

American Minute with Bill Federer

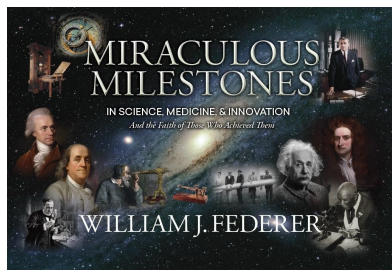
"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" - Charles Wesley;
and Classic Carols: "Joy to the World," "Messiah,"
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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From 1714 to 1718, **James Oglethorpe** was a military aide under the command of **Prince Eugene of Savoy** fighting to drive the **Muslim Turks** out of **Belgrade, Serbia** ... [continue reading ...](#)



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After the battle, at the age of 22, **Oglethorpe** returned to England, where he entered **Parliament** and worked for prison reform after one of his friends died in debtors prison.

In 1732, **Oglethorpe** founded the **Colony of Georgia** in America for poor debtors and persecuted Christians.

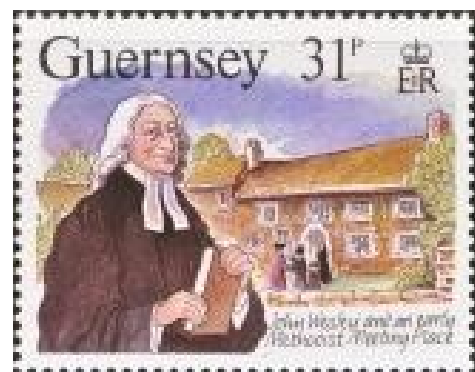
Oglethorpe
defended **Georgia**
from attacks
launched out of
Spanish Florida.



General James Oglethorpe's secretary was **Charles Wesley**.



Charles' brother, **John Wesley**, served as the colony's Anglican minister.



John Wesley's efforts to evangelize the Indians proved more difficult than anticipated, and his strict religiosity was resented by the colonists.

In 1737, **John** and **Charles Wesley** returned to England where they were befriended by a **Moravian missionary** named **Peter Bohler**, who was waiting for a ship to sail to **Georgia**.

Peter Bohler shared with the **Wesleys** regarding the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit**, which resulted in their

"Aldersgate experience" in May of 1738.

John Wesley wrote:

"In the evening, I went very unwillingly to a Society in

Aldersgate-Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans ...

About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the **change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ**, I felt my heart strangely warmed ...

I felt I did trust in Christ; Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

The **Wesleys'** began preaching that **God's grace was free for all.**

They influenced **George Whitefield**, who spread the **Great Awakening Revival** throughout the American colonies.



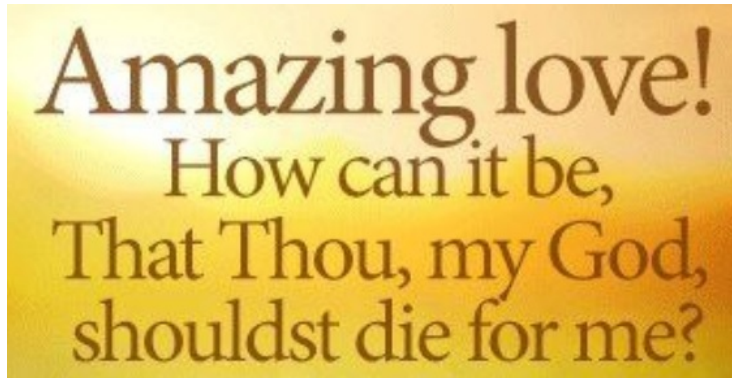
John Wesley founded the Methodist movement, and

Charles Wesley wrote over **6,000 hymns** proclaimed the beauty of the Gospel.

God is just, and therefore **He must judge every sin**; but **God is love**, as **He provided His Son** to take the **judgement for our sins**.

The **Lamb** is God's way to **love us without having to judge us!**

This was foreshadowed when **Abraham** was taking his son, **Isaac**, to the top of Mount Moriah (Genesis 22:7-8):



Amazing love!
How can it be,
That Thou, my God,
shouldst die for me?

"Isaac spake unto **Abraham** ... My father ... behold the fire and the wood: but **where is the lamb** for a burnt offering?

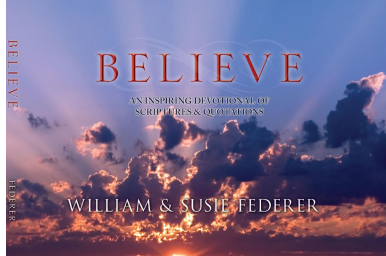
And **Abraham** said, **My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."**

This passage has a **double meaning**:

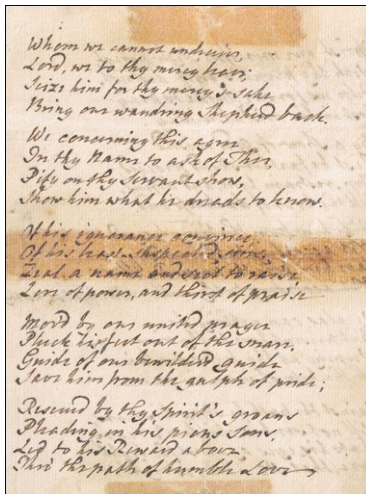
First —that **God will provide a sacrifice**, a ram caught by its **head** in a **thorn bush** on top of Mount Moriah; and Second —that **God will provide a sacrifice**, His only begotten **Son**, upon whose **head** was a **crown of thorns**.

Charles Wesley wrote in a hymn published in 1738:

"Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"



Charles Wesley was the **18th child** of **Rev. Samuel and Susanna Wesley**, born December 18, 1707, in Epworth, England.



Susanna Wesley home-schooled all her 19 children, giving them a classical education which included learning **Latin and Greek**.

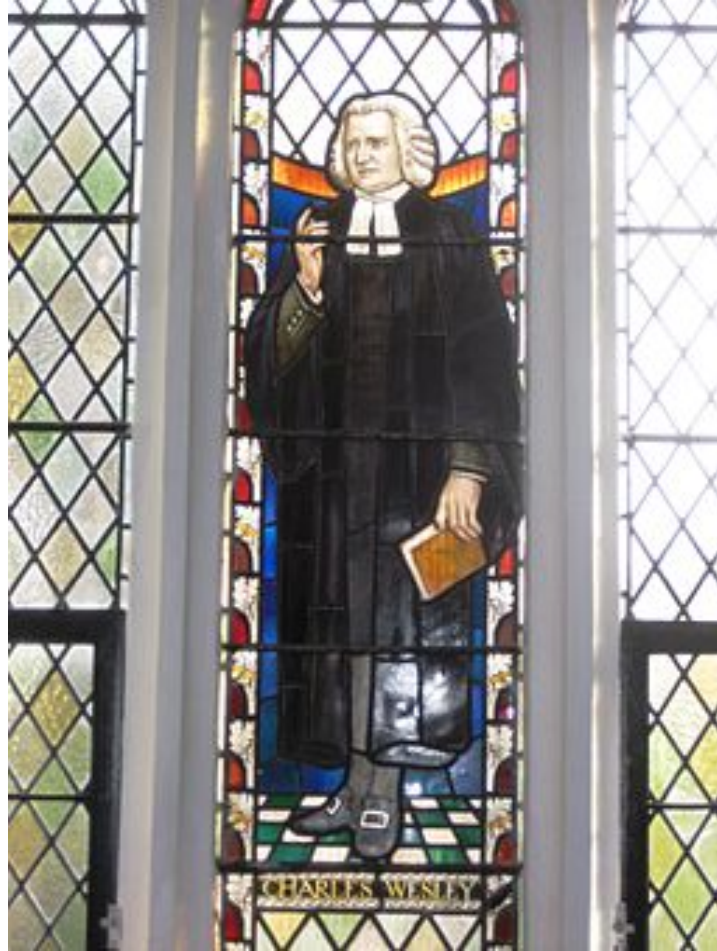
Charles Wesley excelled in his studies. He attended **Westminster School** and **Christ Church, Oxford**, where he came to the attention of **Garret Wesley, or Wellesley**, a member of the **British Parliament** with a large fortune in **Daugan, Ireland**.

Having no child, **Garret Wellesley** offered to adopt **Charles** as his heir, but **Charles declined**.

Garret Wellesley then decided to leave his estate to his cousin **Richard Colley Wellesly**, the father of **Arthur Wellesley-Duke of Wellington**, who became famous for his role in **defeating Napoleon** at the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815.

After graduating from Oxford, **Charles Wesley** sailed to the **Colony of Georgia** in 1732, serving as

secretary to the colony's founder,
General James Oglethorpe.



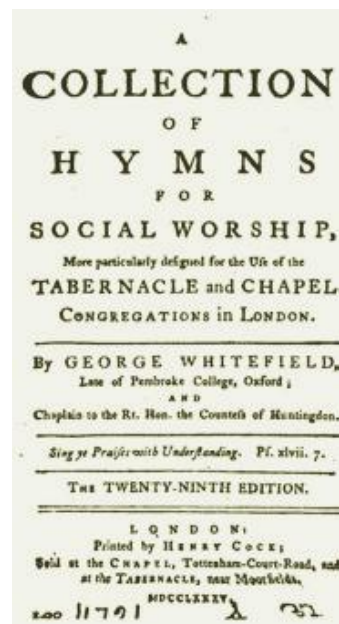
In 1739, **Charles Wesley** penned "**Hark! how all the Welkin (Heaven) rings.**"

George Whitefield suggested the first line be changed to "**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.**"

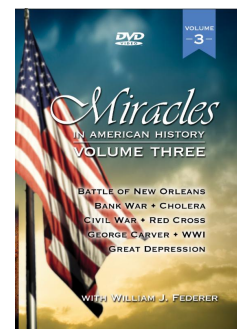
The song was put to the music of Lutheran composer **Felix Mendelssohn**, grandson of the notable **Jewish philosopher, Moses Mendelssohn.**



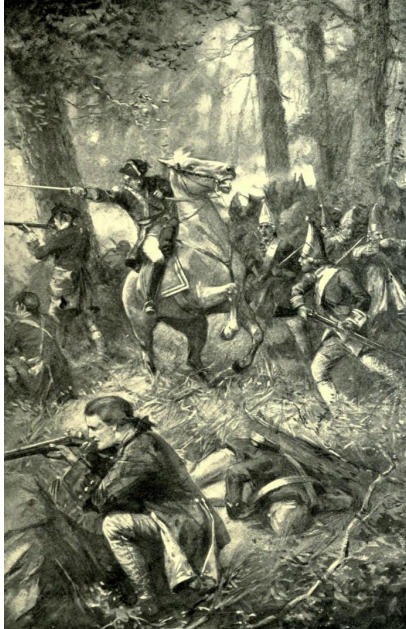
"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" was first published in 1739 in the collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. It was republished in **George Whitefield's *Collection of Hymns for Social Worship*** in 1754.



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In America, at this time, the **French and Indian War** was heating up.



British General Edward Braddock fought the **Battle of the Monongahela** in 1755, assisted by the young officer named **George Washington**, who was miraculously spared.

Also at the battle on the side of the British was 20-year-old wagon driver **Daniel Boone**.

Colonial Americans would have found hope in singing **Charles Wesley's hymn:**

Hark, the Herald Angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb,

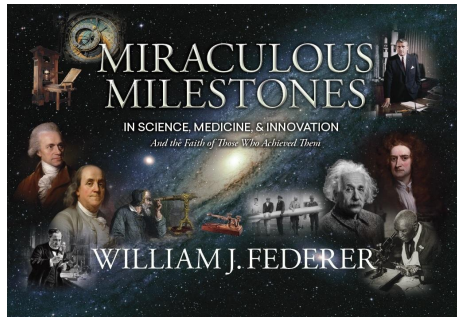
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!



Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel,
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"



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The same year
Charles Wesley was born, 1707, **Isaac Watts** wrote the carol "**Joy to the World,**" which became **one of the most published Christmas hymns in North America:**

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
Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs
employ;
While fields and
floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding
joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

At this time in
Europe, composer
**George Frideric
Handel** was at a
low point in his
career, having

Joy to the World.
The Lord is Come.
WATTS. Harmonized by T. C. O'K.
1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come, Let earth receive her king:
Let ev - ery heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And

suffered partial paralysis on his left side due to a stroke.



Incredibly, beginning August 22, 1741, **George Handel** composed "**Messiah**" in only 21 days, as part of a series of concerts in Dublin to benefit charities.

In **Messiah**, **Handel** included a line from the Book of Job 19:25:

"I know that my Redeemer liveth."



The premiere was met with overwhelming success.

When it was performed in London, **King George II** stood to his feet during the singing of the "**Hallelujah**" Chorus.

In reflecting on the "**Hallelujah Chorus**," 1742, **Handel** expressed:

"I did think I did see all heaven before me, and the great God Himself."

In 1751-52, with the onset of blindness, **Handel** retired.

Shortly before his death, he expressed he was:

"In hopes of meeting his good **God**, his sweet (precious) **Saviour**, on the day of His resurrection."

Another popular Christmas carol first published in 1751 was "**O**

Come, All Ye Faithful,"
originally written in **Latin** as
"Adeste Fideles" (attributed to
Portugal's King John IV, and
later John F. Wade, with music
by John Reading):



The image shows a page of a musical score for the hymn "Come, All Ye Faithful". At the top, there is a decorative border with a landscape illustration of a church and people. Below the title, there are three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system includes the title and the first two verses. The second system includes the third verse and the beginning of the chorus. The third system is labeled "REFRAIN" and includes the full chorus lyrics.

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye,
to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!
(Chorus)

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created. (Chorus)

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest; (Chorus)

O come, let us adore
Him,
O come, let us adore
Him,
O come, let us adore

Him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet
Thee,
Born this happy
morning;
**Jesu, to Thee be glory
given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh
appearing. (Chorus)**

**O come, let us adore
Him,
O come, let us adore
Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.**

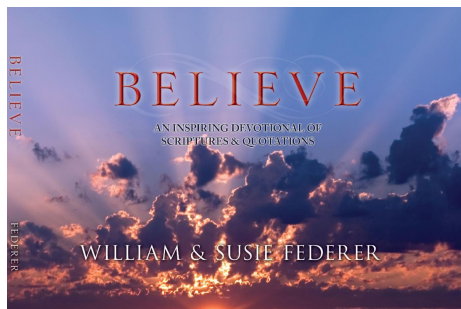
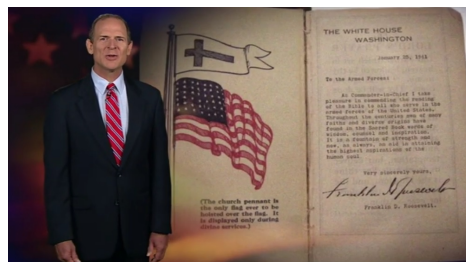
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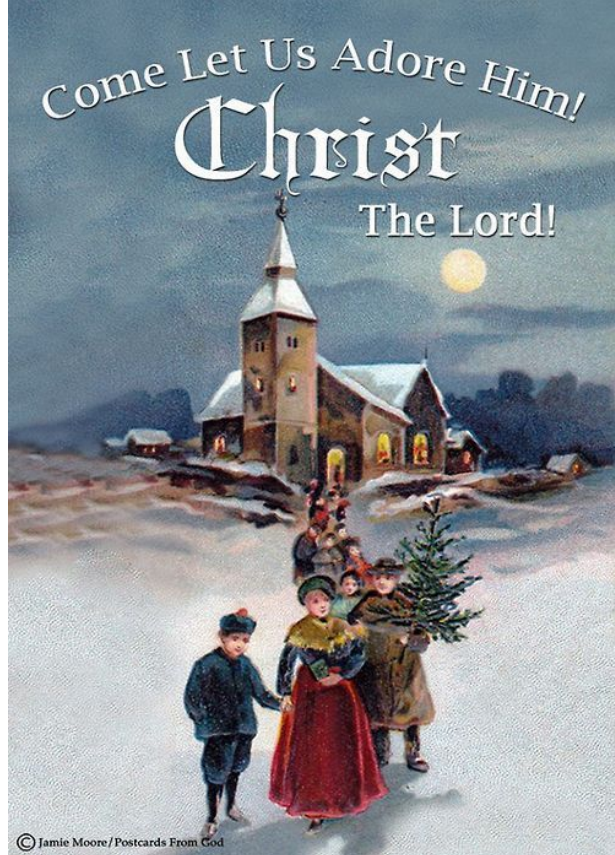
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