



# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Listen, the angels have an announcement! And that's what it is coming from them...an announcement. We, on the other hand, have a testimony. Our testimony is that God and sinners can be reconciled, that there can, indeed, be peace on earth, the kind that Jesus brings. Our testimony is that Jesus did, in fact, turn out to be God with us. Listen! Hark! The re-born sinners sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

There has never been a more important announcement. The highest mountain was not high enough to stand on to spread this news. No mortal was trustworthy enough to get people's attention with such an unbelievable story. A baby being born, in and of itself, was not news. The announcement had to be spectacular, and this carol reminds us that it was. But we sing this carol as something much more than an announcement. We sing the announcement from a heart that also sings the testimony. The words are richer, the music has a depth and is sung from the depths of our experience.

With each singing we retell the Christmas story and relive our experience of finding the truth and the significance of the announcement within our own lives. The singing of the angels may have surprised and frightened the angels, but our singing of our Christmas testimony astonishes the angels. They wonder at our song. A testimony is something far more special than an announcement.

Announcement: The war is over! Testimony: I made it through alive and I don't have to be afraid anymore. Announcement: My wife had a baby! Testimony: We now have a daughter. Announcement: I have a job! Testimony: I can now support my family. Announcement: We're getting married! Testimony: She loves me and I love her. Announcement: God's Son is born in Bethlehem. Testimony: Jesus has come into my life.

We sing with gusto the angels' first stanza announcement, "Glory to the newborn king," because of our last stanza testimony, "born that we no more may die." And Christmas, once again, changes the entire year. Christmas once again puts consumerism and its announcements in perspective. Christmas once again puts greed and its announcements in perspective. Christmas once again puts warfare's announced bravado in perspective. We have a testimony. We have been given a gift, it is the gift of peace, of love, of generosity, and warmth rather than heat.

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