

Christmas Carols: Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Isaiah 11:1-2 ❖ Matthew 1:1-6, 16



Family Trees

A good friend _____ a Christmas tree ornament for my wife Rene and me this year. It is a round piece of wood, beautifully stained, with a large _____ etched in the middle. "Tim and Rene" are etched at the top, and around the branches are the _____ of our two sons and their wives. At the bottom, on each side of the _____, are the _____ of our two young grandsons and the year _____.

_____ are important. All of us are born into, often married into and sometimes adopted into _____. The names in our family trees can tell quite a _____.

Jesus' Family Tree

Two of Jesus' _____, Matthew and Luke, include genealogies of Him. Matthew puts his at the _____, just before he tells how Jesus' miraculous _____ came about.

Jesus' genealogy is _____ with some names being omitted, as was often done, in order to give an _____ of the generations covering _____ years. In the list are men and _____, saints and _____, Jews and _____. Matthew is careful to note Jesus was _____ and was a _____.

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of _____, the son of _____ ... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of _____, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (Mt 1:1, 16).

Luke is careful to note both Mary and Joseph were descendants of _____, Israel's greatest _____. (Luke 1:27, 2:4)

The Carol

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" is one of the _____ of our Christmas carols, going back as far as the _____ century. In 1894, Theodore Baker translated the _____ text (verses one and two) into English, while retaining the original _____. A third verse was _____ by Harriet Spaeth in the early 1900's.

The carol includes two _____ fulfilled in Jesus' birth: "I am the _____ of Sharon" (Song of Songs 2:1) and "A shoot will come up from the _____ of _____" (Isaiah 11:1a). Jesse was the father of _____. ("One Year Book of Hymns," Peterson, p. 347)

V. 1. "Lo, how a _____ e'er blooming, From _____ stem hath sprung!
Of _____ lineage coming As men of _____ have sung.
It came, a _____ bright, Amid the _____ of winter,
When _____-spent was the _____."

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' _____ advent, but His _____ will be seen fully only when He _____, His _____ advent.

V. 2. " _____ 'twas foretold it, the _____ I have in mind;
With _____ we behold it, the _____ mother kind.
To show God's _____ aright, She _____ to men a Savior,
When _____-spent was the _____."

Each succeeding _____ in Jesus' family tree revealed that Israel's history proceeded according to God's overarching _____ to send the Savior.

V. 3. "This _____, whose fragrance tender, with sweetness _____
the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The _____ everywhere.
True _____, yet very _____, from sin and death He saves us
And _____ every load."

The Christmas story resonates with the _____ news of _____ ability to forgive our _____, take us to _____ and give us His _____ along the way.

Takeaway

Let's spend some time this Christmas season reflecting on the names in _____ family tree and in _____ own family trees - thanking God for the _____ and the _____ and thanking Him for _____ us into His _____ of faith.

