



Of the Father's Love Begotten

This ancient hymn, translated from Latin, calls the worshiper to consider the birth of Christ and the significance of that birth. Born out of the love of God the Father, Jesus Christ entered the world as an infant. Yet, in a mysterious way of transcending time and space, he existed as the Son of God before our world even came to be. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8, NIV). As both the source and conclusion, he is eternal, without end.

In the death and resurrection of Christ, we realize the richness of God's love for us, as God allowed his Son to take our place as payment for our sins. In this Christmas hymn, though, we imagine what it was like in those first moments of Jesus' infant life on earth. Surely no one fully comprehended that they were looking into the eyes of the "Savior of our race."

The final two stanzas of this hymn urge us to praise this Savior and God, perhaps echoing phrases from Psalm 148:

"Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts" (1-2, NIV).

Let no one be silent in their worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All those above, and all those below extend praise and bow down before him. We employ every means of praise: hymns, chants, thanksgiving, worship songs and so on, as we bring honor and glory to our King.

Our worship on earth and in heaven will never cease; God shall be praised forevermore and evermore.
Amen!

© 2011 Angela D. French