

# **'Twas' the Night Before Christmas**

Luke 2:1-6

**Introduction: No doubt you've heard the old poem "Twas' the Night Before Christmas"**

**There is controversy concerning who actually wrote it**, the poem however is probably the most popular Christmas poem and has been for over 200 years.

**You all know it and can probably recite the opening lines by heart:** 'Twas' the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring not even a mouse..."

**Someone wrote an updated, Christian version of the poem that I'd like to read you:**

*'Twas the night before Christmas—and in most of the town,  
Not a sign of Jesus—was anywhere to be found.*

*The people were all busy with Christmas time chores—  
Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.*

*No one sang, "Away in a manger—no crib for a bed."  
Instead, they sang of Santa—dressed-up in bright red.*

*Mama sipped her hot cocoa while Papa's beer was on his lap.  
And they'd sip away' sip away' with each present they'd wrap.*

*Then what from the T.V. did suddenly appear?  
Twas an ad advertising a sale down at Sears.*

*So away to the mall they all flew like a flash—  
Buying some gifts on credit—and others with cash!*

*And, as they made their way home from their trip to the mall,  
Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no—not at all.*

*Their lives were so busy with their Christmas time things,  
They had no time to remember the King of all Kings.*

*There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake.  
Not one thought for Jesus who died for their sake?*

*To pray to the Savior—they had no time to stop.  
Because they needed more time to "Shop till they dropped!"*

*On Wal-m! art! On K-mart! On Target! On Penney's!  
On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's!*

*From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall,  
They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!*

*And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter—  
As Papa hung lights—using his brand new step ladder.*

*He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights that would twirl.  
Yet, he never once prayed—to Jesus—the Light of the World.*

*Christ was born in a manger and then dwelt among us  
He was forsaken and beaten... this I will discuss*

*As I raise my children they will know salvation was won  
For God so loved the world that He gave His own Son*

*Christ died on a cross like a sheep to the slaughter  
This is the story that I told to my daughter*

*In 3 days He rose and He now sits with the Father  
So give Him the glory... if it's not too much bother*

*And instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight—  
Put Christ in your Christmas for a peaceful good night!*

**In the first five verses of Luke 2, we see nothing joyous about this family.** verse 5 sums up the misery – Taxes...great with child... financial problems... physical problems. In type, it reveals what condition this world was in spiritually before the Birth of Jesus... Spiritually Bankrupt, Broken, Helpless, Hopeless, Homeless and Hellbound.

**But after Jesus was born... everything changed!!!**

- In verse 10 there was “good tidings of great joy to all people”
- In verse 30 there was “salvation”
- In verse 38 there was “redemption”

**What a difference between the night before the first Christmas and the day of the first Christmas. Prophetically the Old Testament is like the Night before Christmas and the New Testament is like the Day after Christmas.**

**1. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... they were Looking for Him Job 23:3** “Oh that I knew where I might find him.”

**But In the New Testament... after Christmas... they Found Him John 1:45** “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

**2. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... God was an Unapproachable Fire Exodus 19:18** “And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire:”

**In the New Testament... After Christmas... God is Our Approachable Father Matthew 6:9** “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

**3. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... Men were in Darkness Psalm 82:5** “They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.”

**In the New Testament... After Christmas... Men can walk in Light John 8:12** “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

**4. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... Men were Cursed under the Law Gal. 3:10** “Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

**But in the New Testament... After Christmas... Men are Converted and Liberated from the Law John 8:36** “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

**5. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... Men had Only Shadows Hebrews 8:3-5** “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5 who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount... **Men had only Patterns and Shadows ... The Tabernacle, the Altar, the Candlesticks, the Table of Shewbread, the Laver. All of these were just pictures, types and Shadows of the real thing.**

**But in the New Testament... After Christmas... Men have Provision and Substance verse 6** says “Now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” **I John 1:1** says “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life.”

**6. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... Men had Outward Ceremonies Hebrews 9:9 and 10 the Bible says** “Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.”

**In the New Testament... After Christmas... Men have Inward Experiences that result in an Outward Explosion Luke 24:32** “And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

**8. In the Old Testament... before Christmas... Men were Bound by the of Law Death Romans 7:6** “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”

**But In the New Testament... After Christmas... Men are Set Free by the Spirit of Life Romans 8:2** “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

**9. In the Old Testament... in the days before Christmas... Man is Ejected from Paradise Genesis 3:23** “Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.”

**In the New Testament... in the days after Christmas... Man is allowed to Enter Paradise once Again Revelation 22:14** “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”