

THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS:#1 – O HOLY NIGHT

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

*O Holy Night, verse 1*

I. A Thrill of Hope for the Weary Soul

- ***Our soul is wary from the darkness of a world of \_\_\_\_\_*** – Why is there so much chaos, conflict, unhappiness and hurt? Ultimately, it's sin – both others' and our own. Sin brings a spiritual darkness into our world whether it's day or night. We're weary – both emotionally and spiritually from it all. Is there any hope?
- ***Good News! In the darkness, the Christmas Child is \_\_\_\_\_*** – Jesus was born in the night – not just the physical night, but also the spiritual night; and He ushers in the new spiritual day – the Day of Redemption.
- ***Be thrilled in the hope that Jesus brings for the \_\_\_\_\_ soul*** – A thrill is sharply exhilarating excitement; to tingle or shiver with excitement. When we realize the magnitude of what Jesus has done for our weary, hopeless souls, we will truly be thrilled. The Son of God came into the world to rescue / save a hopeless world of sin and offer salvation for weary souls. Be thrilled!

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One Who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."*

*Matthew 2:1-2*

*So led by the light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from Orient land. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials, born to be our Friend.*

*O Holy Night, verse 2*

II. Star-Led Wise Men Came to the Lowly King of Kings

- ***Wise men will follow God's guiding \_\_\_\_\_*** – If wise, we recognize and follow divine guidance. Our guiding star may come from God's written word, answered prayer, situational opportunities, or wise instruction and counsel.
- ***The guiding star will \_\_\_\_\_ us to the real King of kings*** – Like the Jews of Jesus' time that mistakenly expected the Messiah to be a conquering, earthly royal king; today, many are missing the real Jesus. They look for a health, wealth, and prosperity Jesus, a social justice Jesus, or a playdough Jesus – a Jesus you can mold into anything you want. True guiding stars lead to the lowly Jesus of the manger – the biblical Messiah of God's design, not our own.

*Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love, and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His Name, all oppression shall cease.*

*O Holy Night, verse 3*

### **III. In Jesus Name, Spiritual Oppression Can Cease**

*Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

*John 8:34-36*

- ***In Jesus' Name, the chains of sin are \_\_\_\_\_*** – When "in Jesus' Name" is invoked, it means Person, power, authority, and will is being announced, Though this began that Christmas night, the power and authority was conferred on the cross. On the cross, the power and authority of Jesus was conferred to His followers. Through the power of the cross, the chains of sin are broken: the penalty of sin, and its control over our lives. We are free of the penalty and control of sin. The chains are broken.

*(Jesus said,) "As the Father has love Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love... My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."*

*John 15:9, 12*

- ***In Jesus' Name, "Agape" love is \_\_\_\_\_*** – When we are given rest by Jesus, we then don't just kickback in a Lay-Z Boy recliner life. Instead we take on the Jesus yoke – symbolic of entering submission and service to Him. Yokes harnessed oxen – usually in teams of two – to work for the master. To take on the Jesus yoke recognizes our enthusiastic submission to Jesus as Lord.
- ***In Jesus' Name, His gospel is \_\_\_\_\_*** – This peace is spiritual and internal. Even in a world of chaos and conflict, we can experience the spiritual peace within ourselves and with our Christian relationships. This spiritual peace is more than an absence of conflict. It's a deep harmony and well-being within.

***Our Response: Fall on our knees in wonder and worship!***

***Answers: I. Sin; born; weary. II. Star; lead. III. Broken; unleashed; peace.***