

## **Do You Hear What I Hear?**

### **Silent Night**

**Silent Night Origin:** The lyrics were written as a poem by Priest Joseph Mohr (**Mohr & Gruber**) of Austria in 1816 and set to a melody by choir director, Franz Xaver Gruber, two years later. The Napoleonic Wars had ravaged lands and devastated his village in Austria. Yet, while taking a long winter walk through the town, he noticed how a fresh blanket of snow hid the evidence of the damage done by the wars, and he noticed how the village seemed to be at peace now that the wars were over.

Three Biblical Themes in this Classic Christmas Carol

- I. Jesus Was Virgin-Born** – *“Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright. Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.”*

*“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary...And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus...And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.’”*

**Luke 1:26-27, 30-31, 34-35**

- II. Jesus Was Heaven-Sent** – *“Silent night, holy night! Shepherd quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, heav’nly host sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”*

The birth of Jesus is unique among all those who have ever been born. Jesus was from heaven!

*“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.”* **1 John 4:9**

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...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.”* **John 1:1, 14**

- III. Jesus Is Both Savior and Lord** – *“Silent night, holy night! Son of God, loves pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.”*

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

**Galatians 4:4-5**

Some attempt to separate Jesus into two categories: 1) Savior, & 2) Lord. They want to receive him as Savior because of the benefits of forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love while not submitting to his Lordship over their lives.

*“Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”* **Luke 14:27**

He IS SAVIOR, and he IS LORD. That’s who he is, always has been & always will be.

The peaceful homes celebrating Christmas were no doubt inhabited by people with horrible memories, but they were enjoying the lovely distraction of Christmas. It makes me think about God’s grace regarding our sin. Our sin is bad, it hurts others and causes us terrible pain. But God’s grace is like a fresh blanket of snow; it changes everything.

*“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”*

**Isaiah 1:18**

**The virgin-born, heaven-sent, Savior of the World, and Lord of All is willing to change your life this Christmas. Are you willing to surrender?**

#### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *United Methodist Hymnal* – (1989)
- *Sermons and Songs of Christian Life* - Library of Congress (2022)
- *The Story Behind the Beloved Christmas Carol ‘Silent Night’* – Susan Lewis (2021)