

# "Away In A Manger"



*"Be near me, LORD JESUS, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever...and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care; and take us to heaven to live with Thee there."*

A nativity scene was erected in a church yard. During the night the passers-by came across this scene: An abandoned dog was looking for a comfortable, protected place to sleep; he chose baby Jesus in the manger as his comfort. No one had the heart to send him away, so he was there all night. Do you know what the dog's breed was? A German Shepherd had the sense to curl up in Jesus' lap to seek comfort and safety. Could animals be smarter than humans?

Submitted by Dottie Urban



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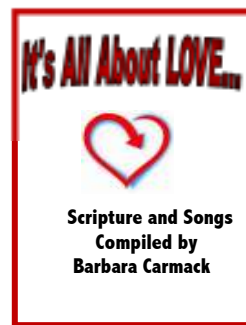
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Archie Moody



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# Freedom Street XPress

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## CHRISTMAS = Resurrection!

Photo by Jon Sheppard by Barbara Carmack

You cannot separate Christ's birth from Christ's Resurrection. You may think of the Resurrection as the event when Christ rose from the tomb; but it's important to realize that the birth of the Child in the manger can't be separated from the Man on the cross. As you look into the manger in Bethlehem...you will see Resurrection coming....This Baby was sent to die!

In an atmosphere of darkness and unbelief JESUS was born. GOD's people lived under the terrifying grip of the Roman Empire. Israel's religious leaders didn't offer much help in deliverance for their people. They enjoyed their "captivity" with the Romans because they were given some authority with the rulers. These leaders of the Jewish people, did not recognize their Messiah, even when He appeared to them daily. In fact, these Jewish leaders became enemies of Christ JESUS - the MESSIAH - sent by GOD to redeem the world.

Christ was fully human at birth - Mary's blood had nourished Him in the womb and her milk fed him through infancy - but His birth was a breaking forth of the Divine Eternal Plan of GOD. The Bible says, **"The people who sat in darkness saw a great Light...and to them which sat in the shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned!"** (Prophesied in Isaiah 60:1 and fulfilled in Matthew 4:16) JESUS brought Resurrection Power into a life of hopelessness and death! He promised an Abundant Life to all who Believe in Him...and a future of absolute JOY, saying in John 11:25-26,

**"I Am the Resurrection and the Life; those who believe in Me, though they were dead, yet shall they live...and whoever lives and believes in Me shall NEVER DIE!"** What Hope and Joy He brought into this world!

So, why did JESUS come to earth? Do you know why He was born into poverty, why the angels sang that night, why the shepherds were the first to see Him, and why the wise men brought gifts? When JESUS said, **"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"**...He declared His Resurrection and His Kingship; He knew why He was on the earth. He knew that He needed to come as a human, to experience every temptation that you have gone through; and He promised a divine deliverance for you, through His Blood: **"We have a High Priest Who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."** (Hebrews 4:15) As you look into the manger, you will see a Bridge, a Bridge - Christ JESUS; He is the Bridge between earth and heaven, overcoming death on your behalf. One day, in the near future, you're going to cross that Bridge: **"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised imperishable and we shall be changed...and caught up to meet Him!"** (I Corinthians 15:52, I Thessalonians 4:17)

This Christmas Season may you keep a "Resurrection-frame-of-mind", as Paul encourages you with these words, **"Since we believe that JESUS died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when JESUS returns, GOD will bring back with Him Believers who have died, that you may not grieve as others who do not have the Hope of the Resurrection in Christ JESUS....So encourage each other with these words."**

(I Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18)

We, who are in Christ JESUS, can joyfully sing those glorious words: **"JOY to the world, the LORD has come..."**

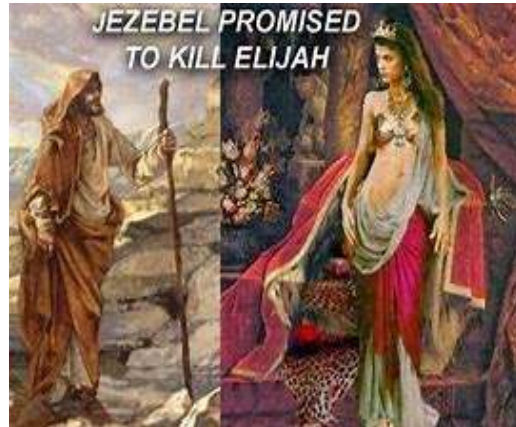
**let earth receive her King!**



# Making America Great Again!

In the book "The Paradigm", the author, Jonathan Cahn compares President Trump with Jehu, the King of Israel. King Jehu ended the reign of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel...a reign of idolatry and wickedness. President Trump's win in 2016 ended a reign of anti-GOD and anti-democracy in this nation. Cahn explains, "Trump's victory in the presidential election represented a profound change. It averted the sealing of the

apostasy of America, and it provided a wide-open door for evangelical leaders and Believers to impact the nation. Thus there would likewise be the hope of a wide-scale return to GOD. On the other hand, the weight and inertia of America's moral and spiritual descent would mean that for such a return to



take place would be nothing short of miraculous, and that apart from such a return there would be nothing but descent." (The Paradigm - Page 219) GOD's answer to the wicked house of Ahab, whose agenda was "to stamp out the ways of GOD in Israel", was Elijah, who would stand resolute against their evil, would challenge their god - Baal - would close and open the heavens, would confront the nation with its sins, and call it to repentance. In part, Western civilization is replaying the fall of ancient Israel, and GOD has brought forth a man who will tear down the socialistic hopes of the left and bring reform to this nation. It is "...for such a time as this". (Esther 4:14)

Pray for President Trump, and thank GOD for all that he has accomplished! Wash your hands on behalf of Pres. Trump and push away the Jezebel spirit and anti-Christ spirit (I John 4:3), "**Greater is HE Who is in you than he who is in the world!**" Remember that!



# The Story of Hanukkah

Unlike many Jewish holidays, Hanukkah (also known as the Festival of Lights), is not mentioned in the Bible. The historical events upon which the celebration is based are recorded in Maccabees I and II, two books contained within a later collection of writings known as the Apocrypha. Although Hanukkah is considered a "minor" Jewish festival, today it ranks - along with Passover and Purim - as one of the most beloved Jewish family holidays.

In the year 168 B.C., the Syrian tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes sent his soldiers to Jerusalem. The Syrians desecrated the Temple, the holiest place for Jews at that time. Antiochus also abolished Judaism, outlawing the observance of Shabbat and the Festivals, as well as circumcision. Altars and idols were set up for the worship of Greek gods and he offered Jews two options: conversion or death. On the 25th day of the Hebrew month of *Kislev* in 168 B.C., the Temple was renamed for the Greek god Zeus. A resistance movement - led by a priestly family known as the Hasmoneans, or Maccabees - developed against the cruelty of Antiochus. The head of the family was Mattathias, an elderly man. His son, Judah, became the chief strategist and military leader of the resistance. Though outnumbered, Judah Maccabee and his fighters miraculously won two major battles, routing the Syrians decisively. There is no doubt that this victory evokes stirring images of Jewish valor against overwhelming odds.

Hanukkah, which means "dedication," is the festival that commemorates the purification and rededication of the Temple following the defilement caused by the Greeks during their occupation of that holy place. Today, the holiday reminds Jews to rededicate themselves to stand against forces that would destroy Judaism and to keep alive the flame of Jewish religion, culture, and people, so that it may be passed on to the next generation. Originally, the eight-day holiday was intended to parallel the eight-day festival of Sukkot. The Books of the Maccabees made no mention of the legend concerning a small jar of oil that unexpectedly lasted for eight days.

Only centuries after the Maccabees' defeat of the Syrians did the story of the jar of oil - which has come to be a part of Hanukkah - appear in the Talmud. According to the legend, when the Maccabees entered the Temple and began to reclaim it from the Greeks, they immediately relit the *ner tamid* (eternal light), which burned constantly in the Temple and has a parallel in our synagogues to this day. In the Temple, they found a single jar of oil, which was sufficient for only one day. The messenger who was sent to secure additional oil took eight days to complete his mission, and miraculously, the single jar of oil continued to burn until his return. The rabbis of the Talmud attributed the eight days of Hanukkah to the miracle of this single jar of oil.

# What Money Can Buy...



Money will buy... a bed...BUT NOT SLEEP; books...BUT NOT BRAINS; food...BUT NOT APPETITE; fashion...BUT NOT BEAUTY; a house...BUT NOT A HOME; medicine... BUT NOT HEALTH; luxuries...BUT NOT CULTURE; amusement...BUT NOT HAPPINESS; a crucifix...BUT NOT A SAVIOR; a church pew...BUT NOT HEAVEN!



What money cannot buy... JESUS Christ gives freely without charge. When you make JESUS your Savior and LORD, you have: Peaceful Rest (Isaiah 26:3), the Mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16), Bread of Life that satisfies (John 6:33, I Timothy 4:4), clothing that will not wear out (Deut. 8:4, Rev. 7:14), a home that is peaceful and secure (Isaiah 32:18), and the best that this life has to offer (I Timothy 6:17b). Listen up! Do you know that GOD has created You...yes YOU...for a purpose; He has planted His Wisdom and Understanding inside of you to



accomplish His good purposes because "**It is GOD Who is at work in you...both to will and to work for His good pleasure!**" (Phil 2:13) GOD will use everything in Your life to qualify you to serve Him, and Romans 8:28 tells you

**"ALL things work together for GOOD to those who love Him and are called according to HIS Purpose!"**

Holy Spirit is at work in you to increase your qualifications by allowing you to go through testing. Paul says in II Corinthians 1:3-7, "**Blessed be the GOD and Father of our LORD JESUS Christ, the Father of mercies and the GOD of all comfort, Who comforts you in ALL your affliction so that you may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which you yourself are comforted by GOD. For as you experience sufferings, you are comforted by the fact that JESUS Christ went through so much more on your behalf!**"

And GOD never allows you to be separated from His Love as His purposes for you unfold - "**Nothing shall be able to separate you from the Love of GOD which is in Christ JESUS!**" (Romans 8:35-39) And for that you are blessed beyond measure - celebrate your belonging to the family of GOD - **WHAT MONEY CANNOT BUY!**



# Feliz Navidad from... Home Of Refuge Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable



Daily meal - potato peels

There are so many reasons to celebrate, because GOD has done such miraculous things here in Peru. But there are also desperate situations in which the poor have nothing to celebrate this Christmas. Will you help us meet the needs of those with whom GOD brings us in contact?

We know that we cannot meet the need of all the poor but, if you help us, we can meet the needs of those who are in this town and community. We can keep them from eating potato peels as their only meal of the day. We can help them clothe their children...and seek out those who have nowhere to go and nowhere to sleep. It grips my heart when I peer into the "house" of a widow and her children and see only dirt floors and dank smell. Can I see that kind of poverty and go on my way, enjoying life? I CANNOT! I cannot ignore the words in I John 3:17, "**He who beholds his brother in need and has the means to help him...and closes his heart from him, how is it even possible for GOD's Love to live in him?**" JESUS is able to lift them out of a life of poverty and put them on the road to success and prosperity, and you can be the hands and generous heart to help them. With Love and deep Gratitude,

**Tony & Rosa Home of Refuge - Working together for the Kingdom**

