

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***By
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It's been said that music prepares the heart for the message while, at the same time, music can transport our minds to days gone by. Certainly, the songs we sing at Christmas time prove all of this to be true. When I hear the haunting melody of this Christmas carol, my mind is flooded with memories of past Christmas times. I long to return to a simpler time of child-like faith and hold close the truths this song teaches.

Even though we do not know the author, we do know that he was a Bible student because of the Bible verses found in the lyrics. For example, Isaiah 7:14 predicted the coming Messiah-- Emmanuel or God with us. This would be fulfilled in Matthew 1:23. Jesus would be his name. Isaiah 11 calls him "a rod out of the stem of Jesse"—a descendent of King David. It is predicted that this Emmanuel will rule the world someday. The fourth chapter of Malachi predicts the "day of the Lord" and tells of the "sun of righteous, our song." The song lyrics repeat "O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer."

Returning to Isaiah 22:22, the unknown writer invited the key of David to return and unlock the way to Heaven for this Emmanuel was the only way. The wisdom and peace revealed in Him is given to those who exercise that childlike faith at Christmas time.

Probably one of our oldest carols, written over 1,200 years ago and attached to a monastery-like chant, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* still retains the power to move us. This power returns us to that day when Emmanuel entered our hearts and lives and gave us the greatest gift of Christmas—the gift of eternal life found only in Emmanuel, Jesus.