

THE REAL
*Story of
Christmas*

AS TOLD IN THE BIBLE
WITH CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT



The Real Story of Christmas

As Told in the Bible with Carols and Candlelight

Scripted by Jerry Dirmann

Bible Versions Used (in order of first appearance):

NKJV – New King James Version

NLT – New Living Translation

GW – God’s Word

ESV – English Standard Version

TEV – Today’s English Version (a.k.a. the Good News Translation, 2001)

NIV84 – New International Version, 1984

NIV – New International Version

CEV – Contemporary English Version

NCV – New Century Version

MUSIC Considerations:

Christmas Carols included are in the public domain.

“Away in a Manger” – 1887

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” – 1840

“Joy to the World” – 1886

“O Come All Ye Faithful” – 1751

“O Holy Night” – 1847

“O Come O Come Emmanuel” – Traditional

“Silent Night” – 1818

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HOSTS INTRODUCTION

HELLO ... WELCOME TO EVERYONE, AND MERRY CHRISTMAS! MY NAME IS _____, AND I AM SO GLAD YOU CAME. MY HOPE IS THAT YOU'LL BE GLAD TOO! AMONG THE NUMEROUS CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS, THERE IS ONE THAT HAS BECOME A FAVORITE OF SO MANY, AND IT'S SIMPLY THIS ... TO GATHER TOGETHER AND READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY ... STRAIGHT FROM THE SCRIPTURES ... AND ALONG THE WAY, TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS THAT PROCLAIM THOSE VERY EVENTS.

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IS SPECIAL FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, IT'S THE HEARTWARMING STORY OF HOW GOD LOVED ALL OF US—SO MUCH— THAT HE SENT HIS SON JESUS TO BECOME A HUMAN BEING. HE HUMBLY CAME AS A LITTLE BABY IN BETHLEHEM ONLY TO LATER GIVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE US. AND SECOND, THIS STORY IS SPECIAL BECAUSE ... IT'S ABSOLUTELY TRUE! AND TODAY, FEW PEOPLE REALIZE THAT SO MANY OF THE CAROLS THAT FILL THE MALLS AND THE SEASON WITH THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS ARE ACTUALLY SONGS OF HOPE ... AND JOY ... WITH POWERFUL MESSAGES THAT ORIGINATED FROM THIS BELOVED STORY. ONE OF THOSE MESSAGES IS THAT JESUS BROUGHT LIGHT INTO THE WORLD.

AND SPEAKING OF LIGHT, TOWARD THE END OF THE STORY, WE'LL BE LIGHTING CANDLES TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE LIGHT OF JESUS HAS SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD (PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A CANDLE). WHEN IT'S TIME, SOMEONE WILL LIGHT YOUR CANDLE, AND THEN YOU CAN PASS THE LIGHT TO SOMEONE ELSE (AND LET'S MAKE SURE TO PROTECT THE FURNITURE AND ANY LITTLE HANDS FROM HOT WAX).

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE SCRIPT WE WILL READ IS NOT "OUR VERSION" OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, BUT RATHER ... USING SEVERAL TRANSLATIONS, WE'RE GOING TO READ THE ORIGINAL STORY ... THE TRUE ONE ... THE ONE THAT COMES STRAIGHT FROM THE BIBLE. AND WE'LL START ... AT THE VERY BEGINNING.

AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO ... LET'S READ ... "THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY."

PART ONE: IN THE BEGINNING

[Genesis 1:1 NKJV] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [John 1:1 NKJV] ...and the Word was with God... [John 1:9 NLT] ...the true light... [Hebrews 1:2 NKJV] ...His Son ... through whom ... He made the worlds...

[Genesis 1:31 GW] And God saw everything that he had made and that it was very good... [Genesis 2:16–17 NKJV] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

[Genesis 3:4 ESV] But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. [1 Timothy 2:14 NLT] The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. [Gen 3:6 NKJV] ... she took ... its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. [Romans 5:12 NLT] When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. [Revelation 12:9 TEV] ... that ancient serpent, called the Devil, or Satan... deceived the whole world...

[Romans 3:10–12 NIV84] As the Scriptures say: “There is no one who is righteous, **11** no one who is wise or who worships God. **12** All have turned away from God; they have all gone wrong; no one does what is right, not even one.

PART TWO: THE PROPHECY

[Isaiah 59:15–16 NLT] ... The LORD looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. **16** He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help... So he himself stepped in to save them... [Jeremiah 23:5–6 NLT] “For the time is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. **6** And this will be his name: ‘The LORD Is Our Righteousness.’ ... [Micah 5:2 NIV] “But you, Bethlehem ..., though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

[1 John 4:9 NIV] This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. [Isaiah 7:14 NLT] ... the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

SINGING

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

VERSE 1

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

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

VERSE 2

*O 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.*

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

VERSE 3

*O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

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

[Luke 1:26–38 NIV84] In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be

afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. **31** You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” **34** “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” **35** The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. **37** For nothing is impossible with God.” **38** “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

[Matthew 1:18–21 NLT] This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. **19** Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. **20** As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

PART THREE: THE BIRTH

[Luke 2:1–7 NKJV] And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

SINGING

AWAY IN A MANGER

VERSE 1

*Away in a manger
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay*

VERSE 2

*The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side
'Til morning is nigh*

[Isaiah 9:6–7 NKJV] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**PART FOUR:
THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS**

[Luke 2:8–15 NKJV] Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” **15** So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

SINGING

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING

VERSE 1

*Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"*

*Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"*

*Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

VERSE 3

*Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail 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!"*

[Luke 2:16-20 NKJV] And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. **17** Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

SINGING

O HOLY NIGHT

VERSE 1

*O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn*

*Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!*

VERSE 3

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name*

*Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim*

[Matthew 2:1–12 NKJV] Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ” 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and

worship Him also.” 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

SINGING

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

VERSE 1

*O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels*

CHORUS

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

VERSE 2

*Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God all
Glory in the highest*

CHORUS

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

VERSE 3

*Yea Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning*

*Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing*

CHORUS

*O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord*

PART FIVE: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

[John 1:1–4 NKJV] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

[John 1:5–14 [NKJV] And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... **9** That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name... **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

[Pass along the candlelight]

SINGING

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

VERSE 1

*Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You*

VERSE 2

*King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

CHORUS

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my
God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

SILENT NIGHT

VERSE 1

*Silent night holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and
Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*

VERSE 2

*Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born*

VERSE 3

*Silent night holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy
face
With the dawn of redeeming
grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth*

[1 John 1:5–7 NKJV] This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. [1 Peter 5:8 CEV] ... Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. [1 John 3:8 NKJV] ... For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. [Hebrews 2:14 CEV] ...He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death.[1 Corinthians 2:8 NCV] None of the rulers of this world understood it. If they had, they would not have crucified the Lord...

[Romans 5:8 NIV84] ... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Ephesians 5:8 NLT] For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! [2 Timothy 3:1 NLT] You should know this... that in the last days there will be very difficult times. [Isaiah 60:2 NKJV] For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

[John 8:12 NKJV] Then Jesus spoke ... saying, "I am the light of the world..." [John 9:5 NKJV] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [Mark 16:19 NIV84] After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. [Matthew 5:2, 14–16 NKJV] and he taught them..."You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. [Mark 16:15 GW] "Go everywhere in the world, and tell everyone the Good News.

[John 3:16 NKJV] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

SINGING

Joy To The World

VERSE 1

*Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing*

VERSE 2

*Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

VERSE 4

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love*

VERSE 1 - REPRISE

*Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing*

HOSTS' CLOSING

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. THAT'S WHAT THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT ... HOW GOD LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS ONLY SON ... AND HOW JESUS LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE CAME TO PAY FOR ALL OF OUR SINS ... SO THAT BY TURNING TO HIM AND FOLLOWING HIM WE COULD BE FORGIVEN AND BECOME A PART OF GOD'S VERY FAMILY.

I INVITE YOU, THIS CHRISTMAS, TO MAKE THAT DECISION. TO CHOOSE TO RESPOND TO LOVE OF GOD. TO CHOOSE JESUS ... THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS GIFT.

[OPTIONAL PRAYER]

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE ... AND LET ME JUST SAY ... FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS ... "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"