

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

(Matthew 1: 20-21 NIV)

Each year at this time I like to pick a Christmas song or carol and make it my special devotion for the season. This year I stumbled across an old Christian Folk Hymn that is also considered a Christmas Carol.

The song is called “I Wonder as I Wander” and was written by John Jacob Niles. Niles was from Louisville, Kentucky but found his inspiration for the song when he was visiting the Appalachian town of Murphy, North Carolina. According to his autobiography:

“A girl had stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievable dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins.... But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song.”

From those lines sang by that young girl Niles wrote this song:

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

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How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

The message of this season is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, came to earth to be born in a stable so he could die on the cross for the sins of the world. May we all wonder as we wander through life at the great love shown to us Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Tim