

Christmas Carol Theology

Why did Jesus come into the world? 1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV) — “15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost” why? Hebrews 10:4 (ESV) — “4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

The Pre-Christmas Story: Hebrews 10:5–10 (ESV) — 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” 8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This amazing conversation takes place in heaven between God the Father and God the Son. And it takes place BEFORE Jesus was born and laid in a manger. Jesus came into the world to save sinners because the blood of bulls and goats was insufficient. He emptied Himself and became a man in order to represent man (Phil. 2:6-8; Heb. 2:16-18). He lived a sinless life in order to save sinful man (Heb. 4:15; 1Pet. 2:22; 1John 3:5). He took our sins and paid our penalty by shedding His blood as a perfect sacrifice in our place in order to declare us righteous before God (Mark 10:45; 1Pet. 2:24). That’s the gospel. That’s what we celebrate at Christmas. That’s what our Christmas carols should proclaim. Here are some examples...

- 1.) God as eternal, triune Creator, the holy & righteous Judge
 - a. “*That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with his blood mankind hath bought.*” (The First Noel - 6th verse)
 - b. “*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising, To th’eternal Three in One:*” (Angels From the Realms of Glory - 6th verse)
- 2.) Man as created, rebellious, fallen with sin nature and in need of a Savior
 - a. “*Long lay the world in sin and error pining, ‘Til He appear’d and the soul felt its worth.*” (O Holy Night - 1st verse)
 - b. “*Rise, the woman’s conqu’ring Seed, Bruise in us the serpent’s head. Now display Thy saving power, Ruined nature now restore;*” (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - 4th verse)
- 3.) Christ as eternal God, fully man, born of a virgin, sinless substitute, crucified, reconciling risen King
 - a. “*This sleeping child you’re holding Is the great I am*” (Mary Did You Know? - 3rd verse)
 - b. “*Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The Cross be borne for me, for you*” (What Child is This? - 2nd verse)
 - c. “*Oh come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o’er the grave.*” (O Come O Come Emmanuel - 3rd verse)
 - d. “*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice. Alleluia, Alleluia, Sounds through the earth and skies.*” (We Three Kings - 5th verse)
- 4.) Response of faith in Christ as Savior towards a victorious sanctified Christian life
 - a. “*Sinners, wrung with true repentance, Doomed for guilt to endless pains, Justice now revokes the sentence, Mercy calls you—break your chains:*” (Angels From the Realms of Glory - 4th verse)
 - b. “*Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in*” (O Little Town of Bethlehem - 3rd verse)
 - c. “*And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace*” (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen - 5th verse)
 - d. “*To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go.*” (O Come O Come Emmanuel - 6th verse)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Theology Study

Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King (Luke 2:10-14)

Peace on earth (Luke 2:14; Ps. 85:10; Is. 9:6-7; Rom. 5:1; Col. 1:20) and mercy mild (Luke 1:50, 78-79; 1Pet. 1:3; 2:10)

God and sinners reconcile (2Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20-22).

Joyful all ye nations rise

Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim

'Christ is born in Bethlehem' (Mic. 5:2; Matt 2:4-6)

Hark! the herald angels sing

Glory to the newborn King.

Christ by highest heaven adored (Rev. 5:13)

Christ the everlasting Lord (Is. 9:6-7; Heb. 1:8; Rev. 4:9-11)

Late in time behold him come, (Gal. 4:4; 1Pet. 1:20)

Offspring of a virgin's womb. (Is. 7:14; Matt 1:18-23)

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; (Col. 1:15-20; 1John 4:2)

Hail, the incarnate deity, (Col. 1:15-20)

Pleased as Man with Man to dwell, (John 1:14; Phil 2:6-7)

Jesus, our Emmanuel! (Is. 7:14; Matt 1:23)

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace! (Is. 9:6)

Hail the Son of righteousness! (Mal. 4:2)

Light and life to all he brings, (John 1:4-5; 8:12; 2Tim. 1:10)

Risen with healing in his wings. (Mal. 4:2)

Mild he lays his glory by, (John 17:5; Phil 2:6-7)

Born that man no more may die, (John 11:25-26)

Born to raise the sons of earth, (1Cor 15:35-57)

Born to give them second birth. (John 1:13; 3:3; 1Pet 1:3, 23; Titus 3:5)

Come, Desire of nations, come, (Hag. 2:7)

Fix in us Thy humble home; (Ezek. 36:26-27; Rom. 8:9-10; 1Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2Cor. 6:16; Eph. 3:17-19)

Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed, (Gen. 3:15)

Bruise in us the serpent's head. (Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20)

Now display Thy saving power, (Ps. 3:8; Jonah 2:9; Heb. 7:25)

Ruined nature now restore; (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10)

Now in mystic union join (Eph. 5:31-32; 1Cor. 6:17; Rom. 6:5)

Thine to ours, and ours to Thine (Rom. 8:9-11; 1Cor. 2:14-16)

Adam's likeness, Lord, efface, (Rom. 5:12-21; 1Cor. 15:21-22)

Stamp Thine image in its place: (Col. 3:10; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:23-24)

Second Adam from above, (Rom. 5:12-21; 1Cor. 15:47)

Reinstate us in Thy love. (Ps. 80:3; 1John 4:8, 16)

Let us Thee, though lost, regain (Phil. 3:8-11)

Thee, the Life, the inner man: (John 14:6; 1John 5:11-12; Eph. 3:16; 2Cor. 4:16)

O, to all Thyself impart, (Jer. 31:34; Hab. 2:14)

Formed in each believing heart. (Gal. 4:19; Eph. 4:24; Rom. 8:10, 29; Col. 3:10)