

I KNOW HE LIVES

A Christmas Cantata

Narration Only

Narrator I: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Narrator II: To whom do we pay homage at Christmas time....a tiny baby in a rugged cattle manger? Does our search for the Savior end there? To truly know Him whom the shepherds adored and the kings knelt to worship, to know the child of whom the angels sang, we must go back beyond man's mortal memory to a far distant time and place...(music begins) Before the heart of man began its mortal work; before the breath of life stirred upon this earth; before all creation began, was Jesus Christ, Son of God.

"IN THE BEGINNING"

Narrator II: The Lord God Jehovah was ordained as Savior in the great pre-mortal council of heaven. He created the world under the direction of the Father, and then descended to live in mortality, to be ridiculed, reviled and put to death by those whom He had created. Because of His perfect love for each of us, He overcame the adversary and atoned for our sins, opening the long-locked door to exaltation and eternal life (music begins). Such a magnificent gift stirs the deepest emotion among the faithful. Is it any wonder that every prophet since the beginning of time has proclaimed His glory and bowed to His divinity? Listen to their testimonies as they drift down to us through the pages of history. Truly, they knew their Redeemer. (Wait for music to stop, then proceed.)

Narrator II: Job....

Job: For I know that my redeemer liveth and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. (Job 19:25-26)

Narrator II: David...

David: The lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalms 27:1)

Narrator II: Nephi....

Nephi:We talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophecy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies. (2 Nephi: 25-26)

Narrator II: Jacob....

Jacob:For this intent have we written these things, that they may know that we knew Christ, and we had a hope of his glory many hundred years before his coming, and not only we ourselves had a hope of his glory, but also all the holy prophets which were before us. (Jacob 4:4)

Narrator II: Alma....

Alma: I say unto you....that I know that Jesus Christ shall come, yea, the Son, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and mercy, and truth. (Alma 5:48)

Narrator II: Peter....

Peter: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16)

Narrator II: Joseph Smith....

Joseph: And now after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: (music begins) That he lives! For we saw him even on the right hand of God. And we heard the voice bearing record that he is the only Begotten of the Father. (D&C 76:22-23)

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angel came down and stood before me; and he said unto me; Nephi, what beholdest thou? And I said unto him; A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.

Narrator II: A great and noble spirit, Mary was chosen before the world began to be the mother of the Lamb of God. Motherhood, a magnificent gift of creation, is in itself a divine calling. But this special spirit was "highly favored of God." Surely, He selected the most pure, the most intelligent, the most perfect of all His daughters to mother His only begotten son.

Sense her unwavering faith. Listen to her song of praise. Mary, the mother of the Savior, adds her firm witness to the divinity of the child she is to bear. (music begins)

Mary: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

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Narrator II: The long awaited day approached. All heaven waited in joyous anticipation as the earth prepared to receive its maker. How appropriate that we reverence his birth, the moment when God clothed himself in flesh and became man.

Narrator I: (music begins) "And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (Because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger; because there was no room for them in the inn (music ends).

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came (music begins) upon them, and glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a

Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising god and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (music ends).

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. (Luke 2:1-16)

"DON'T THEY KNOW YOU'RE A KING?"

Narrator II: The King had indeed been born, and all within the gates of heaven rejoiced over this great moment. Even the elements of the earth bowed to their creator. For on this first night of promise, one star blazed out in glory as a beacon to the faithful and as a testimony of the Son of God.

Narrator I: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? (music begins) for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. (Matthew 2:1-2)

"OH, STAR"

Narrator II: (choir sings, "...come follow and obey," then continues to "ooh" as narration begins) Far from Bethlehem in a promised land half a world away lived other people who also looked eagerly for this great even to occur. Their prophets also spoke of a Savior, to be born of a virgin ("oohs" end, and narration continues).

Narrator I: And now it came to pass that Samuel, the Lamanite, did prophesy ...Behold, I give unto you a sign; ...five years more...and then cometh the Son of God...And...in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness...Therefore, there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night...and it shall be the night before he is born. (Music begins) And behold, there shall be a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld." (Helaman 14)

"OH, STAR" continues

Narrator II: (choir sings, "...that glows so bright. Oh, Star." Narration begins.) Five years passed and the people of this choice land were bitterly divided over whether or not the sign would come. With each passing day, the doubters grew more wicked and fearsome, while the believers increased in faith.

Narrator I: ...There were some who began to rejoice over their brethren, saying: Behold the time is past, and the words of Samuel are not fulfilled; therefore, your joy and your faith concerning this thing hath been vain...

Now it came to pass that there was a day set apart by the unbelievers, that all those who believed in those traditions should be put to death except the sign should come to pass, which had been given by Samuel the prophet.

When Nephi...saw this wickedness...his heart was exceedingly sorrowful, And...he went out and bowed himself down upon the earth, and cried mightily to his God in behalf of his people, yea, those who were about to be destroyed because of their faith... (music begins)

And behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him, saying; Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world; (choir begins)

And it came to pass that at the going down of the sun there was no darkness...in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given. And it came to pass that a new star did appear, according to the word. (III Nephi 1)

"OH, STAR" concludes

Narrator II: Who comes to testify of Christ? The angels came in glory to sing His praises. The shepherds came in awe to kneel at His feet. The wise men came as kings to call Him their king. Mary came in tender courage to honor His name. With dramatic obedience, the earth and the heavens announced the birth of the Son of Man. And with power and faith, the prophets acknowledged His eternal divinity.

But one testimony stands out above all others. This witness came quietly, but with such intensity as to pierce the hearts of all who heard and cause them to burn within. God, the Father, the great Elohim, came to proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ was his son.

He came to the River Jordan in Galilee. He came to Bountiful in the Promised Land, and He came to a grove of trees in Palmyra, New York. In solemn power and majesty, He announced the Prince of Peace. (music begins)

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As we contemplate the nativity, we can draw close to our Savior. Within the confines of this mortal life, we can come to know of the reality of his existence. We, too, can know Jesus Christ as did a modern apostle, Bruce R. McConkie.

McConkie: (from General Conference, April 1985) "I testify that he is the Son of the Living God and was crucified for the sins of the world. He is our lord, our God, and our King. I am one of his witnesses, and in a coming day I shall feel the nail marks in his hands and in his feet and shall wet his feet with my tears. But I shall not know any better than I know now that he is God's Almighty Son, that he is our Savior and Redeemer."

Narrator I: And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore I would exhort you that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and forever. (Moroni 10:7)

Narrator II: (music begins) Come, all faithful sons and daughters of God. Come join the hosts of the righteous and valiant. Bear testimony of the risen Lord! Know that He lives! Know that He loves you! Know that He will stand as your Savior and benefactor through eons of time. Oh, come all ye faithful!

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