**WHO IS HE IN YONDER STALL?**

Sunday School Lesson 10

*Lessons from the Hymnbook*

Psalm 24

12/11/2022

**Introduction:** We turned our attention last week to a Christmas hymn - “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” The birth of Jesus declares the arrival of the King, the Christ, the everlasting Lord. The birth of Jesus also declares the arrival of the righteous Son of God and the fulfillment of the desire of nations. In continuing with the Christmas theme, we are going to be studying the Biblical lessons taught in “Who Is He In Yonder Stall?” This song was written in 1866 by Benjamin Hanby. He wrote this song at thirty-three years old, and he passed away just a year later from tuberculosis. The song was originally written as ten couplets, and then it was later arranged together as a song. Hanby wrote many spiritual and secular songs during his short life. This hymn is one of two Christmas songs that he wrote. The other was a secular song that is called “Up on the Housetop.” It’s the oldest known song about Santa Claus. Sadly, that song is more popular today than the beautiful hymn that we are studying today. While this hymn might be considered a Christmas song, it covers the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a story about the life of Jesus Christ.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY AT HIS BIRTH BEING WORSHIPPED BY THE SHEPHERDS.**

* In Luke 2:15-20, we see the reaction of the shepherds after they were told by the angels that the Messiah had arrived. First, they had to go and see this thing that they had been told by the Lord. Their curiosity and excitement demanded that they go to Bethlehem. The Bible says that they came with haste. The second thing that they did was let everybody know about it. They had seen the Messiah in the manger. The hope of Israel and the entire world was right there in front of them. The last thing we see from the shepherds is that they glorified and praised God for all that they had seen and heard. This is the recipe that should be followed by believers. The Lord calls us to see the glory of salvation. We see it and receive it. We go and tell everyone about it. Lastly, we continue to glorify and praise the King of Glory for it.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY FASTING AND BEING TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS.**

* In Matthew 4:1-11 (Luke 4:1-13; Mark 1:12-13), we see the Lord Jesus Christ being led up of His Spirit into the wilderness to fast. The Lord allowed Himself to be put to the physical breaking point. He did this to show His perfection and to show His ability to be able to resist the temptations of that Wicked One. Of course, we know the foolishness of Satan’s attempt. You cannot tempt the King of glory with evil. He is purity. He is righteousness. He is holiness. James 1:13 makes it clear that God cannot be tempted with evil. This tells us that there was no reason for the Lord to endure such temptation except to show us His perfection even in the flesh of man. Perhaps, He also did this to show us what Satan does when you resist him. He flees.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY SPEAKING UNTO THE PEOPLE WITH GENTLENESS.**

* In Matthew 13:10-17, we see a question asked of Jesus why He spoke to the people in parables. He showed His disciples how the people could only handle parables. They were not able to handle the truth. Sadly, the majority of the people were dull of hearing, weak of sight, and hard of heart. They were limited in what they could hear and understand. Christ could have chosen to not speak to them at all. Yet, He shows us His gentleness in His willingness to speak to these people (John 7:46). While the Lord is willing to speak to us gently, it is a show of spiritual maturity when we can handle more stern and direct instruction (1 Thess. 2:7). Let’s be thankful that the Lord speaks to us, and He does so in a way that we need to hear it.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY PERFORMING GREAT MIRACLES OF HEALING.**
2. There are so many times that we see the same thing recorded in the New Testament regarding the people bringing people to Jesus. We see it in Matthew 4:24; 8:16; 9:2; Luke 4:40 among other passages. While the Old Testament is filled with miracle after miracle, the world had never seen the type of healing power that Jesus showed during His earthly ministry. Truly, He is the great Physician. What does the Lord show us through these healings? First, they represent pictures of spiritual healing. He is able to heal all who come to Him. Secondly, we see His heart for mankind. He has compassion on our infirmities. Lastly, we see the work of God in His healing power. This is what Jesus told His disciples in John 9:1-3.
3. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY RAISING UP HIS FRIEND FROM DEATH TO LIFE.**

* In John 11, we have the story of Lazarus and his death. The Lord greatly loved Lazarus and his family. He knew that Lazarus was sick unto death, and He intentionally waited for Lazarus to die. This was all part of the Heavenly Father’s plan. Christ’s time on the cross was soon at hand, and this miracle would help usher in His crucifixion. As the Lord arrived, He was greeted with two sorrowful sisters. The Lord saw their grief, and He saw the place where Lazarus was laid. Truly, His heart grieved over the reality of death for mankind. It was never God’s intention for man to experience death. Thus, Christ raised up His friend from the dead, and He provided us with a great picture of the hope of all Christ’s friends.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY ENTERING TRIUMPHANTLY INTO JERUSALEM.**

* In three of the four Gospels, we have the account of Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21; Mark 11; John 12). The multitude went before Him and took branches of palm trees. They cried out “Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.” This is what the disciples had been waiting for. This is what Israel had been waiting for. Finally, their King was making His entry into that great city of Jerusalem. While this wasn’t the entry that they really wanted, it does provide us a glimpse of what is going to take place one day. Christ is going to reign on this earth.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY PREPARING IN THE GARDEN FOR HIS DEATH.**

* In Matthew 26 and Mark 14, we see the Lord preparing for His death. This was the final moments that He would have with His disciples before His death. He wanted to spend them in prayer together to the Father. His soul was exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. Why was He so sorrowful? I don’t believe it was just the fact that He would have to die. I believe He was sorrowful over the rejection by mankind. The Creator was about to be rejected and killed by His own creation. The Devil had greatly deceived mankind, and even His own chosen nation had rejected Him. He knew what had to happen to redeem man, but it was not easy.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY IN AGONY UPON THE CROSS OF CALVARY.**

* The hour had come for Christ to fulfill the work that He had set out to do. The work on the cross of Calvary was what He had come to do. It’s one of the few events recorded in all four of the Gospels (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19). We see the agony of the Lord upon the Cross. He had to endure all of the pain and the suffering. He came in the fulness of the flesh, so He had to endure physical pain just as you and I would have endured if we were on that cross. As we celebrate Christmas and the coming of the Lord, let’s remember that He came to go to the cross. He came and was born in Bethlehem, and He knew He would have to suffer such pain and shame on the cross of Calvary. Yet, He did those for us because He loves us.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY RAISED UP FROM THE GRAVE TO SAVE MANKIND.**

* While the cross represents the work that Christ came to do, the empty tomb represents the completion of that work and the victory that He has provided us (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20). Who is He that from the grave comes to heal and help and save? The grave represents defeat. It represents the opposite of healing. What person from the grave can help us today? The rich man begged to be able to help after his death. There is only One who offers power after His death to save us. That man is Christ Jesus. He has conquered death, hell, and the grave. Consider the questions found in 1 Corinthians 15:55: “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” We have victory in Christ, and we do not have to fear the grave.

1. **WE SEE THE KING OF GLORY SITTING ON HIS HEAVENLY THRONE.**

* In Acts 2:33, we are reminded where Christ is at today. He is sitting on the right hand of the Father. He is in His proper place. He is reigning on His throne. While we do not see all of the fulness of His reign right now, we can be assured that the Lord Jesus does reign, and He will reign for all of eternity. He has allowed this season to take place for the purpose of more souls being saved, but the hour is coming when the fullness of Christ’s reign will be revealed to this whole world. As we celebrate Christmas and the arrival of the Messiah, let’s be reminded that He is coming again. His second coming will be with greater splendor than His first!