

Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.  
Before Him, on the mountains,

Shall peace, the herald, go,  
And righteousness, in fountains,

From hill to valley flow.

For Him shall prayer unceasing

And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,

A kingdom without end:  
The tide of time shall never

His covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand forever,

His Name to us is Love.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

This hymn covers His birth, His mission to save the souls precious in His sight – not only the saved souls but the condemned and dying. The One who shall stand forever in the name of Love, peace, joy and hope.

1. Who is Great David’s greater Son?
2. What happened in the appointed time?
3. List all the things He comes to do:
4. Verse 2: Succor is to give help or relief. Who does He come to speedily give relief?
5. Who does He want to help?
6. Who does He want to encourage?
7. What will He give all of them?
8. Who are precious in His sight?
9. Verse 3: How will He come down on the fruitful earth?
10. How do Love, joy and hope arrive and where?
11. What will go before Him on the mountains?
12. What will from hill to valley flow?
13. Verse 4: What shall ascend to Him?
14. What are two facts about His kingdom?
15. What shall time never remove?
16. What are two facts about His Name?

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Hymn Devotion – December 4

Scripture: Luke 1:67-69, 76-78

Isaiah 7:14

O come, O come, Emmanuel,   
And ransom captive Israel,   
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;   
From depths of hell Thy people save,   
And give them victory over the grave.

*Refrain*

O come, Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;   
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,   
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

*Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;   
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,   
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

*Refrain*

Latin Hymn (twelfth century)

Translators:

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Henry S. Coffin 91877-1954)

The coming the advent of Jesus as a baby at Christmas is really something to rejoice and rejoice about – because Emmanuel came to Israel but was not hailed as the Messiah so we – gentiles – non-Jewish people – were given access to Jesus – we need to welcome Jesus into our hearts this Christmas season – He will cheer our spirits as He comes to us!

1. Who are we asking to come – arrive?
2. What is His role?
3. What is the state of Israel?
4. What needs to happen?
5. Verse 2: How is Jesus described?
6. Who are His people to be freed from?
7. What is the victory over?
8. Verse 3: Day-spring is a poetic way of speaking of the dawn – figuratively to refer to Jesus as the Messiah who is the light to those who sit in darkness. What will the Day-spring do?
9. Advent is arrival. What will cheer our spirits?
10. What two things will happen?
11. Verse 4: How is Jesus described?
12. What is to be bound?
13. What do we want to cease?
14. Who do we want Jesus as?
15. Chorus: What is to be done?
16. Why?

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Hymn Devotion – December 5

Scripture: Titus 3:4-7

John 3:16

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened the heavenly door, and man is blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:

Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Latin Hymn (fourteenth century)

Paraphrase by John Mason Neale

(1818-1866)

We have the announcement of Jesus’ birth, heaven’s door is opened and we fear not the grave because of the availability of heaven if we only believe in Jesus – heed the call today and gain His everlasting hall – rejoice with all your being that Jesus Christ was born to save!

1. Who are to rejoice?
2. How are we to rejoice?
3. What are we to heed to what we say?
4. Who bow before Him?
5. Where is He?
6. What has happened?
7. Verse 2: What was Jesus born for?
8. What has He opened?
9. What will happen to man forevermore?
10. What happened to Christ for this?
11. Verse 3: What is there no fear of now?
12. What was Jesus born to do?
13. Who is called?
14. What will we gain?
15. What was Christ born to do?
16. What are the repeated lines?