

# HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING Worksheet

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## *Verse 1*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

## ***Refrain***

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## *Verse 2*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

## ***Refrain***

## *Verse 3*

Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

## ***Refrain***

## *Verse 4*

Come, Desire of nations, come,  
Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head.  
Now display thy saving power,  
Ruined nature now restore;  
Now in mystic union join  
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.

## ***Refrain***

## *Verse 5*

Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
Second Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in Thy love.  
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,  
Thee, the Life, the inner man:  
O, to all Thyself impart,  
Formed in each believing heart.

## ***Refrain***

## **Vocabulary**

In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

*Verse 1:* Hark, herald, reconciled, triumph, host, proclaim

Define: Refrain

*Verse 2:* adored, everlasting, behold, Offspring, virgin, womb, Veiled, flesh, Godhead, Hail, incarnate, Deity, dwell, Emmanuel

*Verse 4:* humble, display, Ruined, restore, mystic, union, Thine

*Verse 5:* likeness, efface, image, Reinstate, regain, impart

**Word Pictures** Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean.

*Verse 1:* newborn King

*Verse 2:* Jesus our Emmanuel

*Verse 3:* Prince of Peace, Sun of Righteousness

*Verse 4:* Desire of nations, conquering Seed

*Verse 5:* Second Adam

**Mechanics** Verbally discuss

Who is the speaker?

What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?

Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?

Does the poem have a setting?

Is the poem about a particular event? Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?

Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly?

What point of view or perspective is the speaker?

How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?

**Comprehension Questions** Verbally discuss

*Verse 1*

Explain "Glory to the newborn King."

Why would "God and sinners [need to be] reconciled"? What was the problem?

Why would earth's nations rejoice?

What triumph is this verse talking about?

What was the angelic host proclaiming? Was this important?

*Verse 2*

Why would the "highest heaven" adore Christ?

Explain "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see."

Did you notice *th'* in this verse? What does it mean? Why do you think it was used?

What, exactly, does "incarnate Deity" mean?

Discuss the importance of "Pleased with us in flesh to dwell."

### Verse 3

This verse uses two interesting word pictures -- *Prince of Peace* and *Sun of Righteousness*. Explain. Did you notice *Ris'n* in this verse? What does it mean? Why do you think it was used?

Explain: "Ris'n with healing in His wings." Does this Person physically have wings? If not, why did the author use these terms? What was He rising from?

What is meant by the stanza "Mild He lays His glory by"? What glory? What was He laying?

Next, the poem states "Born that man no more may die." Yet, men do die. What does this mean?

Who are the "sons of earth"?

What are they being raised from? Why is this important?

How can a human have *second birth*? Or does this word picture mean something else?

### Verse 4

How can a home be "fixed" in anyone? How is this possible? Is this even desirable?

Explain "Rise, the woman's conquering Seed."

What exactly does *bruise* mean? Have you ever had a bruise?

Who or what does *serpent's head* refer?

How can the *Desire of nations ... Bruise in us the serpent's head*?

How was nature ruined?

What was being restored? Why would that be important?

Explain "mystic union join."

Discuss "Thine to ours, and ours to Thine."

### Verse 5

Who was Adam?

Why would anyone want to erase or blot out Adam's likeness?

The phrase "Stamp Thine image in its place" is used in the next line. What does this mean? Does this mean I can no longer be myself? Will I be like everybody else (like a cookie cutter)?

Explain "Second Adam from above."

Discuss "Reinstate us in Thy love."

Who was lost? How did this happen?

How can the *Second Adam* give Himself to each believer?

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the five verses and the refrain.

How does the Bible define love? For Scripture verses help, check out this internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Valentines/Bible.html>

For more Scripture verses on Prophecies Fulfilled in Christ, review the internet web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/SpecialDays/Christmas/Promise.html>

## **The Author/Poet**

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author's name for this poem or lyric is Charles Wesley (1707-1788). He was born on 28 December 1707 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He died on 29 March 1788, London, England, and was buried at Marylebone Parish Church, London. It is estimated that he wrote over 6000 Christian songs or hymns in his lifetime (possibly more). *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* first appeared in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739.

## **Geography**

Locate Bethlehem, London, and England on a globe, map and atlas.

*Challenge* Can you find Epworth or Lincolnshire on a map or in an atlas?

Compare/contrast the weather with these areas and your own for one week.

Make a meal from England or Bethlehem for your family.

## **Activities**

1) Read chapters 1 and 2 in Luke.

2) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse and the refrain. (Note: that will be six different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include the poem for your book.

3) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

4) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event this poem reported.

5) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., angels, heads of nations either current or past, the serpent, Mary, sinners, repentant sinner, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

6) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

7) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the before and after impact of *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*.

8) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Charles Wesley and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.

9) Movies. Watch the film *King of Kings*. (Note: Scripture correction will be required).