

Baby Jesus and Helen Keller

I. The Message and Incarnation

A. Music and Christmas are woven together. Music **invites** us into wonder.

1. O **come**, all ye faithful, **joyful** and **triumphant**,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and **behold** him,
Born the King of angels!
O come, let us **adore** him,... Christ the Lord!

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him,... Christ the Lord!

Luke 2.4 **ESV** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, **the time came for her to give birth.** **7** And **she gave birth to her firstborn son** and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

John 1:1 **NKJ** In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... **3** **All things** were **made** through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

14 And **the Word became flesh** and **dwelt** among us, and we **beheld** His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

“In the beginning, God created the **heavens** and the **earth.**”

B. This Baby is His Message

Heb 1.1 ESV Long ago, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. ...

God is so in love with humanity that He became a Human!

In this sinless baby, born of a virgin, born to be the Lamb of God who would once and for all carry away the sins of the whole wide world, is the **message** of **God's great humility**.

This child is the message of the sacrificial nature of pure Love.

This child is the invitation to what we were meant to be. He is the **re-creation of all Humanity**. He is the future of every believer.

Gen 1:26 ESV Then God said, "Let us make man **in our image**, after our **likeness**. And let them have dominion over...

The Eternal Word takes on the body and soul of Baby Jesus. He's defenseless, in need of care, protection & family life.

The Word that spoke & created the Universe needs to learn to speak from parents whose hearts and speech are pure.

This one who flung the stars into their places as the work of his fingers, needs to curl his fat little fist around Mary's pinkie.

His potential can only be reached through the day by day care and love of a family. There is no ministry yet. There is no cross, no resurrection, no coronation. Just daily family life.

He must be protected from the politics of power and the madness of Herod, who without feeling will kill all the little boys of Bethlehem to stop this King of the Jews from coming of age.

God who needs nothing, needs to be protected, valued and loved by humans in order to restore these humans to His Image.

C. Divine Love Language (Words of Affirmation Needed)

If I'm sitting in a dark house, we need a light. In order to think of a solution, you need **language, words that express ideas**. Your dog doesn't think, "Hey, I will turn on the light switch. Or, if that doesn't work, I will find some matches and light a candle."

Nope, your dog just sits in the dark and doesn't think much about what *could be*. Human creativity is in our imagination that finds the power of language!

Gen 1:3 ESV And God **said**, "Let there be light," and **there was** light.

Words come before light! We need to imagine it and then say it!
Words have the power of life and death!

God speaks to us in a child! In a dark time, Isaiah spoke to **King Ahaz** (father of Hezekiah):

Isa 9:6 ESV For to us **a child is born,**
to us **a son is given;**
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be **no end**,...
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

While this is obviously a **Messianic** prophecy, the **birth of every child** holds the potential of making **the world a better place**.

Every child who is nurtured and encouraged **may solve a problem that has plagued the world** for centuries.

If man is not made in God's image, a person cannot be anything special ... As **Ingrid Newkirk**, cofounder of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, put it, "A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy."

NOT!!! So wrong, so deluded, so destructive.

1 John 4:9 NIV This is **how God showed his love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

II. Flowing Water and the Living Word

2 Cor 9.15 Thanks be to God for **his inexpressible gift!**

Helen Keller — Language Makes Us Human!

Helen Keller (1880 –1964) learned in a transforming experience that language makes us humans—persons.

As a result of an undiagnosed disease, she became blind and deaf when she was only nineteen months old, and also became mute. For years, Helen couldn't learn anything, locked up within her own world of frustration and anger.

In her own words, she was “**Less than an animal...**”

In **The Story of My Life** (1902), Helen described her moment of epiphany at age seven as her tutor, Annie Sullivan walked with her:

“We walked down the path to the well house, attracted by the fragrance of the honeysuckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my teacher placed my hand under the spout. **As the cool stream gushed over one hand**, she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. **Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness** as if something forgotten—a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that “w-a-t-e-r” meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. **That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!** There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away.”

Helen to learn to communicate using a Braille typewriter in the next year. By by age ten she had learned to speak. At age 10 she was accepted by Radcliffe College and graduated with honors. She became a prolific writer and public speaker, campaigning for the rights of the disabled and the poor, a true heroine of her times.

The **WATER** and the **WORD**. The flow of Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and is **POURED OUT** on all flesh by the Son, Helen Keller's story illustrates that **our words are revelatory and creative** because behind the universe are words—the Creator's words.

III. The Word and the Spirit

That *living word awakened my soul*, gave it **light, hope, joy, set it free!**

Gal 4:4 ESV But when the **fullness of time** had come, God sent forth his Son, ... 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Nu 24:17 Mic 5:2 Isa 7:14 Jer 23:5

John 1.9 ESV The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ... 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Luke 1.38 ESV And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me **according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her....

41 And **when Elizabeth heard** the greeting of Mary, ... 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ... 45 And *blessed is she who be-*

lieved that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

When the Word became flesh, the Father was keeping the promise He made in the Garden

And the promises he made to Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Isaiah and all the prophets. He was keeping the eternal intentions of the Trinity when they said, "Let us make the Human..."

IV. Prayer for Hearts Flooded with Creative Light! (Pouring the Living Water over our Hands)

Eph 1.17 AMP [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you ... insight into mysteries and secrets in ... [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, **18** By **having the eyes of your heart flooded with light**, so that you can know *and* understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

Helen Keller wrote – "That *living word awakened my soul*, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!"

Is your soul (personality) AWAKE ??

We are brought into the fullness of life by RECEIVING THE LIVING WORD.

V. Impartation of the Creative Word

Heb 11:1 NKJV Now **faith** is the **substance** of **things hoped** for, the evidence of **things not seen...**

HOLY IMAGINATION formed in **CREATIVE WORDS**

12 Therefore **from one man, and him as good as dead**, were born *as many* as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

**In the Middle of the Mess, the eyes of the Lord are running
over the face of the earth looking for those to whom He
can show himself mighty!**

COMMISSIONED TO CREATIVE OPTIMISM!

The Living Word and the Endless Song

CHARLES WESLEY:

Hark! the herald Angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled":
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald Angels sing "Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come, Off-spring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald Angels sing "Glory to the new-born King."

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
*Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.*
Hark! the herald Angels sing "Glory to the new-born King."

Come, Desire of nations, come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
O, to all Thyself impart, Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald Angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Hark! the herald Angels sing "Glory to the new-born King."