

Temple Themes in Luke's Account of the Angels and the Shepherds

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The account of the angels appearing to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth "anesthetizes our reading by its very familiarity."¹ No one disputes the beauty of Luke's contrasting word pictures—shepherds in darkness met by angels in glorious light; heavenly choirs enjoining earthly worship. Yet the very poetry of the account, joined as it is with the inescapable riot of images and mechanically-intoned "glorias"² that madly engulf us each Christmas season, seems to dim in personal significance as it increases in ubiquity. In contemporary culture, the narrative of the angels has become a pretty story³—and, sadly, little else.

For ancient readers of the Bible, however, the story of the shepherds was an extraordinary tale, a thinning of the veil like no other. Though the "appearance of angels is by no means frequent in the Gospels," the first two chapters of Luke are a "remarkable outcrop"⁴ of divine visitations, with annunciations to Zacharias and Mary as prelude to the most stunning angelophany recorded in scripture.



William Blake, 1757-1827: *Annunciation to the Shepherds*

Ancient readers recognized the deep connections in Luke's account with Old Testament teachings and related traditions. For example, the "Tower of the Flock," the place where the angels appeared and where the sheep to be sacrificed in Jerusalem were born and raised,⁵ was seen in a Jewish targum as "the place from which the King Messiah will

reveal himself at the end of days.”⁶ To Luke’s contemporaries, this location would have brought to mind the symbolism of the temple. Margaret Barker explains:

The Tower of the Flock... was not only a place near Bethlehem. It was an ancient name for the Holy of Holies, the place where the Lord of the sheep stood, and where His prophets received revelations.⁷ Details about the tower and the flock are found in *I Enoch*, where the history of Israel is the story of the flock and of the Lord of the sheep, who leaves his tower when the flock forsake him. The Lord allowed other angel shepherds to rule them (that is, foreign rulers), but an angel scribe kept a record of their deeds and begged the Lord to intervene.⁸ A birth among the shepherds outside Jerusalem but near the “Tower of the Flock” was a sign pointing to the birth in the original tower of the flock among the shepherds, in the Holy of Holies among the angels. The angel announced to the Bethlehem shepherds the birth of the Davidic king, in other words, the return of the Lord to His people in time of danger. Origen knew that the shepherds represented the guardian angels ‘keeping watch over their flocks by night,’ and that the angel of the Lord had announced the coming of the good shepherd to help them in their struggle....⁹ Since the royal child was born in the Holy of Holies, he would have emerged into the world through the temple veil, and so Luke described how the heavens opened at that point. This was all God’s angels worshipping the Firstborn as he came into the world.¹⁰

Charles Wesley’s Shepherd Carol

Resonating with the temple themes in Luke’s verses is the most theologically-laden shepherd carol in our Christmas repertoire: Charles Wesley’s magnificent anthem “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”¹¹ The hymn is given in its entirety below. The italics show verses that are omitted or that appear in altered form in our current LDS hymnbook:¹²

1. Hark *how all the Welkin rings*¹³
“Glory to the *King of Kings*¹⁴
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!”

2. Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say
*Christ the Lord is born today!*¹⁵

3. *Christ, by highest heav’n adored;*
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.

4. *Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!*
Hail th’Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men t’appear
*Jesus, our Immanuel here!*¹⁶

5. Hail the *Heav'nly* Prince of Peace!¹⁷
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.¹⁸

6. 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.

*7. Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix us in Thy humble home.
Rise, the Woman's Conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the Serpent's head.*

*8. Now display thy saving pow'r,
Ruined nature now restore;
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.*¹⁹

*9, Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,
Stamp Thy Image in its place.
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.*

*10. Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the Life, the Heav'nly Man:
O, to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart.*

A brief review of a small sampling of lines from Wesley's Christmas masterpiece reveals a surprising number of ideas that can be related to temple themes.

“Join the Triumph of the Skies”

Traditional angel carols highlight the remembrance of how heaven and earth joined in the worship of the Savior.²⁰ “Saints and angels sing”²¹ their “glorias” with one voice, echoing both the symbolism of ancient temple prayer circles and also of later Jewish prayer teachings relating to the *minyan*. Kogan writes:

On one level, the body that is formed below, the actual *minyan* [i.e., a quorum of ten men required for public prayer], is entered by the *Shekhinah* (the supernal holiness), and is thus the point of contact between God and Israel. Simultaneously, the *minyan* formed in the proper manner below unifies the heavenly realm above.²²

While modern readers easily miss the temple symbolism in the account of the joint praise of the angels and the shepherds, the author of the *Arabic Infancy Narrative*²³ did not, noting that when the shepherds came to worship:

... the cave [of the Nativity at Bethlehem] was at that time *made like a temple of the upper world*, since both heavenly and earthly voices glorified and magnified God on account of the birth of the Lord Christ.



Gustave Doré, 1832-1883: *L'Empyrée*, illustration for Paradiso Canto 31, *Divine Comedy* (1308-1321) by Dante Alighieri, 1857

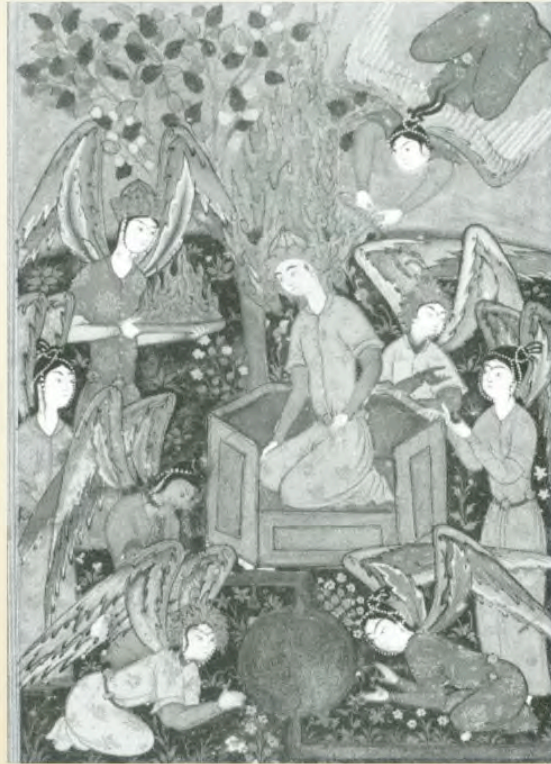


Masjid al-Haram at night

In ancient literature, heavenly worship is always described as taking a circular form. For example, in Abraham 3:23, God is described as standing “in the midst” (i.e., “in the center”) of the premortal souls.²⁴ Nibley clarifies this description by observing that: “He’s surrounded on all sides.”²⁵ Likewise, Lehi describes God upon his throne “surrounded with numberless concourses of angels in the attitude of singing and praising their God.”²⁶ Nibley again points out: “A concourse is a circle. Of course [numberless] concourses means circles within circles.”²⁷

Similar imagery relating to sacred circles is found in the Islamic *hajj*, where pilgrims circumambulate the *Ka’bah* and offer prayer in likeness of the angels.²⁸ Teaching His disciples about prayer, Jesus said that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”²⁹

“Christ by Highest Heav’n Adored”



Adam Enthroned, the Angels Prostrating Themselves before Him, 1576

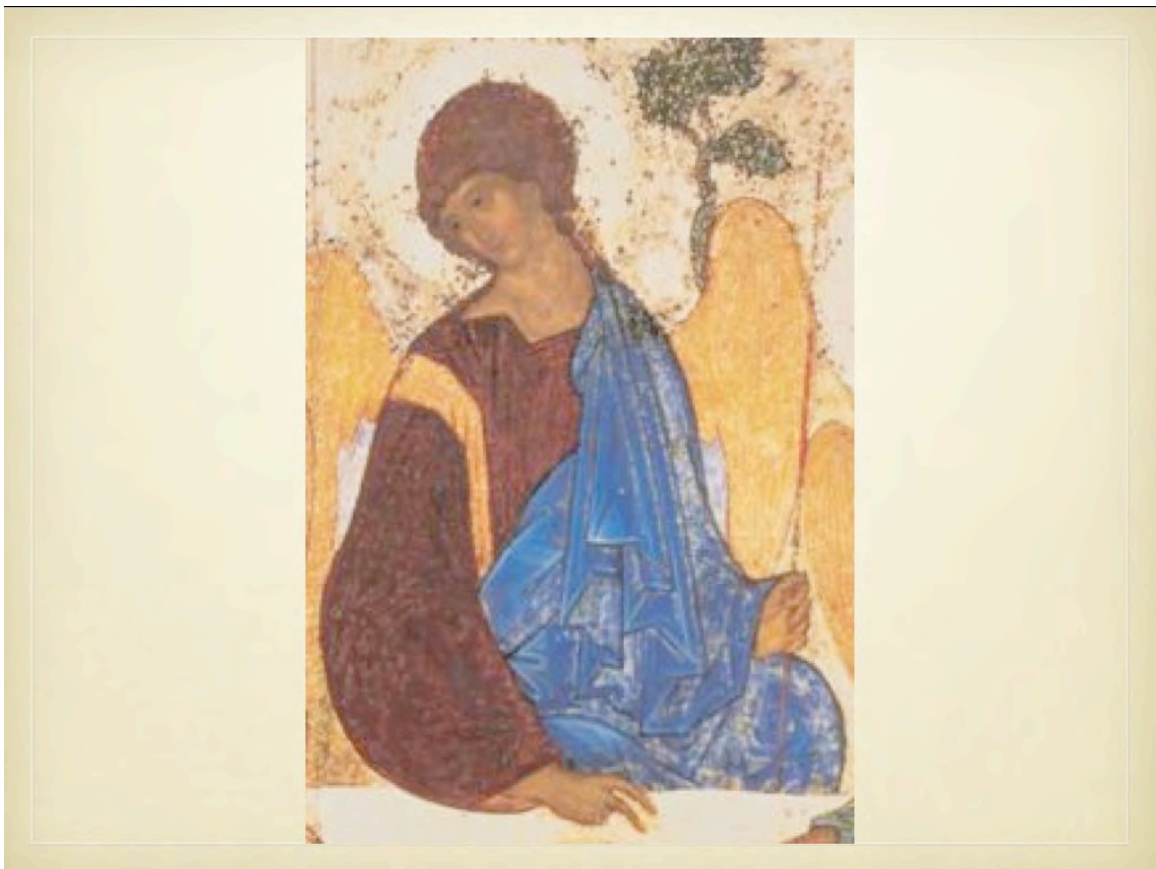
In Jewish midrash, angels are sometimes summoned “to gaze upon righteous individuals.”³⁰ One such tradition is connected with Adam’s ongoing rivalry with the Devil. This rivalry is said to have begun at the time the newly-created Adam was presented to the hosts of heaven, when Satan refused to pay him homage. As depicted above, an Islamic version of the story “says that seven days after Adam’s creation, God sent from Paradise a throne of red gold studded with pearls, silk cloths, and a crown. Seven hundred angels who were with Iblis [the Devil, who at that time was their leader,] arranged themselves in rows, a circle within a circle around Adam. His throne was placed where the *Ka’bah* is now,”³¹ immediately adjacent to the Tree of Life.³²

The original setting of Deuteronomy 32:43 (“Rejoice with him heavens, bow down to him, sons of God. Rejoice with his people, nations, confirm him all you angels of God, because he will avenge the blood of his sons”³³) clearly refers to Jehovah rather than to Adam,³⁴ and its application in Hebrews 1:6 is to show the superiority of the embodied Jehovah, Jesus Christ, to the angels. Bruce concludes that the occasion referred to by the phrase “when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world” is “probably neither the incarnation nor the second advent of Christ: it is not so much a question of His being brought into the world as of his being introduced to it as the Son of God, and we may think rather of His exaltation and enthronement as sovereign over the inhabited universe, ... including the realm of angels, who accordingly are summoned to acknowledge their

Lord.”³⁵ Hence, Hebrews 1:6 can be seen as a Messianic parallel to accounts of Adam’s premortal exaltation and enthronement.

“Veiled in Flesh”

In early Christian tradition, Eve and Mary are often associated with the imagery of weaving, since it is due to the former that garments of flesh are “woven” for each child, and through the birth of Christ from the latter that the effects of the Fall were undone—thus eventually enabling mankind’s garments of flesh to be replaced with robes of glory. Moreover, in the apocryphal infancy gospels of James and Matthew, the young Mary is portrayed more specifically as weaving the new veil for the Jerusalem temple prior to the annunciation,³⁶ consistent with symbolism that identifies the veil of the temple as the flesh of Jesus Christ.³⁷



Wesley’s hymn also includes the concept of Jesus, the “second Adam,” being “veiled in flesh.”³⁸ In ancient depictions, Christ is often portrayed in a blue robe that represents the flesh that he put on over his robe of glory. By way of contrast, righteous individuals are sometimes depicted as wearing the blue robe of mortality underneath, with a robe of glory worn over it.

“Born to Give Them Second Birth”

Truman G. Madsen explains the significance of the “second birth” in LDS theology: “As spirits, we are born of heavenly parentage. In the quickening processes of the temple we become Christ’s—in mind, spirit, and body. Thus, when Joseph Smith first sent the Twelve to England he instructed them to teach: ‘Being born again, comes by the Spirit of God through ordinances.’”³⁹

Speaking of Christ as the prototype for all those who receive these ordinances, the *Gospel of Philip* expresses the same concept: “He who...[was begotten] before everything was begotten anew. He [who was] once [anointed] was anointed anew. He who was redeemed in turn redeemed (others).”⁴⁰

“Rise, the Woman’s Conqu’ring Seed”

The idea behind this line can be found in Moses 4:21, where it is explained that although the serpent (Satan), in its weakened condition, may tempt and torment man, his power will ultimately be destroyed by the seed of the woman (Christ). Historically, Christians have called this prophecy the *protoevangelium*, the first explicit Biblical allusion to the good news of the Gospel.

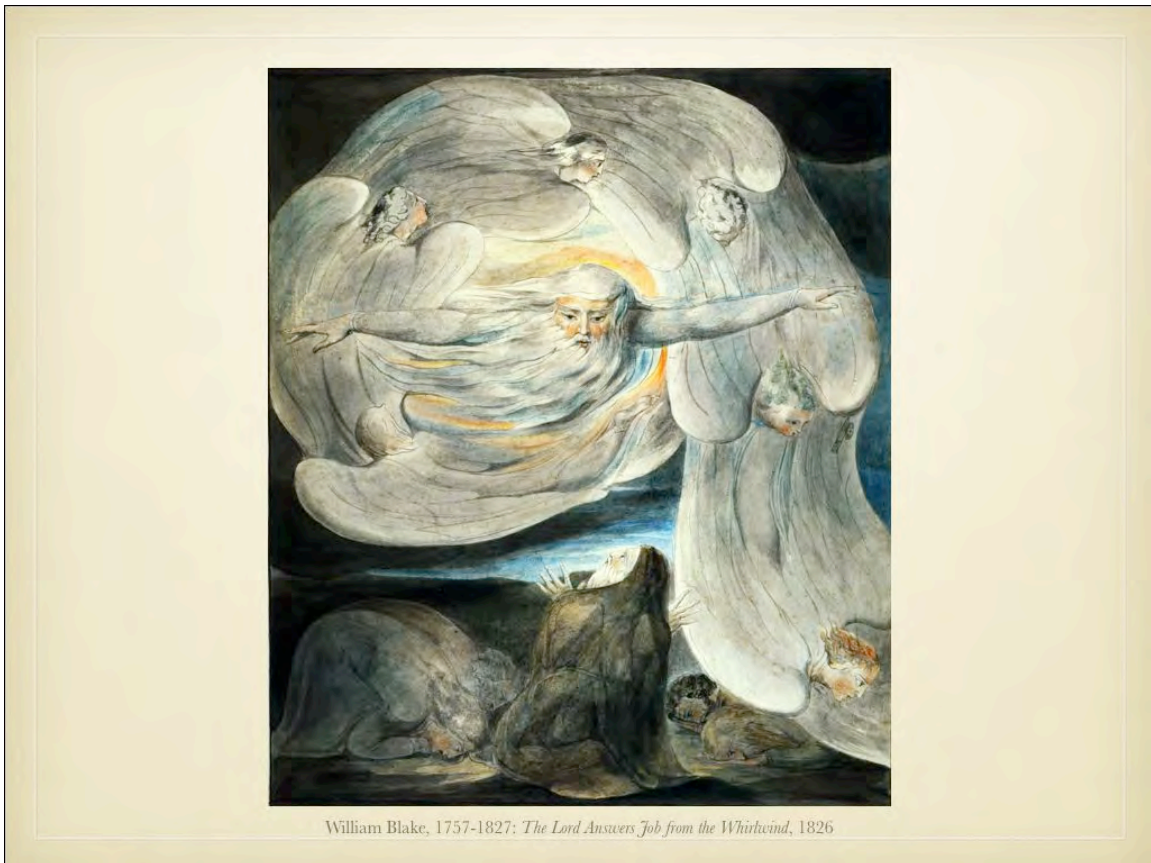
Just as Jesus Christ will put all enemies beneath his feet,⁴¹ so the Prophet Joseph Smith taught that each person who would be saved must also, with His help, gain the power needed to “triumph over all [their] enemies and put them under [their] feet,”⁴² possessing the “glory, authority, majesty, power and dominion which Jehovah possesses.”⁴³ At least one Christian account tells of how those who were about to be baptized “stood [barefoot] on animal skins while they prayed, symbolizing the taking off of the garments of skin they had inherited from Adam”⁴⁴ as well as figuratively enacting the putting off the serpent, the representative of death and sin, under one’s heel.⁴⁵ Thus the serpent, his head crushed by the heel of the penitent relying on the mercies of Christ’s atonement, is by a single act renounced, defeated, and banished.⁴⁶

“Now in Mystic Union Join”

Prior to the sealing of Benjamin F. Johnson to his wife, the Prophet Joseph Smith explained that “there were two seals in the Priesthood. The first was that which was placed upon a man and a woman when they made the [marriage] covenant and the other was the seal which allotted to them their particular mansion.”⁴⁷ The idea of sealing, as a confirmation, guarantee, or authentication of divine blessings in time and eternity,⁴⁸ is not bestowed simply by the act of participating in certain ritual actions, but must also include the process of one’s gradually becoming more Christlike.⁴⁹ Hugh Nibley explains that the saving ordinances, as necessary as they are, in and of themselves “are mere forms. They do not exalt us; they merely prepare us to be ready in case we ever become eligible,”⁵⁰ having finally, in the words of Joseph Smith, “attain[ed] to the image, glory, and character of God.”⁵¹

Wesley’s hymn entreats Christ to join with each person “in mystic union” so that Father “Adam’s likeness” in them may be replaced by the image of Christ, the “Second Adam.”

Though the concept of sealing in our day is most strongly associated with the meaning of an eternal “binding” to God and to family, Johnson reminds us of the additional New Testament idea of sealing as an “imprinting” process, “from the ancient imagery of the seal, which shows identity.”⁵² Thus the process of spiritual rebirth is described by Wesley as one in which the old sinful image is “effaced” and the new divine image is “stamp[ed]... in its place.” This idea is preserved in the Book of Mormon, where the Saints are asked: “... have ye spiritually been born of God? Have ye received his image in your countenances?”



William Blake, 1757-1827: *The Lord Answers Job from the Whirlwind*, 1826

Above, William Blake’s depiction shows God surrounded by a concourse of angels. Job looks up to converse with God face to face, while his friends lie prostrate in terror.⁵³ In other versions of this drawing, Job is caught up with God in the circle, their identical faces mirroring one other in serene mutual regard. According to Fisch, the key to understanding the illustration is that “Man is about to take on the nature of God.”⁵⁴

“Such a Light”

The events of Christmas night are beautifully captured in the text of Ursula Vaughan Williams:⁵⁵

Promise fills the sky with light,
Stars and angels dance in flight;
Joy of heav’n shall now unbind

Chains of evil from mankind,
Love and joy their power shall break,
And for a newborn prince's sake;
Never since the world began
Such a light such dark did span.

The formidable breach of the great span that separates man from God is bridged by the joining of Christ's condescending downward reach with man's upward grasp. No greater evidence could be given of Heaven's "good will toward men."⁵⁶ "Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come, that thou, O God, mayest be glorified in heaven so on earth"⁵⁷ and the final reign of the King of Kings⁵⁸ begin.

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¹ C. Rowland, Things, p. 100.

² So long as performers of hymns and carols love to sing more than they desire to witness of Christ, the words of sacred music will be bowdlerized by directors and sung mundanely by their choirs. By way of contrast, Paul set the example: "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (1 Corinthians 14:15).

³ As far back as 1550, the story of the shepherds became the subject of comic carols, such as the French *Laissez paistre voz bestes*: "Let's get going... You coming, Margot?" "Wait, Guillot. I broke the strap and have to mend my clog"... "What Guillot, aren't you coming?" "Yes, but... you don't understand at all how it is with me; I have chilblains on my heels, so I can't trot any longer"... "Walk in front, poor old chilblain, and lean on your staff. And you, Cocquart, you old blockhead, you ought to be very ashamed of yourself sulking like that" (E. Sayre, Christmas Book, p. 85).

⁴ C. Rowland, Things, p. 100.

⁵ Tvedtnes elaborates: "One of the towns located near Bethlehem was Migdal-Eder, 'tower of the flock' (Micah 4:8), where Jacob is said to have pitched his tent after the death of his wife, Rachel, whose name means 'ewe,' a female sheep (Genesis 35:19-21).

It was known as the place where the lambs used for temple sacrifices were born and is mentioned in early Jewish texts. Both the Mishnah (*Shekalim* 7:4) and the Talmud (*Kiddushin* 55a) ordained that a sheep or goat found between Jerusalem and Migdal-Eder should be a burnt offering (if a male) or a peace offering (if a female), but if found during the thirty days before Passover, it could be a Passover offering if it met all other requirements for that sacrifice.

St. Jerome wrote to Eustochium of “the tower of Edar, that is ‘of the flock,’ near which Jacob fed his flocks, and where the shepherds keeping watch by night were privileged to hear the words: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.’ While they were keeping their sheep they found the Lamb of God whose fleece bright and clean was made wet with the dew of heaven when it was dry upon all the earth beside, and whose blood when sprinkled on the doorposts drove off the destroyer of Egypt and took away the sins of the world” (*Letter 108 to Eustochium* 10).

In medieval times, Migdal-Eder was considered to be the spot where the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of Christ, and, according to Gaulish Bishop Arculf, who visited the site ca. AD 700, a church stood there with monuments to the three shepherds” (J. A. Tvedtnes, December 18 2009). See also B. Haymond, *Shepherds*.

⁶ M. Maher, *Pseudo-Jonathan*, Genesis 35:21, p. 121. The note says that this place is associated with the Messiah, “probably because it is near Bethlehem, from which, according to Micah 5:1, the expected ruler was to come” (M. Maher, *Pseudo-Jonathan*, p. 121 n. 21; cf. G. K. Beale *et al.*, *NT Use of the OT*, Luke 2:8, p. 267).

⁷ See e.g., Isaiah 21:8, Habakkuk 2:1.

⁸ G. W. E. Nickelsburg *et al.*, 1 Enoch, 89:50-77, pp. 128-132.

⁹ Origin, *On Luke Homily* 12, cited in M. Barker, *Christmas*, p. 79.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 79, 81. See Hebrews 1:6. Larsen raises interesting questions regarding a possible relationship to Psalm 82 and also to the shepherd’s crook carried by the Pharaoh as a symbol of their regal power (D. J. Larsen, December 18 2009).

¹¹ Originally entitled “Hymn for Christmas-Day” (J. Wesley *et al.*, *Hymns*, pp. 142-143). The first edition was printed in 1739. Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization modernized.

The music comes from a piece Mendelssohn was commissioned to write for the Gutenberg Festival in 1840. The words for bars 9-12 originally read: “Gutenberg! du deutscher Mann!” (H. Keyte *et al.*, *New Oxford*, pp. 328-329). “The German composer thought the tune had potential as a military or national song, but wrote that ‘it will never do to sacred words... the words must express something gay and popular, as the music tries to do’” (R. M. Clancy, *Best-Loved*, p. 59).

¹² *Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, *Hymns* (1985), #209. “John Wesley... resented any modification of his or his brother’s hymns, and fulminated against the practice in his preface to the 1779 edition of *A Collection of Hymns for the use of the people called Methodists*: ‘Many Gentlemen have done to my Brother and me (though without naming us) the honor to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them—for they really are not able.’ He goes on to suggest that the original texts be printed in the margin, ‘that we may no longer be held responsible

either for the nonsense or the doggerel of other men” (H. Keyte *et al.*, New Oxford, p. 328).

¹³ Welkin = sky, heaven. The LDS Hymnbook reads: “Hark! The herald angels sing.” The change was made by George Whitefield in 1753 (H. Keyte *et al.*, New Oxford, p. 328).

¹⁴ The LDS Hymnbook reads: “Glory to the newborn King.” The change was made by George Whitefield in 1753 (Ibid., p. 328).

¹⁵ The LDS Hymnbook reads: “With th’angelic host proclaim / Christ is born in Bethlehem!” This change, seen as inferior to the original by Keyte *et al.*, was made by “C. B.” or Madan (Ibid., p. 328).

¹⁶ Changed to read “Pleased as man with man to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel” in the 1861 *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (Ibid., p. 328).

¹⁷ The LDS Hymnbook reads: “Hail! The heav’n born Prince of Peace!” The term “Prince of Peace” is an allusion to Isaiah 9:6.

¹⁸ Malachi 4:2 reads: “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”

¹⁹ George Whitefield, leader of a rival Methodist faction, omitted this verse from his hymn collection because he was antagonistic to the orthodox doctrine of the Fall it expressed (H. Keyte *et al.*, New Oxford, p. 328).

²⁰ The imagery of primordial song of Creation is evoked in Luke’s account. Writes Fawcett: “In Job [38:7] the stars are those of the morning, for they are singing over the creation which God is bringing into being. So also in Luke’s nativity story the heavenly host sings the praises of God who initiates the new creation by the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. Moreover, while only angels could shout for joy at the original creation, the angel in Luke’s story can call upon the shepherds to join with them in the cosmic jubilation.” (T. Fawcett, *Hebrew Myth*, p. 147; cf. R. E. Brown, *Birth*, p. 426).

Fawcett also notes the Creation and temple symbolism in Luke’s account of Christ’s conception: “The reference to Mary being overshadowed by the power of the Holy Ghost takes us back to the same source. The word was used in connection with the cloud of the tabernacle in the LXX of Exodus 40:35, and this is echoed in its use in the story of the transfiguration (Matthew 17:5). It may be explained, therefore, simply as indication of the presence of God against this background... Yet there may be more to the use of ‘overshadow’ than a reference to God’s protective presence. We may probably see [a] reference to the imagery of the bird in Genesis 1:2” (T. Fawcett, *Hebrew Myth*, pp. 145-146).

²¹ Hymns of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hymns (1985), #201.

²² In D. Blumenthal, *Merkabah*, p. 147.

²³ *Arabic Infancy Narrative* 4, cited in J. K. Elliott, *Synopsis*, p. 87.

²⁴ D&C 88:13, 41.

²⁵ H. W. Nibley, *Teachings of the PGP*, 17, p. 213.

²⁶ 1 Nephi 1:8.

²⁷ H. W. Nibley, *Teachings of the PGP*, 17, p. 211; cf. B. R. Bickmore, *Restoring*, pp. 304-306; F. M. Huchel, *Cosmic (Book)*, pp. 6-9; F. M. Huchel, *Cosmic*.

²⁸ M. i. A. A. al-Kisa’i, *Tales*, p. 61.

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- ²⁹ Matthew 18:20.
- ³⁰ C. Rowland, *Things*, p. 102. Rowland continues: “This is stated most explicitly in the Targumim on Genesis 28:12: ‘Come see Jacob the pious whose features... are fixed on the throne of glory which you desire to look upon. So the rest of the holy angels of the Lord descended to look on him’” (see M. Maher, *Pseudo-Jonathan*, Genesis 28:12, p. 100).
- ³¹ R. Milstein *et al.*, *Stories*, pp. 106-107.
- ³² J. M. Bradshaw, *God's Image*, pp. 591ff..
- ³³ “This is the longer text as it appears in the Greek Old Testament and the pre-Christian Hebrew text (*4QDeut^q*) found among the Dead Sea Scrolls is almost identical” (M. Barker, *Hidden*, p. 24).
- ³⁴ F. F. Bruce, *Hebrews*, p. 57.
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 57-58.
- ³⁶ *Protoevangelion 10* and *Pseudo-Matthew 8*, cited in J. K. Elliott, *Synopsis*, pp. 23-24. See also M. Barker, *Christmas*, p. 134.
- ³⁷ A. L. Gaskill, *Lost*, p. 71.
- ³⁸ See also W. Williams, *Shadow*. Wesley presents this idea in a manner consistent with Paul’s teaching that “in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9), though LDS reject a Trinitarian interpretation of that scriptural passage (B. W. Ricks, *Godhead.*, pp. 79-87, 97-101).
- ³⁹ T. G. Madsen *et al.*, *House of Love*, p. 48. See J. Smith, Jr., *Teachings*, 2 July 1839, p. 162.
- ⁴⁰ W. W. Isenberg, *Philip*, 70:36-71:3, p. 152.
- ⁴¹ 1 Corinthians 15:25-26.
- ⁴² J. Smith, Jr., *Teachings*, 14 May 1843, p. 297. See also J. Smith, Jr., *Teachings*, 17 May 1843, p. 301, 21 May 1843, p. 305.
- ⁴³ L. E. Dahl *et al.*, *Lectures*, 7:9, p. 98. See also 7:16, p. 101. Note that authorship of the *Lectures* is uncertain.
- ⁴⁴ G. A. Anderson, *Perfection*, p. 184. See *Gospel of Thomas* (H. Koester *et al.*, *Thomas*, 37, p. 130); J. Z. Smith, cited in J. Dart, *Decoding*, pp. 104-105. Anderson adds: “By stripping themselves of this mortal skin, they were preparing to put on those heavenly garments with which humanity was first clothed.”
- ⁴⁵ G. A. Anderson, *Perfection*, p. 131.
- ⁴⁶ For additional discussion, see V. P. Hamilton, *Genesis*, pp. 197-200.
- ⁴⁷ Cited in R. E. Cooper, *Promises*, p. 113, spelling and punctuation modernized, brackets added by Cooper; cf. W. Clayton, *Chronicle*, 20 October 1843, p. 123. See also L. W. Cook, *Marriages*, pp. xi-xiv.
- ⁴⁸ L. W. Cook, *Marriages*, p. xi.
- ⁴⁹ D. H. Oaks, *To Become*; 1 John 3:2; Moroni 7:48.
- ⁵⁰ H. W. Nibley, *Meaning of Temple*, p. 26.
- ⁵¹ J. Smith, Jr., *Words*, 9 July 1843, p. 231. See Moses 2:27. Though admittedly differing in their detailed understanding of such statements, early Christians would have agreed with Joseph Smith in affirming a “double movement” of image and likeness, whereby humans “begin like God and, at the same time, they come to be like Him” (J. E. Faulconer, *Adam and Eve*, 10).

⁵² L. T. Johnson, *Religious Experience*, p. 78 and p. 78 n. 44. For New Testament references to sealing, see 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30; Revelation 7:3-8.

⁵³ Job 38:1.

⁵⁴ H. Fisch, *Presence*, p. 310. “The ordinary educated modern person staring at these ‘Job’ designs can only say that God is a mere elderly twin brother of Job. Blake would have at once retorted that Job is an image of God” (G. K. Chesterton, *William Blake*, p. 149).

⁵⁵ U. Vaughan Williams, *Chorale from Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Hodie': No Sad Thought His Soul Affright*, second verse.

⁵⁶ Luke 2:14.

⁵⁷ D&C 65:6.

⁵⁸ Revelation 17:14.