

Carols for the King: *Joy to the World*

(Various Texts)

The Story behind the Song

- Words written by Isaac Watts in 1719 in the collection of poems The Psalms of David
- It was not originally associated with Christmas
- Rather, it was written as a reflection on Ps. 98, and focused on the second coming of Jesus
- The music was derived from a section of Handel's Messiah
- The song became associated with Christmas because of the idea of Advent
 - Advent: Latin for "coming"
 - Christmas is a season when we look *back* at Jesus' first coming/advent
 - And look *forward* to His second coming/advent

The Meaning of the Song

- The song is derived from Ps. 98, which depicts the advent of the LORD
 - To rule as King over the world
 - To judge the earth
- This King is Jesus!
 - His first advent was to save us
 - His second advent is to rule and judge
- This idea of judgment may seem contrary to our concept of joy
 - But they are intricately bound together in Scripture
 - Joy is the mindset that despite our circumstances, God will work all things out for the good
 - God's ultimate judgment through Jesus will bring justice
 - And if we know Jesus as Savior and King, that means salvation

The Message of Christmas

- Through the birth of that baby in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, the earth met her King
 - Christ/Messiah= God's promised, anointed King
 - Who came to save us
- When we know Jesus as King & Savior, we experience true joy!

So What?

- Do we know this Savior King, the Lord Jesus?
- Have we prepared room for Him in your heart?
- Are we living in the joy He brings?

Meditation Verse: *Luke 2:10-11*

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While field and floods, rocks, hills, and plains.
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.