

AWAY IN A MANGER...SAME OLD SCENE OR BRAND-NEW DAY?

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:8-20

² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

³ You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; they will be glad in Your presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the battle tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:2-7 NASB

⁸ In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude

of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. Luke 2:8-20 NASB

- *Do you have a nativity set?*
 - *What do you think of when you see one?*
 - *Angels, wise men, hay, animals, a star, Silent Night?*
 - *Nativity comes from a Latin word which means 'birth'... Jesus, 'arisen by birth.'*
 - *It means the process or circumstances of new birth...a birthing...a new beginning...a new 'Genesis.'*
 - *A new day with a future-present focus, not a rearview mirror of regret.*
- *In Christian theology, the nativity of Jesus concerns the incarnation of Jesus as the second Adam.*
 - *He comes to fulfill the divine will of God, 'undoing' the damage caused by the fall of the first man Adam.*
 - *Nativity is a new beginning...that is what the first Christmas was all about...new beginnings! Jesus came and grace and truth become ours when we come to Him.*

- *Think of David, Paul, Peter, Zacheus; story after story, person after person, people come to Him!*
- *It's a new day...obviously God is providing all sorts of ways, all sorts of examples to get us to come home to Him and not obstacles to keep us out.*
 - *He is making ways for us to turn to Him, return to Him, and grow into His design for us.*
- *The nativity of Jesus began a new plan for mankind...Jesus...God with us...Jesus 'made man' so that He could be 'made man'...so we could become like Him. A picture of Divine Design.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail of the Son 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!"

-Hark the Herald Angels Sing: Lyrics

Charles Wesley

- *The birth of Jesus as a child is God's holy inoculation and immunity from eternal death!*
 - *The blood of Jesus pardons us for what we have done.*
 - *The cross of Jesus procures our deliverance from what we are.*

- ***The blood of Jesus washes away our past. The name of Jesus opens up our future.***

***He came in a way that fulfilled so much....
He walked in a way that taught so much...
He died in a way that provided so much...
He rose in a way that conquered so much...
He lives in a way that gives so much...
He loves in a way that does so much...
Does He live in you?***

