

Christmas Carols: Who Is He in Yonder Stall?

Isaiah 7:14 ❖ Luke 2:8-20

“Christmas means - the beginning of Christianity, the Second Chance for the world, the hope for peace, and the only way. There remains one way - The Way - untried, untested, unexplored fully ... the way of Him who was born a Babe in Bethlehem.”
 (“Let’s Keep Christmas,” Peter Marshall, 1927)

The Reason for the Season

“It was the week before Christmas. I was baby-sitting our _____ children while my wife took the baby for his checkup. Baby-sitting for me meant reading the _____ while the kids _____ up the house. Only that day I wasn’t reading. I was _____ as I was told there were only six more days in which to rush out and buy what I couldn’t _____ and nobody _____. What, I asked myself, did the glitter and the rush have to do with the _____ of Christ?”

“There was a _____ on the door of the room where I had barricaded myself. Then the _____ of Nancy (age 10): ‘Daddy, we have a _____ to put on. Do you want to _____ it?’ I _____, but I followed her into the living room. Right away I knew it was a _____ play for at the foot of the piano stool was a lighted _____ wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a _____ box.”

“Rex (age 6) came in wearing my _____ and carrying a _____ handle. He sat on the stool and looked at the _____. Nancy draped a _____ over her head, stood behind her brother Rex and said, ‘I’m Mary, and this _____ is Joseph.’ Next Trudy (age 4) entered at a full _____. There were _____ over her arms. She spread them wide and said, ‘I’m an _____.’ Then came Anne (age 8). She moved like she was riding a _____, and she was bedecked with all the _____ available. On a pillow she was carrying _____ items. She bowed to the _____ and announced, ‘I am _____ three wise men. I bring precious gifts: _____, circumstance and _____.’”

“That was all. The play was over. I didn’t _____. I _____. I looked at the shining faces of my children, _____ and remembered that a Child came into a _____ world and in doing so eternally _____ the material.” (“Christmas - A Time for Learning,” Rex Knowles, in “The Guideposts Christmas Treasury,” pp. 173-174)

Let’s look at a carol that addresses why a _____ was the perfect thing to represent _____ Jesus.

The Carol

Benjamin Russell Hanby wrote both the words _____ the tune to “Who Is He in Yonder Stall?” in 1866. Like his father, he was a _____ and a “conductor” on the _____ Railroad. His home in Westerville, Ohio was a _____ for _____ escaping to Canada. He also wrote many _____. (hymnary.org)

Hanby’s Christmas carol is a series of ten _____ about who Jesus is - beginning with His _____ and going through to His _____ coming. The refrain or chorus is the _____ to _____ ten.

“So the shepherds _____ off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the _____” (Luke 2:16).

- v. 1. “Who is He in yonder stall, At whose feet the _____ fall?
Who is He in deep distress, _____ in the wilderness?
Tis the _____! O wondrous story!
Tis the Lord! the King of _____!
At His feet we humbly _____,
Crown Him, Lord of _____!”
- v. 2. “Who is He the people bless For His words of _____?
Who is He to whom they bring All the _____ and sorrowing?”
- v. 3. “Who is He that stands and _____ At the grave where Lazarus sleeps?
Who is He the gath-’ring throng Greet with loud triumphant _____?”
- v. 4 “Lo! at midnight, who is He _____ in dark Gethsemane?
Who is He on yonder _____ Dies in grief and agony?”
- v. 5 “Who is He that from the _____ Comes to heal and help and save?
Who is He that from His throne _____ through all the world alone?”

Takeaway

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a _____: The virgin will be with _____ and will give birth to a _____, and will call Him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

“Immanuel” means “God is _____ us.” On Christmas Eve and on _____ other day of the year, because of His _____, life, _____, resurrection, and _____, Jesus, “the _____, the _____ of glory,” is the _____ to all of life’s _____.

