

## ***If You Listen***

*A silent night a holy night - A humble birth a child divine  
The Word made flesh - The prophecy  
A stable bleak a fragile cry - The virgin sings her lullaby  
To gently calm the Prince of Peace  
No kingly throne no diadem - There in quiet Bethlehem*

*And if you listen heaven is rejoicing - Can you hear it  
The angel voices - Singing glory in the highest  
All of creation joins the refrain - Lifting praises - praises to His name  
Singing glory in the highest - Singing glory in the highest  
Repeat the Sounding Joy*

**(Lyrics from the Song “If You Listen (Repeat the Sounding Joy)” by Kenna Turner West)**

These are the lyrics from one the songs that the choir performed in a previous musical entitled, ***Joy! Unspeakable Joy!*** When I first heard this arrangement (and every time since then) I got emotional when hearing it. I can’t explain why except to say that when I think about the day Christ was born, the angels, and all of creation rejoicing it floods my soul with wonder and awe. The Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace that was prophesied throughout the Bible (**Is. 9:6**) had finally come after years of waiting and praying.

***“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14***

Prophecy can be thought of as "pre-written" history. The Old Testament contains over 350 prophecies that refer to the coming of the Messiah. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fulfilled all these prophecies that were written many hundreds of years, and in some cases more than a thousand years, before his birth. The odds of one person fulfilling just 8 prophecies: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. Only He could do that. Think about this: The joy of Christmas could not have taken place without prophecy. Now, we await for Jesus to return a second time as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Paul wrote in **Philippians 4:4**, ***“Rejoice in the Lord always. And I say it again: Rejoice!”*** I believe as followers of Christ this is a struggle for us all. We all experience trials that could lead us down a bitter path, but God’s joy can restore and renew us. I am living proof. Because of past events I let the root of bitterness take hold (**Heb. 12:15**) and the joy of the Lord was **not** my strength. I never lost my faith but I sure questioned God a lot about why certain things happened. I realized His Joy always resided in my heart but it was up to me to choose to let it grow and flow through me. His joy flooded through me when I fell to my knees and prayed, *“Here’s my heart, make it Yours, all I am, forever Yours! You are King, You are Lord, all I am, forever Yours!”*

The Christmas season can be one of sorrow or unspeakable joy! My prayer is that all of us repeat the sounding joy that the angels proclaimed and share it to all. Christmas blessings to all my church family and friends! May we all sing Glory in the highest to our Savior and Lord! And if you listen...Heaven is rejoicing!

***“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)***

***Bro. Andrew***