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A POETIC CHRISTMAS SERMON
Where Is He That Is Born The King Of The Jews?
By Duane V. Maxey

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INTRODUCTION

This file contains a Poetic Sermon arranged and used in the Christmas Service at Portland, Oregon Bible Missionary Church, Sunday Night, December 19, 1976. The material herein is also included in hdm1548, "A Potpourri Of Writings," that was published on December 21, 1999. However, herewith, I have decided to publish the Poetic Sermon and Service Arrangement by themselves in the HDM Library as hdm2499. Different from its presentation in hdm1548, I have decided to place the entire poem first, at the front of this publication, and then followed by the poem in the Service Arrangement. By those who peruse this entire file, it can be noted that I have presented the lines of the entire poem in verse couplets, whereas in the service arrangement groupings of poetic lines often include four or more lines to a part given to a

Sunday School child. I have presented the 98 lines of the entire poem in couplets as the best way to group the lines, other than by the assigned parts in the service arrangement.

Those who wish to use this poem and Christmas Service arrangement may do so, and may make printed copies of the same for that purpose. However, the poem and service arrangement may not be published at large without permission. It is my hope that the re-publication of the material at this time will be a blessing to all who read or use it. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, December 10, 2005.

* * * * *

01 -- THE ENTIRE POEM BY ITSELF

WHERE IS HE THAT IS BORN THE KING OF THE JEWS?

Since Christ was born in Bethlehem,
He has been sought, and found by some.

Where was He found while here on earth,
This Heavenly King of Noble birth?

Once He was found in a manger of hay,
Where wrapped in swaddling clothes He lay,

The King of the Jews, The Savior of men,
Was born in a stable, just outside the inn.

The Shepherds there found Him in humble repose,
The King of the Jews, in swaddling clothes.

Again, He was found beneath a bright star
By wise men who followed that light from afar.

"The star which they saw in the east went before,"
And guided their feet to just the right door.

He was found in the temple when just twelve years old.
"In the midst of the doctors" He sat, we are told.

His mother and Joseph had sought Him in vain,
Until they returned to the temple again.

He was found near the River of Jordan by two,
And one of these men was named Andrew.

The other was John, and soon there were more

Who found Him beside the Galilee shore.

He was found in a crowd; He was found by the sea;
He was found on the Jericho road one day.

He was found on the plain; He was found on the hill;
But, wherever the place, He was found in God's will.

He was found "in the morning, a great while before day"
He had gone to a solitary place to pray.

It was Simon, with others, who followed Him there.
The right place to seek was the place of prayer.

He was found at a feast in the Fall of the year
In the city of Jerusalem; they sought for Him there.

"In the last day" He stood, and spoke with great power,
As never a man had spoken before!

He was found in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Where He sweat drops of blood in great agony.

Betrayed by a friend, and found by His foes,
Deserted by all, the death-cup He chose.

He was found before Pilate, by the rulers accused,
He was found on the cross, THE KING OF THE JEWS!

Rejected of men, as sin before God,
To save a lost race, He shed His own blood.

He was found with the living; He rose from the dead,
Fulfilling God's word, just as He had said;

But where is the King of the Jews found today?
"I don't see him now anywhere," they will say.

He is found now in heaven, within the great veil,
He's ever the same; His years "shall not fail."

To make intercession, He liveth today.
A High Priest forever, for all who obey.

He is found with the humble, the two or the three,
Who seek Him in earnest, in humility.

He is found with the wise who will walk in the light,
Who will follow His Star that is guiding aright.

He is found in the temple by worshippers true,
Who assemble together the entire year through.

He is found on the plain, on the top of the hill,
But, wherever the place, he is found in God's will.

He is found in the solitary place of prayer
By the few who are faithful to follow Him there.

He is found in the message anointed with power,
As never the preacher has spoken before.

He is found in the garden of great agony
Where choices are made for eternity.

He is found on the cross, rejected of men,
By those who will bear the reproach of the same.

He is found with the living, who are born of His Word,
Who are quickened to life through the power of His Blood.

He is found now in heaven, but soon He will leave,
And return in the clouds, His own to receive.

The One Who was born the King of the Jews,
Who stood before Pilate, by rulers accused,

Who died on the cross, rejected of men,
Ascended to heaven, shall soon come again.

All Israel shall mourn, beholding His wounds,
Which He has received in the house of His friends.

A fountain for them shall be opened that day;
For sin and uncleanness shall be put away.

The names of their idols remembered no more,
And Jesus be King of the Jews evermore.

"The Lord shall be King over all of the earth,"
"His Name shall be one," the Name of His birth,

And ev-er-y tongue shall confess Jesus, Lord,
While every knee bows "to the glory of God."

With sin done away by the Lamb, or the Sword,
The bells shall ring "Holiness Unto The Lord."

The curse shall be gone while Holiness rings,
And Jesus shall reign the King of all Kings!

But now is the time accepted of God
To let Him be King and give Him abode.

Tomorrow rebellion shall all be put down
By the One Who was born in Bethlehem-town.

No room shall be found in the Heavenly-place
For those who made no room for Christ and His grace.

But "if any man hear," and will "open the door,"
The King will now enter, and dwell evermore.

"Where Is He That Is Born The King Of The Jews?"
He is found in the hearts of those who thus choose.

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02 -- THE POEM AS PRESENTED AT THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

As I now recall, I think that copies of the complete service in print were given to adults in the congregation, so that they could better follow along, even though the lights were dimmed. This printed copy of the service included just about everything: Scriptures, Poem Parts, and in the back of the printed copy were included even the Music and Words to the Songs.

A Clue Toward Following This Poetic Christmas Sermon: The Scripture Readings show various places that Jesus WAS FOUND when on earth, IS FOUND today, and SHALL BE FOUND in the great, coming Tomorrow, and a CLOSING ADMONITION. The 30 parts into which the poem is divided were recited by the Sunday School children and tell of the places where Jesus was, is, and shall be found, with Poem Parts #29 and #30 relating the Scriptures used in the Closing admonition.

The entire poem by itself is found at the end of this portion of the publication.

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THE OPENING OF THE SERVICE

SONGS #1 AND #2 BY THE CONGREGATION: -- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
and "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-2 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, WHERE IS HE that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

PRAYER

THE OFFERING

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INTRODUCTION TO THE POETIC CHRISTMAS SERMON

(Call Forward to the Platform: Ricky Thurman, Jim Schoebel and Ron Helgerson.)

Comments by the pastor, giving the Title and explaining that the Sunday School children will participate with the pastor in giving the sermon by reciting successive parts of the poem when called upon.

(Overhead Lights Out)

POEM PART #1 --- Recited by Ricky Thurman

Since Christ was born in Bethlehem,
He has been sought, and found by some.
Where was He found while here on earth,
This Heavenly King of Noble birth?

* * *

SERMON DIVISION I -- WHERE WAS HE FOUND WHILE HERE ON EARTH?

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 2:8-16 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this

thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

POEM PART #2 -- Recited by Jim Schoebel

Once He was found in a manger of hay,
Where wrapped in swaddling clothes He lay,
The King of the Jews, The Savior of men,
Was born in a stable, just outside the inn.
The Shepherds there found Him in humble repose,
The King of the Jews, in swaddling clothes.

SONGS #3 AND #4 BY THE CONGREGATION: "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night"

POEM PART #3 -- Recited by Ron Helgerson

Again, He was found beneath a bright star
By wise men who followed that light from afar.
"The star which they saw in the east went before,"
And guided their feet to just the right door.

SONG #5 BY THE CONGREGATION: "The First Noel" (Call Tammy Drennen, Terry Helgerson, Scott Johnson, Loretta & Louise Lanz)

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 2:42-49 "And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

POEM PART #4 -- Recited by Tammy Drennen

He was found in the temple when just twelve years old.
"In the midst of the doctors" He sat, we are told.
His mother and Joseph had sought Him in vain,
Until they returned to the temple again.

SONG #6: "In The Temple" by Jim Schoebel

POEM PART #5 -- by Tammy Drennen

He was found near the River of Jordan by two,
And one of these men was named Andrew.
The other was John, and soon there were more
Who found Him beside the Galilee shore.

SONG #7: -- "Jesus, Wonderful Lord" by Loretta and Louise Lanz

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Mark 3:32-33 "And THE MULTITUDE sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. 33 And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren?"

John 6:24-25 "When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. 25 And when THEY had FOUND HIM on the other side of THE SEA, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?"

Luke 19:1-5 "And Jesus entered and PASSED THROUGH JERICHO. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house."

Luke 6:17-19 "And he came down with them, and stood in THE PLAIN, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; 18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all."

Luke 9:28 "And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into A MOUNTAIN to pray... 36 And when the voice was past, JESUS WAS FOUND alone. And they kept it close, and told no man in those days any of those things which they had seen."

POEM PART #6 -- by Terry Helgren

He was found in a crowd; He was found by the sea;
He was found on the Jericho road one day.

POEM PART #7 -- by Scott Johnson

He was found on the plain; He was found on the hill;

But, wherever the place, He was found in God's will.

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Mark 1:35-37 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee."

POEM PART #8 -- by Sonny Schoebel

He was found "in the morning, a great while before day"
He had gone to a solitary place to pray.
It was Simon, with others, who followed Him there.
The right place to seek was the place of prayer.

SONG #8: -- "Teach Me To Pray" by Norma Kennedy

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 7:2 "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand." -- John 7:11 "Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he?" -- John 7:37 "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." -- John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."

POEM PART #9 -- by Tony Melius

He was found at a feast in the Fall of the year
In the city of Jerusalem; they sought for Him there.
"In the last day" He stood, and spoke with great power,
As never a man had spoken before!

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 18:4-8 "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. 7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:"

POEM PART #10 -- by Tony Melius

He was found in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Where He sweat drops of blood in great agony.
Betrayed by a friend, and found by His foes,
Deserted by all, the death-cup He chose.

SCRIPTURE READING: -- Luke 23:1-3 "And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. 3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou

sayest it." -- Luke 23:38 "And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

POEM PART #11 -- by Scott Charlson

He was found before Pilate, by the rulers accused,
He was found on the cross, THE KING OF THE JEWS!
Rejected of men, as sin before God,
To save a lost race, He shed His own blood.

SONGS #9 AND #10 -- "Alone" and "A Crown of Thorns" by the pastor

(Call Barbara Melius, Jim Schoebel, Michelle Helgerson, John Sullivan)

SCRIPTURE READING: -- John 20:15-16 "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master."

POEM PART #12 -- by Barbara Melius

He was found with the living; He rose from the dead,
Fulfilling God's word, just as He had said;

POEM PART #13 -- by Barbara Melius

But where is the King of the Jews found today?
"I don't see him now anywhere," they will say.

* * *

SERMON DIVISION II -- WHERE IS THE KING OF THE JEWS FOUND TODAY?

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrews 1:11-12 "They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

Hebrews 5:6 "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

POEM PART #14 -- by Jim Schoebel

He is found now in heaven, within the great veil,
He's ever the same; His years "shall not fail."
To make intercession, He liveth today.
A High Priest forever, for all who obey.

POEM PART #15 -- by Michelle Helgerson

He is found with the humble, the two or the three,
Who seek Him in earnest, in humility.

JESUS' HUMBLE LIFE IN THIS WORLD, described in the little sketch, ONE SOLITARY LIFE: -- He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE. -- Author not known to DVM

POEM PART #16 -- by John Sullivan

He is found with the wise who will walk in the light,
Who will follow His Star that is guiding aright.

[GOD'S WORD -- HIS STAR OF GUIDANCE -- NEEDED BUT NEGLECTED]

A minister was once asked unexpectedly to conduct a service in a country home. He called for a Bible, but none could be found. At last, however, they found one in an old sea chest in the attic. On the outside of the chest were the words: "Not Wanted For The Voyage."

POEM PART #17 -- by D'Lisa Botel

He is found in the temple by worshippers true,
Who assemble together the entire year through.

A father once told his son that he was going to take him to visit the country church he used to attend as a boy, and where he often rang the bell to call the people to the house of God for worship. So, he took his son out to the old country church, but great was their disappointment when they found the old church-building locked and deserted. Looking through a window they could see the long bell rope. The father managed to borrow a key, and opened the door. The little son looked up into his father's face and eagerly exclaimed, "FATHER, RING IT AGAIN! RING IT AGAIN! So, once again the old church bell rang out. Made curious by hearing the old church bell ring again, people came from far and near to see what was the matter. He told them what the church had meant to him in his boyhood, and with his help the old church was re-opened for worship.

While simply going to church will not get anyone to heaven, could it not be that if some mothers and fathers would return to the old-fashioned church of their childhood, much more eternal good could be wrought in their own hearts and lives, and in the hearts and lives of their children?

POEM PART #18 -- by Derek Botel

He is found on the plain, on the top of the hill,
But, wherever the place, he is found in God's will.

POEM PART #19 -- by Shawn Bratcher

He is found in the solitary place of prayer
By the few who are faithful to follow Him there.

POEM PART #20 -- by Matthew Hodgkin

He is found in the message anointed with power,
As never the preacher has spoken before.

POEM PART #21 -- by Sonny Schoebel

He is found in the garden of great agony
Where choices are made for eternity.

POEM PART #22 -- by Tammy Drennen

He is found on the cross, rejected of men,
By those who will bear the reproach of the same.

POEM PART #23 -- by Scott Johnson

He is found with the living, who are born of His Word,
Who are quickened to life through the power of His Blood.

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SERMON DIVISION III -- WHERE WILL THE KING OF THE JEWS BE FOUND TOMORROW?

(Call Scott Charlson, Mark Haffey, Cindy Sullivan, Tracy Morgan)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

POEM PART #24 -- by Scott Charlson

He is found now in heaven, but soon He will leave,
And return in the clouds, His own to receive.

SONG #11 -- "Are You Watching For His Star?" by Loretta and Louise Lanz

POEM PART #25 -- by Scott Charlson

The One Who was born the King of the Jews,
Who stood before Pilate, by rulers accused,
Who died on the cross, rejected of men,
Ascended to heaven, shall soon come again.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Zechariah 13:1 "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

Zechariah 13:6 "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."

POEM PART #26 -- by Scott Charlson

All Israel shall mourn, beholding His wounds,

Which He has received in the house of His friends.
A fountain for them shall be opened that day;
For sin and uncleanness shall be put away.

(Overhead Lights On)

SONG #12 -- by the Congregation: "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 13:2 "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land."

Zechariah 14:9 "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one."

Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"

POEM PART #27 -- by Cindy Sullivan

The names of their idols remembered no more,
And Jesus be King of the Jews evermore.
"The Lord shall be King over all of the earth,"
"His Name shall be one," the Name of His birth,
And ev-er-y tongue shall confess Jesus, Lord,
While every knee bows "to the glory of God."

SONG #13 -- by the Congregation: "Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious" (Verses 1)

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Zechariah 14:20 "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar."

Revelation 19:15-16 "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

POEM PART #28 -- by Tracy Morgan

With sin done away by the Lamb, or the Sword,
The bells shall ring "Holiness Unto The Lord."
The curse shall be gone while Holiness rings,

And Jesus shall reign the King of all Kings!

SONG #13 -- by the Congregation: "Look Ye Saints, The Sight is Glorious" (Verses 2-3)

SERMON DIVISION IV -- THE CONCLUSION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 6:2 "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

Revelation 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

POEM PART #29 -- by Tracy Morgan

But now is the time accepted of God
To let Him be King and give Him abode.
Tomorrow rebellion shall all be put down
By the One Who was born in Bethlehem-town.
No room shall be found in the Heavenly-place
For those who made no room for Christ and His grace.

POEM PART #30 -- by Tracy Morgan

But "if any man hear," and will "open the door,"
The King will now enter, and dwell evermore.
"Where Is He That Is Born The King Of The Jews?"
He is found in the hearts of those who thus choose.

THE CLOSING OF THE SERVICE

SONG #14 -- by the Congregation: "Joy to the World"

THE CLOSING PRAYER

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THE END