

Behold the King

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"Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, 'Behold, your King!'" (John 19:14)

After celebrating Thanksgiving in Kansas City, my thoughts turned toward Christmas. I desired to write a Christmas hymn centered on the theme of Jesus as King. I had just read in John 19 where Roman soldiers mocked the claim that Jesus was king of the Jews. After they had scourged Him, Pilate proclaimed to the mob, "Behold your king!" So my idea was to tie the Christmas story with the crucifixion, resurrection, and eternal reign of Jesus Christ. So naturally I began composing a stanza on the wise men offering gifts to this newborn King.

But then my song took on a life of its own! Before I knew it, my "Christmas" hymn was becoming more about the life and sacrifice of Christ. The chorus became my declaration of surrender to the King of kings. I scrapped my original intention of focusing on Christmas with a nod to the cross and made the hymn more about the life and death of Christ.

After the first stanza highlighting the Magi, I constructed the second and third stanza about the Roman trial and crucifixion of the King. Then I finished with a final stanza on the reign of the King for all eternity. My response to such a King is to take up my cross and follow Him all my days with a life dedicated to Him!