



December 11: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Pray: *Jesus, I convince myself that no one cares, including you. I pursue status, attention, personal fulfillment and recreation to satisfy. The troubles of this world have weighed me down and I'm depressed and hopeless. I'm chained to the guilt and shame of my repeated sins. Jesus, forgive me for making you too small and distant to help me. Grant me a willing spirit to pursue you and get to know you as you're described in this carol and let that knowledge lead to a heart full of worship and service to my King. Amen.*

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” is a carol that addresses Jesus’ first and second comings and calls on angels and all people groups to “come and worship Christ, the newborn King.”

Verse 1 calls on angels to worship. Heb. 1:6 tells us that they worshipped at the birth of Jesus at God’s command. I never noticed that until I was preparing for this devotional. How beautiful that the Father shared worship with His Son. The angels worship Jesus because what he is doing is admirable and stunning: lowering himself and becoming a man in order to die on the cross in place of sinners. (Phil. 2:5-8)

Verses 2-5 call on various people groups to worship as they reveal more about the Messiah. Shepherds...unlearned, poor, marginalized...God is with us! Don’t be afraid; you are not alone. Sages...learned, wise, curious...Someone worth pursuing is here. Seek the Great Desire of Nations, the One who alone satisfies. Saints...suffering, oppressed, burdened... The One who comes as an infant now will come again in power and restore all that was lost. Lift your head. Sinners...guilt-ridden, condemned, imprisoned...The newborn King brings mercy and liberation! Repent and trust in Him.

“Angles from the Realms of Glory” by James Montgomery

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

*Come and worship,
come and worship,
worship Christ the newborn King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.

Sinners, wrung with true repentance,
Doomed for guilt to endless pains,
Justice now revokes the sentence,
Mercy calls you; break your chains.

Though an Infant now we view Him,
He shall fill His Father’s throne,
Gather all the nations to Him;
Every knee shall then bow down:

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th’eternal Three in One.

-- Kamala King

