

One Small Child

A Musical for Christmas

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

"HE IS BORN, THE DIVINE CHRIST CHILD"

with "Born in Bethlehem"

He was divine. As God's Son, Jesus shared His Father's heavenly throne. In Psalm 2, you will find a messianic prophecy concerning the deity of Christ. Read the whole chapter, paying close attention to verses seven and eight. As God's Son, what inheritance would He possess?

Long before Jesus was born, the prophets predicted many details of what we now know as the Nativity story. Read Micah 5:1-2. This passage contains the location of Christ's birth and the tribe of Israel from which He would come.

Now read Matthew 2:1-6 and see how these prophecies are fulfilled.

Praise God in the details of His Son's coming to earth. Jesus' purpose would be revealed in just 33 years, and over 2,000 years later we inherit the benefits of it all.

"ONE SMALL CHILD"

Another messianic prophecy can be found in Isaiah 11. Read the first six verses of this beautiful passage. At the end of verse 6, what does Isaiah say about the Savior? How would He come?

Not only was there a prediction that He would come as a child, but there were other ways He fulfilled His purpose. Name some of them. What sense of foreshadowing does this imply about how *we* must come to *Him*?

This song tells about the wise men's visit. Look at the beautiful lyrics and imagine the scene painted here. The comparison of the kings and the King of kings is a precious gift.

Ask God to help you keep this truth in your heart, not only at Christmas, but all year long.

“CAROL SING-ALONG”

includes “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come,” and “The First Noel”

This carol medley is filled with truth and beauty. “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” includes the lyric “God and sinners reconciled.”

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Paul writes a poignant statement about reconciliation. How are God and sinners reconciled? What does this mean to us today?

“Angels We Have Heard on High” includes the chorus “Gloria in excelsis Deo.” These Latin words mean “Glory to God in the highest,” the words spoken by the angel to shepherds in fields outside Bethlehem. Read Luke 2:8-14 and enjoy, once again, the angelic “praise team” and their words.

“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” is such a familiar, beloved carol that we often fail to think about what the words mean. Read Psalm 30. This is a song written by David, Jesus’ ancestor. Notice the exuberant nature of this worship song, and then sing the carol with the same exuberance.

“The First Noel” mentions a facet of the story that many other carols do not. It heralds the Creator, and then says that mankind would be bought with His blood.

Read Romans 5:9 and Hebrews 13:12. Now as you sing about the first Noel, thank the Lord for reconciling us to Him through His Son’s blood.

“MARY, DID YOU KNOW?”

We don’t know what Mary knew—not everything anyway. We do know that the prophet Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would be born of a virgin.

Read Isaiah 7:14. This passage is mostly read at Christmastime because of its prophetic nature.

Much of what Mary observed and experienced during the conception and birth of Jesus was hidden away in her heart. Luke 2:19 confirms this. However, when the angel told Mary about the miracle that she would experience, Mary just let go and sang a song of praise. Read it in Luke 1:46-55. It is a beautiful expression of surrender, adoration, assurance, and prophecy.

As you sing this song, try to imagine what Mary was feeling and thinking throughout this process. Ask God to give you the same humility and sense of awe in His presence.

“HOPE WAS BORN THIS NIGHT”

Though the living Hope lying in a manger was not recognized as such, Jesus brought hope at the cross and empty tomb. Read 1 Peter 1:3-6. Remember Peter was there when Christ was arrested, and he was at the empty tomb on the third day. For that once wishy-washy disciple to make this declaration was evidence of divine revelation!

As you sing this rather new song, let Peter’s words resonate with you as you celebrate your new birth, your inheritance, and the protection you enjoy through the power of the resurrection.

“IN THE FIRST LIGHT”

This beautiful song tells the whole gospel story. Notice that it starts with the birth of Christ, goes to His ministry, and then to Christ’s suffering. Next it speaks of the resurrection, and on to Christ’s second coming. Read these Scriptures: Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, and Hebrews 9:28. Trace the narrative, beginning when Jesus ascended into heaven. What kind of emotions did you have while reading this? Did it renew your faith? Do you long for the day when He will come again?

Prepare now for that day by trusting and obeying Him.

“NO ROOM”

with “You Left Your Throne (Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne)”

Christmas pageants and renditions of the Nativity story sometimes include the innkeeper who told Mary and Joseph that he had no room for them. However, the innkeeper never appears in the biblical account.

Read Luke 2:1-7 again. Does it mention the inn or the innkeeper? No, it just says there was no room for the man and his pregnant wife in the town of Bethlehem.

The innkeeper character is fictional, but he (or she) often represents us. We’re too busy or too distracted to let Christ be born, or reborn, in our hearts.

Slow down this Christmas season. Make room. Sing the chorus “O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for You!” afresh, and then thank God for becoming your living Hope.