

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

STANZA 4: WHAT JESUS DOES IN US

Saturday, December 16

Reading: Romans 5

Romans 5:17 *For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one Man, Jesus Christ!*

Come, Desire of nations, come! / Fix in us Thy humble home
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed / Bruise in us the serpent's head
Adam's likeness now efface / Stamp Thine image in its place
Second Adam from above / Reinstall us in Thy love
Hark! the herald angels sing / Glory to the newborn King

This stanza of "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" is not sung very often. In fact, it is not found in most church hymnbooks. This may be because this verse contains some obscure Scripture references. But whatever the reason, it has a powerful message.

"Come, Desire of nations" – This title comes from the prophet Haggai as he encouraged the Jewish exiles who had returned from Babylon to finish rebuilding the temple. He told them that this temple would have more glory than Solomon's temple that had been destroyed.

For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth...I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory...The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the LORD of hosts. "And in this place I will give Peace" (Haggai 2:6-9 NKJV).

This temple would be more glorious because Messiah Himself, Jesus Christ would stand in this temple and bring peace with God through His death and resurrection.

The "conquering Seed" who would "bruise the serpent's head" is from God's promise found in Genesis 3:15. In His death, Satan bruised Jesus' heel. But Jesus' death crushed the enemy's head. Satan is forever defeated! At the close of his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul reminded them, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20).

In 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, the apostle Paul makes a comparison between "the first man Adam" and "the second Adam" – Jesus Christ. Romans 5 gives us a much more detailed comparison. While Adam's sin brought death and condemnation, Jesus' brought life and righteousness to those who believe. To "efface" something is to destroy it! Salvation destroys the image of sinful humanity and replaces it with the image of Christ. Each day we are becoming more and more like the Savior.

POINTS TO PONDER:

Here is the wonderful truth of the Christmas story. Jesus was born homeless – with only a manger to sleep in. While on earth Jesus said, "the Son of Man has no place to lay His head" (Matthew 8:20). And yet, for those who believe, Jesus made this wonderful promise: "Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them" (John 14:23). God makes His home in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who He has given us. And the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our future eternal home in heaven (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:14). Are you living the reality that Jesus is "at home" in your heart?