

# Sang Or Said?

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign unto you;  
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.  
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, good will toward men.”  
Luke 2:10-14 (KJV)

**A**wonderful Christmas carol written by Charles Wesley is, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”. Wesley stands tall among hymnwriters in the history of the Christian church.

However, it appears that the day Wesley wrote this magnificent carol he did not read his KJV or Greek New Testament carefully enough. The angels spoke, they did not sing.

It is a minor point and I do not dwell on it. As stated in a previous devotional, the major point here is that the first recorded annunciation of Messiah’s arrival was made to ordinary members of society, not to the rich and powerful. Their invitation will come later, as we shall see in another devotional.

During recorded biblical history there are numerous times when angels appear with messages from Jehovah. Also,

angels come to the Lord’s people just before death.

The beggar Lazarus had several angels come to escort Him to heaven (Luke 16:19-22). Then we see the Lord Jesus in Gethsemane hours before the cross, being strengthened by an angel. (Luke 22:43)

How wonderful to know that no believer dies alone but they have the gracious ministry of angels strengthening them in the hour of death.

So, the One Who came to die for the sins of His people sends angels to minister to His people in life—like the shepherds—and to His people in death—like Lazarus.

’Tis midnight,  
and on Olive’s brow  
the star is dimmed  
that lately shone;  
’tis midnight;  
in the garden now  
the suff’ring Savior  
prays alone.

’Tis midnight, and,  
from all removed,  
Emmanuel wrestles  
lone with fears:  
e’en the disciple  
that He loved  
heeds not his Master’s  
grief and tears.

’Tis midnight, and,  
for others’ guilt,  
the Man of Sorrows  
weeps in blood;  
yet He that hath  
in anguish knelt  
is not forsaken by His God.

’Tis midnight; and  
from heav’nly plains  
is borne the song  
that angels know;  
unheard by mortals  
are the strains  
that sweetly soothe  
the Savior’s woe.

-W. Tappan

© Rumford Ministries  
[www.RumfordMinistries.org](http://www.RumfordMinistries.org)  
Some rights reserved