



Second Weekend in Advent

The season of Advent, from the Latin word ‘adventus’ which means ‘coming,’ begins four weeks prior to Christmas. During Advent, Christians expectantly wait for the nativity of Jesus, anticipate His second coming, and wait with hope for the peace on earth that the angels announced to the shepherds on the night of the first Christmas.

Luke 2:8–14 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Do You Hear What I Hear?

The Story Behind the Song

“Do You Hear What I Hear?” was written in 1962 in New York City during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis as a powerful plea for peace by a man who had experienced the horrors of war.

Noël Regney was born in 1922 in Strasburg, France, and was trained as a classical musician. After Hitler invaded France during WWII, Noël was forced into the Nazi army. While serving in the German army he joined the French Underground Resistance, eventually deserting the German army and living underground with the French for the rest of the war.

After the war he moved to Manhattan where he met and married pianist Gloria Shayne.

In October 1962, the Soviet Union and the U.S. were involved in a crisis centered on missiles the Russians had installed in Cuba. Never before had the world been so close to all-out nuclear war. Fighting depression brought on by his own days as a Nazi soldier and resistance fighter, he thought about the one moment in time when he felt the Lord had given humanity a chance to live without hate, fear or conflict. As he walked the streets of New York, he saw two mothers with their babies in strollers. The little ones reminded him of the peace and innocence of newborn lambs.

Arriving home and concentrating on the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, Noël began jotting down lyrics. He asked his wife, Gloria, to write music to go with the words. Within hours, Gloria had composed the music but when they tried to sing it, it was so moving all they could do was cry.

“Do You Hear What I Hear?” was soon recorded by Robert Goulet, but it was Bing Crosby who brought the song to the attention of the nation in 1963 as a powerful call for peace on earth.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Three Questions

1. God (as the 'night wind') asks the 'little lamb,' "Do you see what I see?"

Answer: "A star dancing in the night, with a tail as big as a kite."

Referring to: _____

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV)

2. The 'little lamb' asks the 'shepherd boy,' "Do you hear what I hear?"

Answer: "A song high above the trees, with a voice as big as the sea."

Referring to: _____

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 (NIV)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

3. The 'shepherd boy' addresses the 'mighty king' of the nation, "Do you know what I know?"

Answer: "A Child shivers in the cold. Let us bring Him silver and gold."

The king responds with a proclamation:

"Listen to what I say: 'Pray for peace, people everywhere.'

"Listen to what I say: 'The Child sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light.'"

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. John 1:4-5 (NLT)