

1

Angels





*The angel of the Lord
encamps around those who
fear him, and delivers them.*

Psalms 64:7

Angels

I've wondered about angels,
do they ever take a nap?
When they're sent on an errand,
do they take along a map?

With all the billions on this earth
that travel to and fro,
How do they get directions straight
so they know where to go?

We've read of angels in God's Book,
it really doesn't tell
Too much about the lives they live
and things they do so well.

But then I guess we need not know
too much about them here;
We understand they work for God
and that is their career.

We're certain angels do exist
and comforting to know
That when we're in big trouble, folks,
they know just where to go.

Angels-- God's Messengers

I'm glad that God made angels, friends,
I think they're really neat.
In pictures that I've seen of them
they have both hands and feet
But then they have a pair of wings
to get to places fast,
And if they're watching folks down here
they shouldn't come in last.
God sends these special messengers
with news of vital worth
For singing angels came to tell
of Jesus' lowly birth.
And did you notice at that time
the shepherds heard their song?
They didn't sing to Pharisees
whose hearts were proud and wrong.

I wonder if, when angels come
and visit earth today
They might appear to humble folks
who they know would obey.
Yes, I believe in angels, friend,
I'm sure they hover 'round
And though I've never seen one,
as they may not make a sound,
I'm sure that they surround us
and protect us here below;
How many times they've intervened
I'm sure I'll never know,
But in this hectic world of ours
with wars, and sin, and greed,
Those angel wings surrounding us
are all we really need.

Hovering Angels

I like to think of angels—
how they hover 'round us here
Comforting God's children
and bringing hope and cheer.

I've really never seen one
but they're never far away
And if you dial 9-1-1
they come to save the day.

There're thousands upon thousands
awaiting God's command
And He can quickly send them out
I hope you understand.

Now if you're sick and suffering
and are about to die
God sends a special angel
to escort you to the sky

Where you'll receive a welcome
like you've never had before
And your loved ones there will greet you
inside Heaven's open door.

Don't let your heart be troubled
with the problems of today,
Things will be better up ahead
when you've gone Home to stay.

When Angels Call

We folk who travel planet earth
complain an awful lot;
We feel that we are taxed too much,
and criminals are not caught.

The price of gas is much too high,
and food is out of sight,
The neighbor's kids make too much noise,
and we don't think its right.

When nap time comes the doorbell rings,
how can one get his rest?
The price of stamps keeps going up,
and this we could have guessed.

We can't get sick—it costs too much,
so what's a guy to do?
The old-time Doc's are now passe,
so now who'll treat our flu?

Our knees and hips and aching back
remind us of our age,
If we wrote down how bad we feel
'twould fill at least a page.

The politicians are corrupt,
our rent is much too high,
We know the debt our nation has
could make us weep and sigh.

It seems that almost every week
there's something breaking down;
We wonder if we oughta' move
and find a better town.

We just don't know how we can cope
another day or week—
It kinda' puts us in the dumps
when of these things we speak.

I guess what really baffles me
is why we want to stay
And hassle all the problems that we have
from day to day.

Yet when we hear the angel wings
a'swooping mighty low
We pray to God to leave us here.
We still don't want to go.

Daniel, Saved By An Angel

I know you've heard of Daniel,
how he prayed three times each day
Before his open window,
for he had a lot to say.
Back then, as now, there were some folks
who seemed afraid of prayer,
And they reported to the king
what he was doing there.
This Daniel was an honest man
and trusted by a king
Who made an idol for himself
and that spoiled everything.

I know you know how Daniel
was thrown in the lions den,
His enemies seemed oh, so glad,
he'd ne'er be seen again.
The king went home, but could not sleep;
all night he tossed in bed,
He feared the edict that he made
caused Daniel to be dead.
But just in case there was a chance
he still might be alive,
He went to check the lions den,
and early did arrive.

He took the cover off the den
and called with shaking voice,
"Oh, Daniel, did that God of yours,
the One you serve by choice,
Deliver from the lion's paw
and keep you safe last night?"
And Daniel answered from below,
"Oh, king, I'm quite all right,
For God has sent His angel
so these beasts could not attack."
The king rejoiced his friend was safe,
and Daniel soon was back.

Some folks today feel they're alone
when problems come along,
And troubles have filled up the heart
where once there was a song.
Too many things have crowded in,
and then it's hard to see
The angel that God sends along
to help to set us free.
Yes, I believe in angels, friends,
I'm sure they're round about.
And often they protect us here,
I've not the slightest doubt.

*The angel of the Lord encamps
around those that fear him;
and he delivers them.
Psalm 34:7*

Jet Lag

If you have traveled very far
And gone somewhere by plane
You may find out when you arrived
Jet lag has caused you pain.
I wonder if you've thought about
When angels give their nod
And swoop you up to Heaven above
to be at home with God
Will jet lag try to plague you
Because you've traveled far
For its really quite a distance
To pass God's brightest star.
But angels must be speedy
And must travel really fast
And jet lag will not bother you
'cause you'll be Home at last.

Angel Escort

Don't get stressed out because you're old—
Each day you're nearer streets of gold.

If Jesus Christ lives in your heart
He'll send angels down when you depart.

That's quite a gift, I'd like to say
To be escorted in that way

And be borne up on angel's wings
Just 'fore you meet the King of kings!

A thing like this should make you smile
And ease your load mile after mile.

Things I'll Leave

When Jesus calls my name some day
I'll take my flight and will not stay.

But there are things I'll leave behind
And let me tell you, I don't mind.

Things I've collected here below
Is stuff that I won't take, ya' know,

But really it's okay with me
Because some other things, you see,

I'll be so glad to leave down here
Like things that cause a falling tear.

I'll leave behind all stress and strain
And all the things that cause me pain.

And so till angels give their nod
I'll live by faith and trust in God.

I Wonder

I wonder if you've thought about
 when Jesus came to earth
And angels sang to shepherds
 to tell of Jesus' birth--
What happened up in Heaven
 when He left that holy Place
And took on Him the form of flesh
 to save the human race?

Did angels weep or get depressed
 when they gazed down on Him
And saw that He was born that day
 inside a stable dim?
Was there silence up in Heaven
 or did angels lose their song
When they saw Jesus come to earth--
 had something bad gone wrong?

I wonder what was in God's heart
 the day Christ went away,
He knew He had a special plan
 so would return some day.
I 'spose we'll never comprehend
 the depths of God's great plan
When He showed His great love for us
 to save the soul of man.

Dreading to Leave

When we get to heaven I bet we will say,
“Why did we put off this most wonderful day?”

We dreaded so long to leave old planet earth
And tried to enjoy it for all we were worth.

We did all the things the Doc said we must do
To keep trim and fit, and took medicine, too.

We cherished our friends, and we sought their advice,
And tried to think thoughts that were healthy and nice.

And when we had pain and felt full of despair
We probably wondered if life was quite fair

But still we held out for an extra long life,
No matter the pain, or the problems, or strife.

But once we're in Heaven and see Jesus' face
And feel the excitement and joy of that Place,

We'll wonder why death filled our hearts with dismay
Before angels came and stole us away.

Peter

I've thought of Peter stuck in jail
with guards within his cell,
And even though his chains were on,
he slept there very well.
The guards were also fast asleep,
the angel saw to that,
But wakened Peter with his touch,
or just a gentle pat,

Now that woke Peter really fast,
he sat up with a start;
The angel whispered, "Grab your coat.
You're going to depart."
His chains fell off. The door swung wide.
The gate creaked open, too.
The angel left, and Peter ran.
He knew just what to do.

He went directly to a house where
prayers were being said,
And told them he was out of jail
and that he wasn't dead.
I've often thought of Peter--
how he slept within that jail,
He must have known within
his heart
his God would never fail.

Another thing is clear to me:
the awesome power of prayer.
So, folks, just when we need Him most,
our God is always there.

Heaven's ...
Windowsill

I wonder if you've ever thought
 you'd like to take a look
And see what's inside Heaven
 as recorded in God's Book.
I like to think there's lots of stuff
 recorded in His Word
That tells what's in that special Place
 of which we all have heard.

It's kinda' like a windowsill
 where we can gaze awhile
And when we read the things it says
 it gives our heart a smile.
For when we stand on our tiptoes
 to see the things inside
We'll see a lot of happy folks
 all scattered far and wide.

We'll see no beggars on the streets
we understand are gold;
We won't see folks with cane or crutch
and no one will be old.
No one will have a bunch of keys
to lock their place up tight
For there will be no crime nor sin
in that land of delight.

We're told that many angels
will be hovering about
And once a person reaches There
they never will want out.
So spend a little time each day
by Heaven's windowsill
Not only will it cheer your heart,
but God your cup will fill.

*He (God) will wipe every tear
from our eyes. There will be no
more death or mourning or crying
or pain for the old order of things
have passed away. Revelation 21:4*

Millions of Angels

The last Book of the Bible
is a favorite of mine,
Though I don't understand it all
I read it line by line.
The Book of Revelation, friends,
was written by St. John
When he was exiled for his faith
and had no friends along.

While on the Isle of Patmos
on the Lord's day we are told
He had a vision sent by God
of things that would unfold.
If you will turn to Chapter nine
and look at verse elev'n
You'll thrill to read what you'll find there
and get a glimpse of Heav'n.

Some folks may think of angels
in a meager sort of way
And only on occasion think
they're busy now today.
But if they'd read a little bit
of what St. John wrote there
They'd find that there are millions
and that they are everywhere.

"Ten thousand times ten thousand"
but then he added more
And tells that there are thousands more
who worship and adore
The King of Kings and Lord of Lords
surrounding His great throne
Where all is peace and joy and love
and no one feels alone.

It's fun for me to think on this
while settled in my chair
And try to visualize a bit
on what we'll find up There.

Lazarus

A story in the Bible
that I really like a lot
Tells of a man with lots of dough,
but generous he was not.

He had a feast most every day
and ate and ate and ate
But Lazarus was a beggar
who lay outside his gate.

Poor Lazarus had lots of sores
a friendly dog would lick
It seemed to be his only friend
when he was awful sick.

By eating crumbs that fell down from
the rich man's loaded table
He managed to survive a while—
as long as he was able.

And then one day the beggar died,
the rich man did so, too,
And there is a big difference
what happened to the two.

The angels CARRIED Lazarus
to Paradise that day
The rich man was just buried
is what the Scriptures say.

It really makes a difference
what you do with all your stuff,
You oughta' help some hurting folks
whose lives are mean and tough.

God knows the things you say and do
so be His hands and feet--
Do something beautiful for God
for needy folks you meet.

Your Cup

When your cup is runnin' over
You can smile and you can sing
And thank the Lord for all you've got
With thanks for everything.
God really likes those thank You prayers
Ascending to the sky
And when I think on it a bit
I know the reason why.

God gets a lot of messages
When folks call 911
These frantic calls from folks down here
Keep angels on the run.
So when God hears a loving heart
Not asking for some things
My guess is that He listens hard
And maybe even sings.

God made us in His Image
So He has feelings, too,
So talk to Him as your best Friend.
He'll love it if you do.

Leaving Time

When angels say, "It's time to go,"
Your hand will open wide, you know.

The things you now so tightly hold
Will stay down here, so I am told.

So while you're on this planet earth
Give to the poor some things of worth.

You'll find a joy that you've not known
When you will give some things you own.

And when you reach that Heavenly Shore
You'll even wish you'd given more.

Your Room Is All Prepared

When you hear the sound of angel's wings
You really need not fear
For if you've made your peace with God
They'll give you words of cheer.
"Someone is waiting up for you,
Your room is all prepared
You'll even find the light is on
So you need not be scared.
You are expected any day
Your welcome home is planned
And when God throws a party
It is beautiful and grand."
So do not fear when angels come
And Jesus calls your name
When you see what's in store for you
You'll be so glad you came.

2

*It's Better
Up Ahead*





*We have a building
from God, an eternal
house in heaven, not
built by human hands.
2 Corinthians 5:1*

Better Up Ahead

I really like the old-time hymns
that we have sung for years,
They tell us of a better place
where we will shed no tears.
I doubt when we arrive up There
we'll ask the reason why
We've had so many speed bumps
that made us want to sigh.

When I take time to think on this,
I wonder could it be
That we'll forget our problems
when Jesus face we see?
We won't ask for explanations
why we suffered lots of pain
For we will be distracted
by the things we're going to gain.

To hear the angels singing
and to walk on streets of gold,
And it will finally dawn on us
we never will grow old.
So when you feel down in the dumps
and life is filled with dread
Remember Jesus told us
that it's better up ahead.

Looking ahead

God made the earth so beautiful
with trees, and birds, and such,
Creating not just earth and sun,
but things we love to touch.
And, He gave folks a lot of smarts
to make things while they're here,
And so we have just lots and lots
to put us in high gear:
Like cars, computers, radios,
TV's, and other stuff,
The Internet, and E-mail, too,
makes living not too tough.
The cell phone also makes it nice
so folks are not alone;
It matters not where you're on earth
you always have the phone.
So we enjoy a lot of things
our parents never had
And people keep inventing things
to upgrade just a tad.
And though we think our life down here
is good as it can get,
St. Peter just may say to us,
"You ain't seen nuthin' yet."

The Psalms

I kinda' like to read the Psalms,
they have good news to share,
They tell us we should praise the Lord
for all His love and care.
They also give the future
written out in black and white
Of what will happen to the good
and those who don't do right.

Of course we know of David
with his trusty little sling
And how he killed Goliath
and great victory did win.
Not only was he famous
for the great things that he did
But he loved God with all his heart
when he was just a kid.

And David also played a harp
and wrote a lot of songs,
He also made some bad mistakes
but repented of his wrongs.
So God loved him an awful lot
because he was sincere
And David found forgiveness
which filled his soul with cheer.

If you will read the Psalms again
they might bring peace of mind
And if we think on 'em a bit
a lot of stuff we'll find
That gives us strength for dreary days
when we feel tired and weak,
God knows we have some days like that
and knows whereof we speak.

I guess some verses I like best
is where it says to me
That we should always praise the Lord
until His Face we see.
And if He lives within our heart
He'll lead us safely o'er
The banks of Jordan's River
and reach Heaven's golden shore.

*Blessed (happy) is he whose transgressions
are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

Psalm 32:1

Moving . . . But No Packing?

When I go to Heaven I won't have to pack
and wonder, "What things shall I take?"
'Twill be a relief not to handle those bags
and not have decisions to make.
"Twould be very hard to select certain clothes,
for what are they wearing up there?
Now, would I need shoes, if so, just what kind?
and what should I take for my hair?

Would I need my watch, or does time just stand still?
and what about bracelets and rings?
With all of the gold and the jewels up there
I'd really need none of those things.
I'm very much happy I won't have to pack
and carry my bags to the Gate,
For things that I love and I cherish down here
up there wold be quite out of date.

I think the Lord wants us to come as we are
when He says it's time to depart.
He'd not be impressed by the stuff that we'd bring,
but surely He'll look at the heart.

The Greatest Day

If you're absent in the flesh

you are present with the Lord,

If Jesus lives within your heart

you have this sure reward.

So death does not destruction bring

and cause the soul to die,

It simply sets the spirit free,

as upward you will fly.

So trust in God for that great day

that signifies your death,

He has a home awaiting you

when you take your last breath.

Heaven-- Where All Are Special

When folks get to Heaven I doubt they will find
A corner for white folk with wealth, and refined,
Another large section for folks who are black,
A still different courtyard for poor (out in back)

A place for Jews only (no Gentiles in sight),
Another for prophets, for kings and the like,
A place for the Baptists (no others allowed),
There just won't be room for more of a crowd).

The old-fashioned Quakers won't have their own spot,
And no special groups will be found on a lot,
But every believer in Jesus will be
Eternally loved and eternally free.

Divisions and factions will be out of place
For all who are there have been saved by His grace.
Their garments are spotless-in fact, white as snow,
They'll know their Redeemer, and each face will glow.

And all will be one in that beautiful Place
No matter their status, religion, or race.
One God will be worshiped, just one God alone;
We'll worship with angels the One on the Throne.

Classes?

When I was sitting quietly
absorbed in my own thought
I wondered, when we get to Heaven
will classes there be taught
So we will know the language there
so when we go about
We'll understand what others say
and chat with them, no doubt?
With all the many languages
and dialects down here,
Its hard to guess what God might choose
so everyone can hear.

I reckon its a waste of time
to speculate too much
On what the language is up there
and if its such and such.
But this we know without a doubt
God has the language planned,
And when it comes straight from His heart
all folks will understand.

What Color?

I had a thought the other day
and dwelt on it awhile,
The more I thought about it, folks,
the more I had to smile.
And this is what I wondered
as I let my mind run free,
What color is a person's soul
that lives in you and me?

Now when we die and go to Heav'n
and get a body new
Will there be different colors there
and will you look like you?
Do you think God is color blind
when He looks at our skin?
I kind of think His interest lies
on what we have within.

Some folks down here just seem to feel
a cut above the rest,
But when we get to Heaven, folks,
there'll be no second best.
We will not care if folks are black,
or yellow, brown, or red,
For Jesus died for ALL the world
just as the Bible said.

I've Never Been to Heaven

I've never been to Heaven
but I hope to go some day
And when I reach that lovely Place
I'm sure I'll want to stay.

After living for a lot of years
down here with toil and fear
It sure will be lots different
when all problems disappear.

We'll never have to phone in sick
or have a tire go flat,
Or get a tune-up from the Doc,
or walk the dog or cat.

We'll not get hit by hurricanes,
tsunamis won't be There,
No families will be arguing,
there'll be no pain or care.

No one will be complaining
about how bad they feel
And how it almost wears 'em out
to just prepare a meal.

Your neighbors or your boss at work
won't make you lose your smile
And if you find you need a nap
there'll be time to rest a while.

God is the CEO, you know,
and keeps things up to snuff,
He has a limitless supply
so always has enough.

It's hard for me to figure out
why all folks don't prepare
And live for God down here on earth
so they can live up There.

Things We'll Miss

Sometimes we get discouraged
and we like to reminisce
On what will be hereafter
and things that we will miss.
Our hearts will not be troubled,
there will be no stress or strain
For in that heavenly Place up There
we'll feel no guilt or pain.
No backaches, toothaches, headaches,
no arthritis, and no gout,
And fractures, shingles, cataracts,
are things we'll do without.

We'll not dread that day in April
when Income Tax comes due;
The daily news will be passe
that could upset us, too.
We'll not make up a shopping list
or fill the car with gas,
And we won't have the monthly bills
that seem to come en masse.

We won't have programs on T.V.
that rankle us a lot,
And junk mail won't be coming through
with bargains that are not.
And credit cards that rob the poor
but make for ready cash
Won't be in evidence up there
but left on earth as trash.

No politics will be in Heav'n
for God's the CEO.
His rules are in the Bible
that was written long ago.
Police cars or an ambulance
with sirens screaming loud
Won't rush to pick a person up
if injured in a crowd
For there will be no accidents,
no fighting and no crime
For former things have passed away

We'll miss the problems that we have
down here where humans dwell
And we'll be glad to leave behind
some other stuff as well.
We'll not look for a hole down here
the day we're called to die
But rather we will look and find
a hole up in the sky.

*a faith and knowledge resting in the hope
of eternal life, which God, who does not lie,
promised before the beginning of time.*

Titus 1:2

No Tears

Sometimes we think that by and by
when we get up to Heav'n
We'll want to ask some questions
'bout some trials we've been given,
It may be on our heart to ask
why we have suffered so
And why living wasn't easy
with its aches and pains, ya' know.

But I have thought on this a tad
and wondered, could it be
That we'll forget all that bad stuff
when Jesus face we see?
Our souls will be excited
when we reach that Golden Shore
And things that used to irk us here
will bother us no more.

The Bible plainly tells us
God will wipe away all tears
And He can do that very fast—
it won't take months or years.
So just be glad and thank the Lord
when angels give their nod
That you'll leave troubles far behind
and be at Home with God.

Revelation 21:4

Story Time

I had a thought the other day
that I'd not had before,
About the things we'll do in Heaven
where time will be no more.
One thing I'd like to do up There
is listen to a bunch
Who sat down on a hillside there
where Jesus gave them lunch,

And hear them tell of how they felt
when Jesus broke the bread,
And thousands ate till they were filled,
and hear what people said.
Another thing I'd like to do
is sit at David's feet,
And hear just how Goliath looked
when he fell in defeat.

I think that Moses, too, could tell
some things while on the go;
Those forty years in desert sand
were pretty hard, ya' know.
To think their clothes did not wear out,
nor did their ankles swell,
Those folks who wandered all those years
must have a lot to tell.

And there are other stories, too,
like Jonah and the whale,
I'll bet he'd have a lot to say
on under-water sail.
I know I could add to the list
of folks I hope to see,
I'd also guess a lot of folks
would listen There with me.

Finally Home

Have you noticed in the book of Psalms
a very special verse
That gives the Christian lots of hope
although it's kinda' terse?

It says that when folks die on earth
it's precious in God's sight,
We might have known if God's involved
He'd really do it right.

We know that when our kids come home
to spend a week or so
We get our house prepared for them
with things they like, you know.

We welcome them with open arms
and try to do our best
So they'll know they are loved a lot
and are our special guest.

On earth it's difficult to give
a tearful last goodbye
But if we think on it a bit
we maybe shouldn't sigh

Because God has a place prepared,
the Welcome sign is clear
And He keeps waiting for the time
His children will appear.

So while we struggle here on earth
to let a loved one go
The ones who are in Heaven
are rejoicing for they know

Another child has made it Home
and they will always stay
Where there is happiness and love
forever and a day.

*Streets of Gold . . .
and More*

We often hear of streets of gold
on Heaven's golden shore,
But I would guess beyond the Gates
there's really much, much more.

With people free from aches and pains
and troubles of this earth
There has to be a lot of joy,
and love, and peace, and mirth.

There must be flowers, trees and shrubs
that fill a special space
With butterflies that drift about
as birds fly place to place.

The eyes of folks that once were dim
will 20/20 be,
All things will be in focus there
so everyone can see.

And hearing in that lovely Place
will be both loud and clear
Where folks need not repeat themselves
so friends up there can hear.

There'll also be fine music
by a great celestial band;
The singing will be praising God
in that great Promised Land.

I like to think about the things
that we might see up there,
It's easy just to ruminate
from my reclining chair.

No doubt it is a waste of time
for we can never tell
The Place that Jesus has prepared
for those who know Him well.

The Bible says our minds down here
can't even comprehend
The things He has prepared for those
who serve Him to the end.

A Hang In There

Your body may grow old, ya' know
and slow down quite a bit,
And there are days you sometimes think
you'd really like to quit.
But other times you feel quite good
and really want to stay
And think you'd like to live a while
so keep on day by day.
But even though your body's bent
and life's at slower speed
Your spirit grows each passing day
and gives the strength you need.
Its nice that God planned things that way
so as we older grow
That place that we call Heaven, folks,
means more to us, you know.
Don't fret and stew when aging comes--
God has a better place--
So hang in there the best you can;
someday you'll see His Face.

3

*God is Still
God Tomorrow*





*Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, and today
and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

God Is Still God Tomorrow

I know we tend to worry
over lots of little stuff--
We can get bent all out of shape
if we've not faith enough
To realize that God is God
and still will be tomorrow
And He knows what the future holds
of blessings or of sorrow.

Sometimes we hear the TV news
that shakes us up a bit,
It's easy to feel down and out
if you watch much of it.
But if the Lord lives in our heart
it's nice for us to know
That God is God forever
and it ever will be so.

If our eyes are fixed on Heaven
and we know God's in control
We know we ought to thankful be
that He sees every soul
And nothing e'er surprises Him,
He's never caught off-guard
So put your future in His hands
and trust Him real hard.

God Did It

I know some folks are atheists
and don't believe in God;
I wonder where they think they'll go
when angels give their nod.

When we see birds both big and small
just cruising through the air
I'd think those folks would have a clue
that God has put them there.

And flowers with their splash of paint,
e'en some with perfume rare
They oughta' know God made 'em all
and did it with great care.

No matter how those folks would try
they couldn't make a star
Nor could they paint a rainbow
no matter where they are.

Some folks believe their ancestors
descended from some apes
And swung themselves from tree to tree
while munching nuts and grapes.

I wish those folks who don't believe
in much of anything
Would open up their Bible—
it explains most everything.

The folks who read their Bible
and they think on it a bit
Can tell you that God made the world
and everything in it.

And that includes all folks on earth
and no two are alike
And it would surely take a God
to make that come out right.

I wonder how the atheists
can live life to the max
If they've not made their peace with God
and try hard to relax.
When I can see the things God made—
the whole, not just a part,
I stand amazed He's small enough
to live within my heart.

God Is Busy

Our God stays awfully busy, folks,
He has a lot to do:
He has to keep the sun in place,
the earth a' whirling, too.
He's gotta' keep the stars up there
so they'll stay in their place
Or they might fall on planet earth
and kill the human race.

Besides all this there are the flow'rs
that need the morning dew
And birds that want a bite to eat
and trees to live in, too.
How would the tigers and the bears
survive were there no food?
If God weren't looking after things
the world would come unglued.

God does not sit around all day
and wonder what to do,
For He's in charge of Heaven, folks,
that keeps Him busy, too.
Don't minimize how big God is;
no thing escapes His Eye,
He helps His children on this earth
until the day they die.

Be glad, my friend, that God is God,
don't let your god be small,
For He's in charge of everything
and watches over all

Forever and Ever

Forever is a long, long time—
It never ends, you know,
That's why we should prepare for it
And not just let it go.
The Psalmist wrote long years ago
That those who trust the Lord
Would live with Him forever
And receive a sure reward.

Of course we'll be rewarded
For the works that we have done,
It's plain to see rewards won't be
The same for everyone.
And maybe this should tell us
That we oughta' think this through
And help a lot of needy folks
Like Jesus told us to.

The Fiery Furnace

The fiery furnace was no threat
for three young Hebrew men,
For they'd not bow to other gods
no matter who or when.
They really had their minds made up;
they would not bow the knee,
If God delivered them, okay--
if not, they'd wait and see.

And when the king said, "Throw 'em in,"
it didn't singe a hair,
It only burned off all their ropes,
no smell of smoke was there.
But when the king, to his dismay,
saw still another face,
It scared him that he saw God's Son
was also in that place.

I'm glad I serve a God like that
for when we're in the fire
He's right there close beside us
to give help and to inspire.
If you don't have a God, my friend,
to help when things go wrong
I'd recommend you serve the Lord,
He'd give your heart a song.

Daniel 3:1-30

I Love Your Word, Oh Lord

I love to read Your Word, Oh Lord,
it means a lot to me,
For there's wisdom in its pages
that can set a person free.
It tells us how we ought to live
for living at its best
And if we do the things it says
we'll have both peace and rest.

It tells us of the patriarchs
who lived in days of old
And though we heard of them as kids
they still are often told
Like Daniel in the lion's den,
and David and his sling,
Of course when Samson's hair was cut
it spoiled most everything.

There's Moses and the burning bush,
and Jonah and the whale,
And these and many more are told
of God who did not fail.
And then in the New Testament
some lived when times were bad,
Some Christians got some beatings
taking all the grace they had.

But there were also happy times when
Jesus healed the blind
And even brought folks back to life,
for He was super kind.
He gave the Sermon on the Mount
and taught us how to pray,
The things He taught aren't out of date
but still are used today.

Besides the heroes in God's Book,
it gives in great detail
How Christians can prepare for Heav'n
and make it without fail.
So when you knock on Heaven's Gate
and walk that golden stair
Please be assured inside your heart
King Jesus will be there.

God is Awesome

I've really traveled quite a bit;
I've seen a lot of stuff
That is the handiwork of God
that's really up to snuff.
The canyons and the mountains
and the sparkling rivers, too,
Are really just a small amount
of what our God can do.

He made the stars, the sun and moon,
the darkness and the light,
When He created people
He really did it right
For we are marvelously made
with heart and mind and soul
With the capacity to love
and feel that we are whole.

And when He made the flowers
He splashed on colors rare
So they'd have lots of beauty
for people everywhere.
And how we love to watch the birds
and hear the songs they sing--
It seems they're singing praise to God
with thanks for everything.

If you've been on safari
you've seen animals galore
And marveled as you've watched 'em run—
by hundreds, maybe more.

There's really lots of pretty stuff
down here on planet earth--
God doesn't do just half a job,
but He does things of worth.

I know that God made everything
in earth and sky and sea
But as I read my Bible,
I'm amazed as I can be:
When I read First Corinthians,
verse nine in Chapter two
It tells what Heaven will be like
and what He's been up to.

It says that eyes have never seen,
and ears have never heard,
Nor have imagined in our heart,
according to God's Word,
The things that He's prepared for those
who really love Him here,
So that will be exciting
when Christ Jesus will appear.

I don't know how God thought of things
when He created earth
And still provided for our needs
and gives us joy and mirth,
But if He made our world so grand
and Heav'n surpasses this
It sounds like it's the Place to go
and will not want to miss.

Peter

There's something about Peter
when you read about his life
That makes you kinda' like him
though he had some toil and strife.
He really was outspoken
and he loved the Lord a lot,
If he was asked what he believed
he'd answer on the spot.

He had enthusiasm
and he had a lot of zest
And often spoke out for the Lord
when he was at his best.
Sometimes he also made mistakes
when he would speak too fast
But then he would apologize
so didn't come in last.

I like the way he followed Christ
when he was called to serve--
He simply left his boat behind
which took a lot of nerve.
He knew Christ was the Son of God
and said it loud and clear--
He was the first to voice this fact
to others standing near.

King Herod didn't like him
so he had him thrown in jail,
His praying friends were not allowed
to even pay his bail.
The night before King Herod
would call for him next day
We find that handcuffed Peter
between two soldiers lay.

The story we are told in Acts
says Peter was asleep,
He must have trusted God a lot
that He his soul would keep.
And then to think an angel came
and shook him wide awake
And told him to put on his clothes
and led him out the gate. ■

Yes, Peter was a special man
who dared to give his all
And was not disappointed
that the Lord gave him a call.
He left his nets and fishing boat
to follow Christ the King
And folks who do the same today
find it's worth everything.

Some See God Everywhere

I know some folks do not believe
that God made all the earth
And yet the theories that they give
are really of no worth.
It kinda' seems a little strange
these folks see God no where
And yet a lot of other folks
will see Him everywhere.

They see Him in the flowers,
in butterflies, in trees,
They see Him in the sun and moon
and feel Him in the breeze.
They see Him in the flakes of snow
and in the birds that fly,
They see Him in the sunset
and the rainbow in the sky.

They see Him in the mountains
and in the rushing brook,
In fact they see God every place
where human eyes can look.
I'm glad that I believe in God
and that He cares for me
And knowing this within my heart
I'm happy as can be.

Where God Lives

God has two places where He lives—
one's up in Heaven above,

The other place is here on earth
where hearts are filled with love.

I'm sure that keeps Him busy
watching over Heaven and all

But He is such an awesome God
He still hears when we call.

I know folks worship money
and the things that it can buy

But money will not love them back
when life has gone awry.

There's nothing like the touch of God
to help a fella' then

For He knows what has happened
no matter where or when.

So put your hand in God's big hand,
He has good news for you.

And if you're on a long detour
He'll help you safely through.

He knows where all the speed bumps are
and knows what lies ahead

And He can give you peace and joy
just like the Bible said.

A Perfect Body

God knew what He was doing, folks,
when He gave man a soul,
He didn't want to take to heaven
our bodies as a whole.
He knew there'd be diseases
such as AIDS and leprosy,
And backaches, gout, and cancer,
that afflict both you and me.
And in His wisdom He made man
so he would leave behind
His mortal body when He died
then get a different kind.
He didn't want to litter up
the Place with germs and such,
He only wanted folks around
who love Him very much.
I doubt it would be Heaven, folks,
if some were sick up there
And had to stay in bed for weeks
or use a special chair.
And so God put a soul in man
that would return some day
And worship Him with perfect love
and to Him homage pay.

Just One Day

Have you ever thought if you had just one day
Before you would answer God's call,
Just what you would think, and just what you would do
If He whispered to you, "This is all?
Would you be in a panic and strike out and scream
Because of the shortness of life,
Or would you mend fences, find calm in your soul,
Enjoying your kids and your wife?

We never are promised just how many days
We'll spend on this old, dusty earth,
So if you don't know it is probably best
To live it for all you are worth.
And keep all the windows of your heart and mind
Washed clean from all hatred and greed,
Then when your time comes and you live your last day
You'll have all the strength that you need.

Permanent Scars?

It's kinda' nice to think of Heav'n
and how things are up There.
From what the Bible says to those
who'll walk that golden stair
Is life will be much different
than it is down here below
For folks up There will have no more
a tale of pain and woe.

No one will be disfigured
and no one will have a scar
For God will take them all away,
He knows right where they are.
But when I think of Jesus Christ
this thought occurred to me:
Will nail-scarred hands and wounded side
last through eternity?

God Loves Color

We see a lot of pretty stuff
 like flowers, birds, and trees,
And if a person takes a walk
 he lots of beauty sees.
It must be God loves color
 for He used it everywhere;
It could be He had extra paint,
 and so with some to spare
He even painted lots of shells
 all hidden in the sea
And made them very beautiful,
 I know you will agree.

But shells are not the only things
 all hidden from our view
For way down deep inside the earth
 are lots of jewels, too.
The rubies and the diamonds
 do not grow on trees, you know,
And gold and other precious things
 are hidden down below.

When I see earth so beautiful
for our enjoyment here
It makes me wonder what's in Heaven
and how it will appear.
We know it must be beautiful
and we cannot compare
The things that we have seen down here
with what will be up there.

Some folk believe they've lots of smarts
and know a lot of stuff
But when it comes to Heaven, folks,
our minds aren't big enough
To visualize the things we'll see
and how it looks up there
When we are finished with this life
and walk that Golden Stair.

*“No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for
those who love him”*

*but God has revealed it
to us by his Spirit.
1 Corinthians 2:9*

Choosing the Best

I know God made things beautiful,
we see it all around
And we've collected lots of stuff
from places we have found.

We love the flowers God has made,
the shells upon the shore
And even diamonds set in gold
tell of His love and more.

It would be hard to take a pen
and kinda' make a list
Of all the good things that we have,
there's lots that we would miss.

I really like my treasures, folks,
if you know what I mean,
But what I really like the most
are things that are unseen.

We can't see God or angels
and we can't see peace of mind,
We can't see love or Heaven
or things like that I find.

So when you pick and choose in life
and gather lots of stuff
If all you have is what you see
it may not be enough.

Good as It Can Get

Let the love of God shine through you
everywhere you go today
So when this day is over
and you bow your head and pray
You will feel no tinge of sadness
nor have feelings of regret,
And if you've peace within your heart
it's good as it can get.

Don't ruminate on little things
that rob you of your sleep,
Instead rejoice and praise the Lord
that He your soul will keep.
God never goes to sleep at night
nor does He take a nap,
E'en when He sends His angels out
they never need a map;

So let God hold you in His Hand
and let His light shine through,
For He likes folks who show His love
in everything they do.

God's Handiwork

I've done a lot of traveling,
I've seen a lot of stuff
That's here and there on planet earth
and really up to snuff.
I've seen the Eiffel Tower,
I've walked on China's Wall
I've seen Red Square in Russia
and I've seen the Taj Mahal.

I've also seen a lot of things
that God produced, you know,
And if you'll think on it a bit
It's everywhere you go.
The canyons, oceans, water falls,
the giant mountain peaks
Along with birds and flowers and gems,
which of His greatness speaks.

The thing I'm trying hard to say
is you should look and see
How many things there are on earth
for folks like you and me.

But when I read my Bible, folks,
it almost blows my mind
That there it says in black and white
up there we will not find
A thing that looks like planet earth,
all things will be brand new
And folks cannot imagine
what the Lord's prepared for you.

So keep your heart in touch with God
so when the angels call
You'll find that leaving planet earth
is not hard after all.

God Did It All

I wish those folks who don't believe
That God created man
Would give an explanation
Of how the world began.
Sometimes we hear them say stuff
Like a million years ago—
But if they weren't there at that time
I wonder how they'd know.

Somehow they've made some folks believe
Some pretty untrue stuff,
For we know God created earth
And made it up to snuff.
I wonder where those folks will go
who don't believe in God
When they will kick the bucket
And the angels give their nod.

To know there truly is a God
Is no problem, folks, for me
For anywhere my eyes can look
God's creation I can see.
The sun, the moon, the stars at night,
The sunrise day by day
Speak volumes that there is a God.
And that He's here to stay..

4

*Thinkin'
Of Home*





*No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love Him.
1 Corinthians 2:9*

Thinkin' of Home

I like to think of Heaven
and the things we'll find up there;
It's kinda' fun to dream a bit
while rocking in my chair.
Of course the Bible doesn't tell
too much of what we'll find,
And we can't comprehend it
for we have too small a mind.

But there are gates of pearl, you know,
and there are streets of gold;
The walls of that great City
will have jewels I am told.
There won't be slums or homeless folks
asleep on any street
For all will be at Home up There
and that is pretty neat.

It's hard to comprehend a place
where lies are never said
And neighbors love each other
and where prejudice is dead.
No one will say they're feeling tough
and have to see the Doc
So he can tune 'em up a bit
and kinda' wind their clock.

The Book of Revelation tells
some stuff we'll see up there
And who they are who'll make it through
those pearly gates so fair.
I've read in the Old Testament
of Jonah and the whale--
He'll have a lot to tell about
his under-water sail.

And Moses, that great friend of God,
took that complaining bunch
Across the burning desert
and where God provided lunch:
He gave them manna day by day
and quail for them to eat,
And to get them out of Egypt
was really quite a feat.

I could name lots of other folk
like good old patient Job
And Abraham and David
and some others on this globe,
But if we live forever
on that great celestial shore
I'm sure there'll be new folks to meet
and they can tell us more.

Just look in the New Testament
for Peter, James, and John,
And Matthew, Mark, and Dr. Luke,
the list goes on and on.
And Mary who gave birth to Christ,
and Zaccheus in a tree,
The wise men and the shepherds, too,
I'd really like to see.

Of course we've heard of mansions
and a lot of super stuff
And God will not run out of things,
there'll always be enough.
Just think of all the angels
that will fly around up There,
I sure don't want to miss them
when I walk that golden stair.

Of course I've left the best till last
for no one can compare
With seeing Jesus Christ the Lord
and meeting Him up there
And thank Him that He died for me
and all the human race
And feel the nail-prints in His Hand
and see His lovely face.

Moving

Folks when you leave this planet earth
its not like moving here,
You won't pack up your stocks and bonds
and things that you hold dear.
You won't load stuff into a box
you'd like to take with you
And jam it full of earthly things
be they a lot or few.
You won't go to the postal clerk
so he can forward mail,
In fact, the things you've left down here
may be put up for sale.
I guess the thing this says to us
is that folks oughta' live
And not get too attached to stuff
but give, and give, and give,
So when St. Peter ope's the Gate
for you to go on through
You needn't hang your head in shame
when he calls out to you,
But you can greet him with a smile
and say you did your best
And if you've made your peace with God
He'll care for all the rest

Just Passing Through

Some years ago there was a song
that I still like a lot
That says this world is not our home
(and really it is not).
It says that we're just passing through,
and if you think it through
I think you will agree with me
because, my friend, it's true.
God makes us all to live down here
a little while you know
But that is not the end of us,
there's some place else to go.

And as I watch the rushing throng
I wonder can it be
They're only living for today
and not eternity?
It seems they work and work to buy
an awful lot of stuff,
No matter how much dough they have
it never seems enough.
I kinda' think the common folk
who serve both God and man
Live happy lives because they live
according to His plan.

This world is not their final home
so while they're passing through
They help the folks who need a lift
like Jesus told them to.
It's great to have a caring heart
that loves and can forgive
And there's no doubt about it
it's the only way to live.
And then when Jesus calls their name
they will no longer roam
Because they've just been passing through
to their eternal Home.

*The Lord is my shepherd. . . Surely
goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.
Psalm 23:1,6*

Nearer Home

Sometimes it seems when we get old
our parts don't work too good,
Our molehills seem like mountains,
so much bigger than they should.
E'en though the Doc has tuned us up
and listened to our chest
And talked with us and held our hand
and did his level best

To calm our nerves and ordered pills
to take away our pain
We find we can't convince ourselves
that we are young again.
And so we have to hunker down
in God's great love and care
And tell Him all our problems
and then just leave 'em there.

It's kinda' strange how we react
when old age settles in--
Some folks will get bent oughta' shape,
some take it on the chin.
But if you've made your peace with God
you need not stew nor fret
For every day we're nearer Home
and that's the best news yet!

Heaven-- Better Than You Can Imagine

I like to think of Heaven, folks,
and what its gonna' be,
I know we don't know much about
the things that we will see.

We love songs concerning Heaven
and how it will be great
We know for sure if God's involved
He has a big estate.

Today I read about that Place
in God's most Holy Book
And it's in First Corinthians
in case you want to look,

Then find verse nine of Chapter two—
it's there in black and white
And sure enough you'll get a glimpse
of what Heav'n might be like.

It says that Eye has never seen,
nor Ear has ever heard,
Nor could man ever visualize,
according to God's Word,

The things that He's prepared for those
who've made Him Lord and King
And if you do that very thing
your heart will hum and sing.

The Lord has made a special Place
for folks whose hearts are clean
And it's worth everything you've got
to make that heavenly scene.

So if you want to see that Place
that God has all fixed up
You've got to give Him all your heart
and let Him fill your cup.

Heaven's Extras

Now if there were no bills to pay,
no dreaded income tax,
And if our stuff would not break down
and we could just relax,
We just might think that we had died
and Heaven let us in
And we had joined the ranks up There
with all our kids and kin.

It sure would seem like Heaven
just to have no pain or stress
And things on earth would be passe--
like Paradise, no less.
But let me tell you, friend of mine,
though the above is true
There are lots of things awaiting us
when Heaven we will view.

We hear of angels, mansions bright,
and also streets of gold,
And gates of pearl, and precious stones,
at least that's what I'm told.
It seems that God must love us much
to add these extra things,
But best of all He'll give to us
a heart that hums and sings.

Thinkin' About Our Heavenly Home

Sometimes I kinda' muse about
what I think Heav'n will be;
I know I cannot picture it
as you will plainly see.
But things will be so different there
(and I am glad they will),
A lot of things we have down here
up there will just be nil.

I'm sure we won't need plumbers there
for what would those folks do?
The things God makes won't need repairs,
they'll always look brand new.
The doctors and the nurses, too,
will not a patient find,
For all the folks who live up there
are well, and none are blind.

Psychiatrists and counselors
will have no work to do,
For no one there will be depressed
and no one will be blue.
Mechanics will be out of work
for cars are there passe,
We won't need travel visas
for we're in that place to stay.

No global warming will take place,
No floods or famine there,
The streets of gold will ne'er erode
and be in disrepair.
No TV ads will rankle us,
no junk mail in our box,
And as there'll be no crime or sin
we'll have no need of locks.

No congress will convene up there,
for God will be in charge
And He knows how to run the Place
although it's super large.
Another thing I think is neat,
there'll be no monthly rent,
Nor will we have to pay a bill
AT&T has sent.

No self-help books are on the shelf;
No cash will needed be--
There'll be no need of earthly stuff,
we'll be completely free.
And this I often think about--
what will we do up there
For nothing will be breaking down
in need of quick repair.

Do you suppose we'll use our time
in fellowship and praise
And maybe even join a choir
and joyful voices raise?
It seems to me we'll have the time
to talk with friends we've known
And arm and arm stroll down a path
where flowers have been sown.

The Bible says we folks down here
don't know what Heav'n will be,
So we will have to bide our time
Till Jesus' face we see.
But one thing sure when I am done
with living here below
I'll trust in God with all my heart
so that's where I will go.

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning
or crying or pain, for the old order of
things have passed away. Revelation 21:4*

Release

The folk who go to Heaven
Having never suffered pain,
And life has been all sunshine
With no clouds or driving rain,

Will walk right through those pearly gates
Without a cane or crutch
May have a different feeling than
The ones who've suffered much.

It seems like those who've had much pain
And then find sweet release
Will have more joy when they get There
With health and perfect peace.

A New Tongue

When we get to Heaven I'm sure we will find
Our talk will be changed to a far different kind.

We won't say our usual, "How are you today?"
For when you feel good, there is much less to say.

You won't tell your neighbor you had a bad night,
Your back hurt so badly and you felt up tight.

The meds that you took didn't help you one bit,
You vowed then and there all that stuff you would quit.

And then you would tell how your car wouldn't start
When you finished shopping at Sears and Wal-Mart.

You might add a note that the weather's so hot
It saps all your strength--what little you've got.

The payments you have on your house and your car
Leaves little left over, and won't go too far.

Complaints, and the problems we have everyday
When we get to Heaven will there be passe.

So when you are There and are taking a walk,
You will not hear grumbling when you sit and talk.

We'll find a big change when we get to that Place
Where all are content with a smile on their face.

The Believers

Now some folks want power and some opt for fame;
They love to hear others their greatness proclaim.

They'd like a big statue of them on the square
With giant size photos around everywhere.

An eternal flame they would like on their grave
As if when they're dead they could hear people rave

About all their greatness, their charm, and their wit,
How they worked so hard and just never would quit.

But though they are lauded by men near and far
They must meet their Maker whoever they are.

It's not what folks say that determines man's fate.
God's mind isn't changed when they come to the Gate.

The ones who pass through are the ones who believe
In Christ as their Savior before earth they leave.

At the Gate

When we get up to Heaven
And St. Peter meets us There
He won't ask how far we've traveled
Before we walked the "stair."
He may not be too interested
In travelogues we give
Or ask about our house and car
And what we did to live.

I think what sparks his interest
Is the content of our heart
And what we did to help folks out
And if we did our part.
Forgiveness, faith, and love for God
Are music to his ears
Along with kindness, honesty,
And other things he hears.

He won't care if we are wealthy
Or have somehow come to fame
But he may check the Record Book
And search there for our name.
And if he finds we know the Lord
He'll open wide the Gate
And we'll see Jesus waiting there—
the Greatest of all the great.

Graduation Day

Some day you're going to "graduate"
from this old planet earth
So make sure it is with honors
and with lots of joy and mirth.
God likes us to be happy folks
and has a place prepared
Where everything is up to snuff
and won't need to be repaired.

If there are gondolas or cars
with which to move about
To see the sights of Heaven
and see what it's all about
They ne'er will be inside a shop
for a tune-up or a flat
For everything will be ship-shape—
and are we glad of that!

We'll need no keys to lock our place
for criminals won't be there
And there are things we'll want to see
when we walk that golden stair.
So while you're living on this earth
stand tall and live for God
So you'll be ready for that Place
when angels give their nod.

The Place to Go

I've mused quite a bit on what Heaven will be;
Some things will be missing I plainly can see.

No doctors or nurses will hang out a sign
For all the folks there will be feeling just fine.

No cancer, no shingles, arthritis, or cold,
Can make people sickly, no matter how old.

Attacks of angina will be done away,
And all types of illness will there be passe.

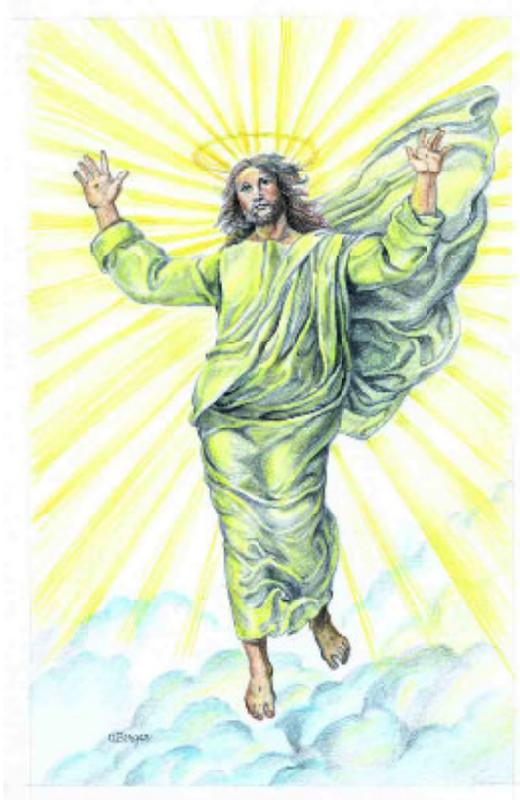
No wheelchairs, or crutches, or even a cane
Will thump on the streets for none there are in pain.

I've traveled around this old world quite a bit
And as of right now I'm not planning to quit.

But when I'm through travelin' I want you to know
That this is exactly where I want to go.

5

*Jesus Came
and is
Coming Again*





*This same Jesus, who has
been taken from you into
heaven, will come back in
the same way you have
seen him go into heaven.*

Acts 1:11

Rejoice and Sing

Don't let your heart be troubled, folks,
God still is on His Throne;
No matter where you are on earth
you never are alone.
He knows what you are doing
and He sees the falling tear,
Though you may think He's far away
please know that He is near.

Christ told us when He left this earth
that He'd be back some day
And folks who look for His return
don't think it's far away.
So let your heart be cheerful,
Rejoice and sing a song,
And keep your heart in readiness
in case it isn't long.

Looking For A City

I'm sure you know of Abraham
 who lived in days of old;
He owned a lot of livestock,
 plus much silver and much gold.
But one day God spoke to this man
 that he should move and go
To somewhere God had planned for him,
 but where, he didn't know.

But Abraham had faith in God,
 this news he took in stride
And if God said to pull up stakes
 he wouldn't run and hide.
He didn't sell his house, you know,
 for he lived in a tent;
They'd simply have to pack it up
 and take it where they went.

I'm sure it took a long, long time
 to pack up all his things—
His servants helped to move the stuff
 that being wealthy brings.
So it was quite a caravan
 on that old dusty road
Where all his beasts of burden
 walked beneath their heavy load.

Now Abraham, the friend of God,
 had something on his mind,
The Book of Hebrews says it best:
 he hoped that he could find
A city with foundations
 that were sure and very strong
And with God the Master Builder
 he knew nothing would be wrong.

And I am sure this sounded great
 for him to trade his tent
For something that his God prepared
 when he was old and spent.
God told him He would bless him
 and would make a nation strong—
They'd be as many as the stars
 that shine the whole night long.

God knew the plans He had for him
 and gave to him a son
Who would head up the Israelites
 before his work was done.
So by one man's obedience
 the Israelites came to be,
And Mary, who gave birth to Christ,
 was from that family tree.

Christmas Where?

I know Christmas is a busy time
for folks who live down here
For people do a lot of stuff
to spread some Christmas cheer.
The pageants and the caroling,
the shopping and the rest
Will kinda' stir some people up
so they will do their best.

And as I dwelt on this a tad
the thought occurred to me—
What happens up in Heaven
when we gather 'round OUR tree?
Will they have a celebration
and give gifts to Christ the King
While a choir of angels gather 'round
and praises to Him sing?

It's kinda' fun to ruminate
and wonder what's up There
Where things will be so different
when we walk that Golden Stair
And enter through those pearly Gates
where Jesus is the King,
It's then we'll thank Him He came down
and that's worth everything!

Watchin' and Waitin'

If you listen to the evening news
and find its mostly bad
Do you turn the noisy TV off
because it makes you sad?
Some folks might say, "Please stop the world,"
and then they add a line
That says, "if you will let me off
I'll get along just fine."

I know some folks live in the pits
and feel depressed and blue
When tough times kinda' gets their goat
and don't know what to do.
But when I think on this a tad
the thought occurs to me
That maybe folks should pray to God
and He will set them free.

The Lord is coming back someday
just like He promised us
So we should watch and wait for Him
without a lot of fuss.
Important things like Christ's return
should help us to look up
Because we know He checks to see
if we've an empty cup.

I've found that counting blessings
surely helps my heart a bunch
Another thing I think would help
(at least I have a hunch)
Is to help someone who's hurting bad
and brighten up his day
For that's a sure 'nough cure-all
that will chase the blues away.

Jesus Came . . . and Will Come Again

For many years the Israelites
 looked forward to Christ's birth,
The prophets told long years ago
 that He would come to earth.
Some may have thought they'd figured out
 quite how he would arrive
But when He came they knew Him not
 though He was quite alive.

 It didn't happen as they thought
 and so their hearts were dim
But angels told some shepherds
 to make haste and worship Him.
So after angels sang their song
 and took their upward flight
Those shepherds took off on the run
 on that most Holy Night.

The angels told them where to go
 to find that tiny Babe:
A stable with a manger
 was where Jesus Christ was laid.

The common folks and well-to-do
 had filled up every space,
And so the Keeper of the Inn
 gave them this humble Place.
I'm sure the folks who filled the Inn
 and roamed about that night
Knew not the King of kings was born
 by simple lantern light.

And who'd have thought this little Babe
would so important be
That He would change folks by His love
and really set them free.
Sometimes I think on this a bit—
how God pulled a surprise
Of how and where Christ would be born
'midst animals and flies.

Friends, Jesus Christ in coming back,
it could be night or noon
And many folks who love the Lord
hope that it will be soon.
It seems some folks have figured out
how they think this will be
But I would guess they'll be surprised
when Jesus' face they see.

I know the Bible gives some clues
of what will come to pass
Before He calls all Christians Home
and they will leave en masse.
But if our Lord comes differently
than some folks think He might
We'll find no matter how He comes
He'll really do it right.

What If?

If Jesus Christ had not been born
two thousand years ago
Our lives would be much different,
knowing not which way to go.
We wouldn't have a Christmas time
that comes around each year
Reminding us God gave His Son
to live with folks down here.

We wouldn't know that angels sang
to shepherds watching sheep
And told them where they'd find the Babe
which woke them from their sleep.
I wonder if they ran so fast
they hardly touched the ground
To find the manger where Christ lay—
with animals around.

To be the first to see the Babe
by angel's invitation
Would make a shepherd's heart to sing
in joyful jubilation.
They had no gifts to offer Him
but they were very smart;
They gave to Him the best they had.
They gave to Him their heart.

Then when the shepherds left that place
and went back to their flock
It's not hard to imagine
that excitedly they'd talk.
The angels, and the singing,
and the trip to Bethlehem,
And then to see the lovely Babe,
was all so new to them.

One thing the shepherds knew for sure
as they did homeward plod
Was that they'd never be the same—
for they'd been touched by God.

Luke 2:8-20

The King Is Coming

The King is coming, Christian friend,
it could well be today;
And folks all over planet earth
won't want to longer stay.
They'll hear the trumpet when it sounds
and rise right out of sight
And meet the Lord up in the air--
it could be day or night.

But this will be a special group
who'll hear that trumpet sound,
Its for the folks who know the Lord
whose feet will leave the ground.
They could be yellow, black, or red,
or even brown or white
Who'll be in that great company
that takes its final flight.

We needn't send our home address
to tell God where we are;
He has His eye on Snowbirds, too,
though they have traveled far.
So keep your heart in readiness;
your eye upon the sky,
King Jesus may soon come for us
to live with Him on High.

*And so we will be with the Lord forever.
, , , encourage each other with these words.
1 Thessalonians 4:17.18*

Resurrection Morning

I've been thinking about Easter
and the joy it brings us here
When millions celebrate the fact
of Easter time each year.
But have you thought about
that Resurrection morn
When Christ went back to Heaven--
did Gabriel blow his horn?

Were angels all alerted when
Christ Jesus would be back?
Was there someone in Heaven
who was scheduled to keep track
Of when He would return again
so they could celebrate
And give a royal welcome when He
walked in through the gate?

I'm sure Heaven rang with praises
on that holy day and grand,
But wonder if some shed a tear
when they felt His nail pierced hands?

The Trumpet Sound

I'm lookin' for the Lord, ya' know,
to come just any day
And when I hear the trumpet sound
I'm sure not gonna' stay.
I won't take time to gather stuff
that means a lot down here
For when I get to Heaven, folks,
it will be very clear

All needs will be provided,
we will walk on streets of gold,
And since we'll live eternally
we never will grow old.
I wonder why we folks on earth
will hoard a lot of stuff
As if we'd take a U-Haul
so in Heav'n we'd have enough.

Our finite minds can't comprehend
how awesome is our God--
We'll have to wait till Jesus comes
or angels give their nod.
So when I muse on this a bit
and kinda' think it through
It seems to me that if we're smart
we'd know what we should do.

Instead of hoarding bags of gold,
C.D.'s, and other stuff
Why not give joy to other folks
whose lives are mean and tough?
The happiest people on this globe
will spread their love around
And they'll not fear when Gabriel blows
that final trumpet sound.

The Return

The news that Jesus will return
just like He said He would,
Brings joy to every Christian's heart
and makes him feel so good.
Then things we've tried so hard to get
and stow away like cash
Will be so unimportant then
as if its only trash.

For if you're with the King of kings
where there is no more pain
And everything is light and good
a man would be insane
To choose to stay on planet earth
where greed and crime abound,
And not ascend with Christ on high
and hear a joyful sounds.

There will not be intensive care
nor any child abuse,
And wheelchairs There will be passe
and of no heavenly use.

No wonder Christians scan the sky
and often sing and hum
For just as Jesus went away
some day He's sure to come.

The Millennium

You've heard of the millennium
when Christ will rule and reign
And things will be quite different then
when He comes back again.
One nice thing that will happen
is that animals and such
Won't hassle one another
and won't be afraid to touch.
The king of beasts won't eat the lambs
but will together play,
And if a child plays with a snake
it's really quite okay.
The little creatures on the earth
won't run from eagle's claws,
And chickens scattered here and there
won't fear the fox's jaws.
And zoos will be so different, too,
with animals not wild
A group can be in one big place
accompanied by a child.
We'll have to change our thinking
and to put our fears away
For when Christ comes to rule the earth
'twill be a better day.

Only God

No one but God could make a plan
like for our Savior's birth
And have it orchestrated right
when He came down to earth.
The governor imposed a tax
that everyone must pay
So people were all hurrying
to get well on their way.

And Joseph led a donkey,
a lowly beast, ya' know,
To an Inn where they could spend the night
and then get up and go.
And Mary, who was great with child,
was anxious to lie down
And kinda' get a breather
in that sleepy little town.

To think the Inn was full that night
and with no place to go
They were allowed to spend the night
in a stable down below.
Of course you know the story well
that Christ was born that day
And Joseph filled a manger
with some nearby straw and hay.

No one who stayed inside the Inn
had offered them their room,
It seems they were too busy
with their own stuff, I presume.

I really like that shepherds
were the first to make it there
Because a choir of angels sang
and told them when and where
They'd find the place where Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, was born,
And sure enough they found the place
on that first Christmas morn.

God didn't send his Son, you know,
to folks who reeked with fame,
He sent Him to the common folks
who'd be so glad He came.
So if you're rich or if you're poor,
and have an empty cup
Just give your heart to Jesus Christ.
He'd love to fill it up.

Listening For the Trumpet

I wonder what you listen to
as you go through the day--
So many voices beckon us
to hear what they've to say.
We get bombarded every day
and may not pause to think
Above the level of the pans
that line the kitchen sink.
If you've no time to meditate
and think about good stuff,
Your brain could get an overload
and life might then be tough.

Christ Jesus, when He left this earth
two thousand years ago
Left word with His disciples
He was coming back, ya' know
He didn't give the day nor hour
when He'd return down here
But listen for that trumpet sound,
His coming my be near.

He's Coming Back as He Said

If you knew Christ would come again
at 2:00 p.m. today
Would you start mending fences,
or would you say "okay?"

He told us when He left this world
that He would come on back,
Some folks have read that in God's Book
but others have lost track.

But for the folks who know the Lord
their heart may skip a beat
For they have waited for the time
when Jesus they would meet.

I know it's hard to visualize
the greatness of that Day
When there will be no problems
and all tears are wiped away.

So if your heart's not ready
for Christ's imminent return
It might be smart to clean it up
and quickly to Him turn.

No other day on planet earth
will exceed that glorious Day
When Christian's feet will leave the ground
and be with Christ to stay.

The Real Christmas

Maybe some folks look for Christmas
inside a shopping mall
Where there are lots of things to buy
for both the large and small.
The merchants have their merchandise
all gussied up a bit
In hopes you'll buy a lot of stuff
before you up and quit.
You could look through a hundred stores
in search of special stuff
And have your shopping bags so full
it makes you huff and puff.

E'en though you've seen the ornaments
and tinsel strewn around
And thought you saw old Santa Claus
about to leave the ground
And get his reindeer and his sled
away up in the sky
It still would not be Christmas,
and I'll just tell you why:
You can't buy Christmas anywhere
though you check every mart--
The real Christmas comes to those
who have Christ in their heart.

Christmas

“How much farther is it, Joseph,
until we reach the Inn?
I’m kinda’ anxious to lay down
and get some rest again.”
And Joseph reassures her
that the Inn’s not far away
And they can get some good hot food
and then call it a day.

And so the donkey travels on
with Joseph by its side
And finally they reach the Inn
wheree doors are open wide.
A lot of folks were traveling
to pay their tax, ya’ know,
“The Inn is full,” the boss told him,
and this was quite a blow.

So Joseph said to Mary,
who was on the donkey’s back,
“We can stay in the stable
and it’s there we can unpack.”
So Mary, who was great with child,
gave birth that holy night
Among the animals and flies
and also lantern light.

I like it that some angels sang
to shepherds tending sheep
For they responded right away
when wakened from their sleep.
The angels clearly told them
that Jesus Christ was born
And where they'd surely find the place
on that most special morn.

I wonder what God's angels thought
when Jesus came to earth
And took on Him the form of flesh
with such a lowly birth.
God must have loved the folks down here
to give His only Son
And kept in touch with Him a lot
until His work was done.

Folks, Christmas is not ornaments
and tinsel on a tree
And shopping carts all full of stuff.
I think you will agree
That Jesus Christ would like a gift,
not from a shopping cart
But He'd think it was special
if you gave to Him your heart.

6

*The Best IS
Yet To Come*





They will be his people, and God Himself shall be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain Revelations 21: 3,4

Waiting at the Gate

Now when you go to heaven, friend,
and reach that Pearly Gate,
St Peter will not say to you,
“Now please sit down and wait,
I have some forms you must fill out
before you enter in,
I’ll get a pen and pencil now,
and then you can begin.

We’ll need to know your race and age,
your education, too.
What was your yearly income, friend,
on earth, what did you do?
I hope you thought to bring along
your forms of income tax,
We’ll need to know if you were poor
or lived life to the max.

Then write a page about yourself
explaining in detail
Why you feel you are eligible--
our rules, you know, prevail.
Please fill in all the empty blanks--
It’s really not that hard,
And when you’re finished with those forms
you’ll get your entrance card.”

I’m glad that when we leave this earth
and knock on Heaven’s Gate
We won’t be asked to fill out forms
and wait, and wait, and wait.
For Jesus came and gave His life
that we might ransomed be,
And if we’ve made our peace with God
Heaven welcomes you and me.

Better Up Ahead

We're not on earth forever, folks,
we're only here a while;
Each day we're nearer Home, you know,
and that should make us smile.
Especially on those tougher days
when things go wrong a lot
We kinda' have to grit our teeth
and give it all we've got.

And though we're tired of problems
that would try to do us wrong
We have a God who loves us
and can help restore our song.
If we set our dial on Heaven
and listen for awhile
There are some things that we will hear
that bring to us a smile.

Sometimes I like to reminisce
and think on Heaven a bit
And kinda' let my mind run free
as in my chair I sit.
Here's stuff that I've come up with
and it gives my point of view
And whether you agree with me
is really up to you.

No one will stop you on the street
and murmur and complain
How they could hardly sleep last night
because of so much pain.
They won't gripe about the weather
and how they shoveled snow
And now their back is killing them
because it hurts 'em so.

There won't be sirens in the night
to wake a fella' up,
Folks won't complain about the food
when they sit down to sup.
We won't be mowing lawn up there
or trimming hedge out back,
And we won't have to save receipts
in case we might lose track.

Depression there will be unknown,
we won't have income tax,
We won't have news of wars and crime.
We'll live life to the max.
I know some folks who think of death
are filled with fear and dread
But for the folks who know the Lord
IT'S BETTER UP AHEAD.

The Forgetters

I'm sure some people wonder why
some oldsters oft forget
A lot of unimportant things
and stuff they oughta' get.
I guess they do not realize
the brain inside their head
Has saved up lots of memories
and really is not dead.

I wonder, does it matter
if there's stuff they can't recall?
If they've lived eighty years or more
their brain can't hold it all.
The really most important thing
is memories they've saved up
And if they have a lot of love
and God has filled their cup.

So if they need to think a bit
on things they'd like to say
And though sometimes they goof things up
and might be in the way,
Remember, friend, they need your love,
encouragement, and more
For every day they watch and wait
for Heaven's open door.

Walkers

I have a sturdy walker
that goes everywhere with me
For if I didn't use it
I might fall and break my knee.
Although it slows me down a bit
my heart will not complain
Because if I fell down again
I'd have a lot of pain.

So I will count my blessings
for I have a lot to count
And every day that I'm alive
God gives the right amount.
The Good Book says that Christians
are the apple of God's eye
And that's as good as it can get
no matter how you try.

So thank God for your walker, folks,
though it may slow you up
It may be while you walk along
the Lord will fill your cup.
Remember when the angels call
to walk that Golden Stair
You'll leave your walker far behind--
it won't be needed There.

Running For The Gold

For hundreds of years folks have run for the gold
To win a fine medal to wear and to hold.

They practice and practice day in and day out.
There isn't much else they are thinking about.

Committed, determined, they go on their way
Just hoping and praying they'll make it some day.

It's much like the Christian who runs in life's race:
Committed, determined, to see that great Place

Where not just a medal of bronze or of gold
Is handed the winner, but this I've been told:

Rewards will be given to all who arrive
So send up your treasures while you're still alive.

Wings

I've thought about pilots and what they go through
To get silver wings to fly through the blue.

The study, the tests, and the practice it takes
To fly over mountains, and valleys and lakes,

And then smoothly land on a airstrip somewhere
Takes a lot of practice, precision, and care.

But then when at last he is given his wings
He knows the great joy that accomplishment brings.

It's kind of like people who live on this earth
Who hustle and strive for all they are worth

To make something good of the life they are given--
Improving each day for as long as they're livin'

And trusting in God that when this life is past
They'll make their last move up to Heaven at last.

They'll try to be faithful 'til that special day
When they'll get their wings and then just fly away.

Dear God,

Sometimes we get discouraged
And we feel that life is tough;
At times we have to ask you, Lord,
To give us grace enough
To handle pain and struggles
That just seem to come our way
And ask You if tomorrow
Could be better than today.

And Lord, You seem so far away
If we don't keep in touch,
We find that other things in life
Do not amount to much.
So take our hands again, dear Lord,
And overflow our cup,
We'll thank you for the strength You give
To keep us looking up.
We'll do our best to smile a bit
And even sing and hum;
We know full well You told us
That the BEST is yet to come.

Amen

*We have this hope as an
anchor for the soul, firm
and secure. Hebrews 5:19*

I Go To Prepare a Place for You

When Jesus left and went to Heaven
He said He would prepare
A special Place for Christians
Who do God's will with care
And let the love of God shine through
Their lives from day to day--
It sure must be a super Place
For He's still gone away.

And if it takes two thousand years,
Or maybe even more
To get the Place all up to par
With things He has in store
Like diamonds, sapphires, rubies, too,
Along with streets of gold,
Our minds cannot imagine
All the beauty we'll behold.

God made the earth so beautiful
We wonder, can it be
That Heaven will surpass all this?
We'll have to wait and see.
To have no problems plaguing us,
No pain or sorrow there,
It's truly out of this old world
And filled with heavenly fare

We'll see the folks we've read about
Like David with his sling
And Daniel in the lions den.
We'll hear angels when they sing.
Methuselah and Abraham
I'd really like to greet
And when we'll always be up There
I think we'll surely meet.

Remember Jesus told us
He'd prepare for us a Place
And when we do arrive up There
We'll see His lovely Face
And that will be the best of all
Of anything that's There
So get your heart in readiness
To walk that Golden Stair.

Heaven-- All Problems Disappear

I've never been to Heaven
But I hope to go some day
And when I reach that lovely Place
I'm sure I'll want to stay.
After living for a lot of years
Down here with toil and fear
It sure will be lots different
When all problems disappear.

We'll never have to phone in sick
Or have a tire go flat,
Or get a tune-up from the Doc,
Or walk the dog or cat.
We'll not get hit by hurricanes,
Tsunamis won't be There,
No families will be arguing,
There'll be no pain or care.

No one will be complaining
About how bad they feel
And how it almost wears 'em out
To just prepare a meal.
Your neighbors or your boss at work
Won't make you lose your smile
And if you find you need a nap
There'll be time to rest a while.

God is the CEO, you know,
And keeps things up to snuff,
He has a limitless supply
Of lots and lots of stuff.
It's hard for me to figure out
Why all folks don't prepare
And live for God down here on earth
So they can live up There.

*They will be his people, and God himself
shall be with them and be their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death or mourning
or crying or pain, for the old order of things
has passed away.
Revelation 21:3,4*

The Best is Yet to Come

Don't let your heart be troubled, friends,
for God is on His Throne,
No one can hide away from Him,
we're never left alone.
Sometimes the future may look bleak
and we're distressed and blue
But God is watching from above
and cares for me and you.
So when you think the world is bad
with no one in control,
God has His finger on the clock
and watches every soul.
And some day Jesus will return--
don't let your heart be numb,
For every heart that knows the Lord
the best is yet to come.

Rewards

It seems some folks will drop the names of well-known
folks, ya' know,
I guess it helps their ego if they mention so and so.
It's kinda' fun to run around with folk of famous name,
But spending time with commoners is truly not the same.

I wonder if you've noticed that when Jesus came to earth
He didn't come to famous folk, but had a lowly birth.
And when He grew to be a man his time was largely spent
In healing sick and crippled folks and asked folks to repent.

The Sadducees and Pharisees, the big shots of the day,
Were jealous of the things He did and things that He
would say.
But common folks, the Bible says, were glad to hear
Him speak,
He did a lot of miracles for the helpless and the weak.

I wonder if we'd feel more blest if we would help the poor
And maybe give a handout if some come to our back door.
A cup of just cold water if it's giv'n in Jesus' name
Will some day be rewarded, and we'll never be the same.

One We Can Trust

It seems the TV news we hear
are mostly pretty bad;
Sometimes we need some happy stuff
to cheer us up a tad.
With crime and lying so rampant,
who can a fella' trust?
It seems a person sees too much
of things that are unjust.

But one thing we are sure about
is God is fair and true
And all His books are up to date—
He knows us through and through.
So when we leave this world down here
and stand at Heaven's Gate
If Jesus is our Lord and King
we won't have long to wait.

Though times down here are sometimes mean
and maybe even tough
We'll find that God's unchanging love
is really quite enough
To see us through each day and hour
and help us make the climb
To see our Savior face to face
when we are through with time.

Books

There is a Book of Life, we're told,
that's kept right up to date,
And if I had to guess I'd say
it's somewhere near the g=Gate.
It lists the names of all the folks
who've made their peace with God,
And they can leave with confidence
when angels give their nod.

On earth there are a lot of folks
with names so all can see
In Guinness Book of Records,
or of folks of high degree.
There also are the Who's Who books
in heavy volumes, too
And these will tell of lot of things
important people do.

We may not see our names down here
in some big famous book,
It may be we've not made our mark
so folks would take a look;
But there's one place you want you name,
come early or come late,
It's in God's Book of Life, you know
that's just inside the Gate.

A New Body

We know that when we go to Heav'n
our bodies will be changed,
We realize with sickness gone
things will be rearranged.
No one will wear a hearing aid
or walk with cane or crutch
Trifocals will be out of date,
no sleeping pills we'll clutch.

Folks will not tell how bad they feel,
how lonely or depressed,
For all things will be different there
with living at its best.
So oft we wonder how we'll look
when we're on that fair shore;
The Bible gives us just a hint,
but really not much more.

It talks about a grain of wheat
when planted in the ground
Must die before it comes to life
with changes quite profound.
And what about the acorn
that will some day be a tree?
Until it dies it can't become
what it was meant to be.

And so I wonder, friend of mine,
 when Jesus calls our name
And we'll be raised in different form
 and won't look quite the same,
But like the acorn makes a tree
 or grain of corn a stalk
Our bodies will be glorified
 as well our walk and talk.
We really don't know more than this,
 we'll have to wait and see
But God has something great in mind
 for His big family tree.

Safety Deposit Boxes

A lot of folks down here on earth
Will rent a metal box
Where they can store their special stuff
Like bonds, CD's, and stocks.

Do you suppose they've thought about
The safest place of all?
Why, Heaven is the very place
To store your stuff, y'all.

Up there it never will burn up,
Be stolen, or get lost.
There are no hidden charges there
To add more to the cost.

So play it smart, send things ahead
To God's deposit box,
You'll find the interest paid in gold
For all your bonds and stocks.

“I’m Home”

I can recall long years ago
when school had been let out,
I’d hear our door swing open wide,
“I’m home!” I’d hear Bob shout.

I’ve often thought about the time
when I’ll no longer roam,
And I’ve walked through those Gates of Pearl
I’ll also shout, “I’m home!”

Up there I’ll never have to move,
which makes my heart to sing,
For I will be forever HOME
and that’s worth everything.