

The Christmas Story in Chronological Order (New King James Version)

I Love to Tell the Story

*I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do.*

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story,
'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912

Tune: HANKEY, Meter: 76.76 D with Refrain

Matt 1:18a

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph...

The angel announces the birth of John the Baptist to Zacharias.

Luke 1:5-25

Narrator: There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years. So it was that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, according to the

custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him,



Angel: "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Narrator: And Zacharias said to the angel,

Zacharias: "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Narrator: And the angel answered and said to him,

Angel: "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute



and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

Narrator: And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple.

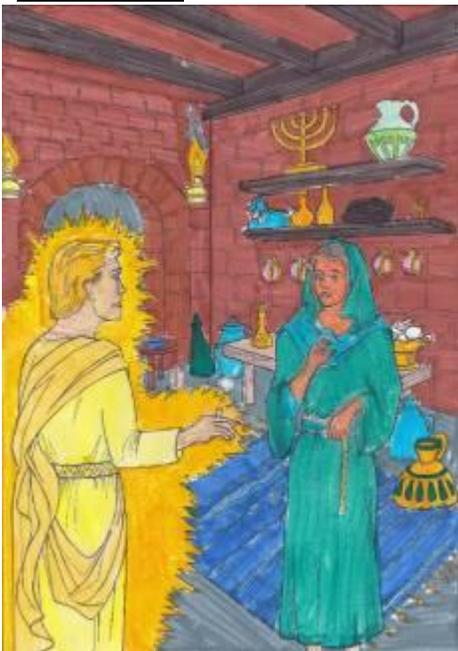
But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, Elizabeth: "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

The angel announces the birth of God's Only Son to Mary.

Luke 1:26

Narrator: Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by



God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her,

Angel: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

Narrator: But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her,

Angel: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Narrator: Then Mary said to the angel,

Mary: "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

Narrator: And the angel answered and said to her,

Angel: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

Narrator: Then Mary said,

Mary: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."

Narrator: And the angel departed from her.

Reader of poem:

God's Plan for the Ages

Had to take place in stages

And exactly as foretold long ago.

Six months before visiting Mary

The angel had another message to carry

And this one to a childless couple who were old.

God would use the life of their son

To prepare the hearts of EVERY one

To know that Jesus and God are one; it is true.

So don't despair of God's timing

Instead, remember to be trusting and abiding

In God, who sees and still cares very much about You.

Lovingly written by Mrs. Hearn 2011

Mary visits Elizabeth who is pregnant with John.

Narrator: Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and this confirms to Mary that her baby, Jesus Christ, is the one they have been waiting for, the Savior!

Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said,

Elizabeth: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

Narrator: And Mary said:

Mary: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior for He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from

generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever."

Narrator: And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

John the Baptist is born.

Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said,

Elizabeth: "No; he shall be called John."

Narrator: But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." So they made signs to his father--what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God. Then fear came on all who dwelt around



them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

Zacharias: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Narrator: So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Joseph finds out that Mary is pregnant.

Matthew 1:18-25

Narrator: Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

An angel assures Joseph that Mary has not sinned.

In fact, her baby's father is the Holy Spirit!

But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

Angel: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

The angel quotes Isaiah's prophesy.

Narrator: So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

Joseph obeys God's message from the angel.

Narrator: Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son.

The Birth of Jesus Christ!

Luke 2:1-38

Narrator: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

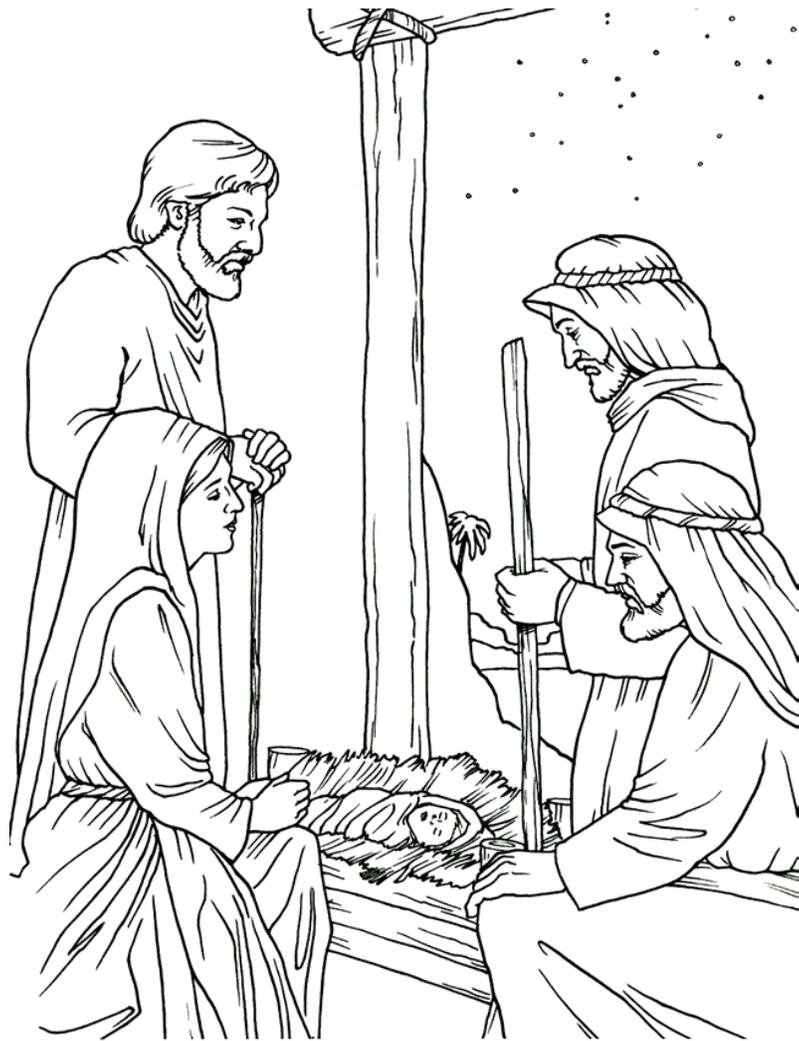
Joseph and Mary make a long trip to Bethlehem when she is due to be delivered.

O little Town of Bethlehem.

*O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie! Above
thy deep and dream-less sleep the
silent go by; Yet in thy dark streets
shineth The everlasting Light; The
hope and fears of all the year are
met in thee tonight. Hope E. Stubb*

But, there is NO room for them in the Inn.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was that while they were there the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling



JESUS' BIRTH

cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down
his sweet head; the stars in the
sky looked down where he lay, the
little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Mackenzie
Reed

Shepherds heard the news from a Host of Angels!



Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them,

Angel: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

**The Shepherds decide to find this baby, the Christ,
the Son of God!**

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

The News is spread abroad by the shepherds.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard, Sweet-ly singing,
O'er the plains, Mountains in reply Echo
back their joy-ous strains

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o

Glo-ri-a in excelsis De-o

Mary Neal

The Shepherds encourage Mary and Joseph and offer the praises that Jesus, the Son of God is due.

And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Mary and Joseph, as godly Jewish parents, determine to keep the Old Testament laws when raising Jesus.

They give the only sacrifice they can afford.

And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called **JESUS**, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

They met a godly Jew named Simeon at the temple. Simeon helped them to understand that Jesus' life may be a painful one.

Narrator: And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

Simeon: “ Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Narrator: And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother,

Simeon: “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the **thoughts of many hearts** may be revealed.”

A faithful prophetess named Anna encourages them about Jesus, praising God for His birth.

Narrator: Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son; Precious

Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Thank you O my Father, for giving us Your Son,

And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done

Katelyn A. Parent

God sends wise men from Daniel's country in the East.

Matt 2:1-23



Narrator: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”. When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said,

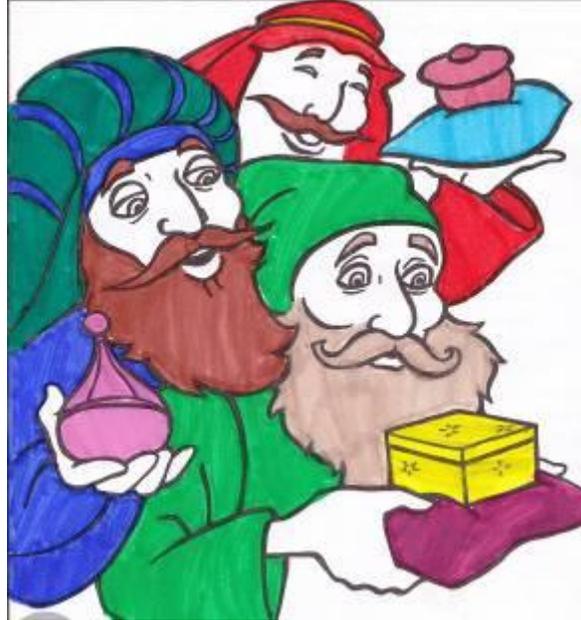
Herod: “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

God sends the wise men to worship Jesus and to provide money for their family.

Narrator: When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.



We three kings of Orient are: bearing
gifts we traverse a far-field and fountain
moore and mountain following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light. Annalia King

**God keeps Jesus and His parents safe
and fulfills another Old Testament prophecy.**

Narrator: Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying,

Angel: “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

Narrator: When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

Herod killed all the baby boys in Bethlehem, hoping to kill Jesus. But Jesus was safe in Egypt! Satan was MAD that he didn't get to use Herod to KILL Jesus. But God had already written the end of the story and He told us about it through the writing of the prophet Jeremiah many years earlier.

Narrator: Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: “ A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”



Herod dies and Joseph brings the family back to Israel.

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

Angel: “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.”

Narrator: Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.



But they don’t go back to Bethlehem; they go to their hometown of Nazareth in the portion of Israel called Galilee.

Narrator: But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Luke 2:39-40

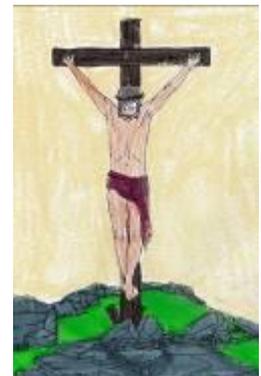
Narrator: So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. **And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King. Let ev'ry
heart prepare him room, And heav'n and
nature sing. And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature
sing.

*M. Carib
Lv.*

Did you know that the story of Jesus' birth fulfilled over 700 prophecies that were written hundreds of years earlier?

Did you know that before Jesus came our Holy God required a blood sacrifice? No more! He sacrificed Himself, instead of a lamb, for the Passover Feast, so that WE can be forever reconciled to Him. No more sacrifices are needed. The perfect lamb was sacrificed for me.



What love is this? How can it be described? How can it BE?

But the “Greatest Story Ever Told” didn’t end there. As prophesied in the Old Testament AND as predicted by Jesus to his mother, his family, his disciples, and everyone that heard Him speak, He would NOT stay DEAD! He rose from that grave on the



third day, ALIVE, and He never died again. He lives in heaven today interceding for us with God the Father.

Before Jesus came there were only a few people that were given the Holy Spirit to live in them. No more! Now EVERY BELIEVER has been given the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit lives in us to guide and comfort us AND to convict us of sin. All He asks is that we obediently declare our need for His cleansing power on our sinful lives and then receive His FREE forgiveness.

John 3:16 says it all: “For God SO loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (trusts) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”.

John 1:12 says: “To as many as have received Him gave He the right to become the children of God.”

We give gifts to each other on Jesus’ birthday but God has given the BEST gift of His Son to all of us! And to everyone that trusts in Him He gives other gifts...spiritual gifts and eternal life. I hope we are using our spiritual gifts to praise and bring honor to Him.

Have a Wonderful Christmas enjoying, worshipping, and praising our Maker, Redeemer, Father, and Friend.

Hallelujah Chorus

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

The kingdom of this world
Is become the kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ, and of His Christ;
And He shall reign for ever and ever,
For ever and ever, forever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords,
King of kings, and Lord of lords,
And Lord of lords,
And He shall reign,
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings, forever and ever,
And Lord of lords,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever,
King of kings! and Lord of lords!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Scriptures taken from the New King James Version of the Bible by Nelson Publishers

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