



The 12 Days of Christmas: The Story Behind a Favorite Christmas Song (Traditions of Faith from Around the World)

By Helen C. Haidle

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Discover the Christian truth concealed in the familiar carol The 12 Days of Christmas. In this beautifully illustrated book, you'll learn the history of the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6th) and the commemoration of the gifts given on each day. The story is told that during a time when the Church of England forbid any teaching of Christ other than their own, many parents who refused to join the church also used the song to teach their children in secret. Now you and your child, age four to eight, can uncover the meaning of this beloved song as you learn the wonderful story of Christ redemption for all of us. Through imaginative and innovative products, Zonderkidz is feeding young souls.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Helen Haidle is an award-winning author of more than 30 children's books including *What Would Jesus Do?*, *What Did Jesus Promise?*, and *He is Alive*. She lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband David.

Laura Knorr is a freelance illustrator who received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Ringling School of Art and Design. This is her second children's book. Laura lives in Commerce, Georgia, with her husband, five cats, and Charlie the dog.

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Introduction Because God speaks to us through the Scriptures, studying them is a rewarding experience. The inspired human authors of the Bible, as well as those to whom the words were originally given, were primarily Jews living in the Near East. God's words and actions spoke to them with such power, clarity, and purpose that they wrote them down and carefully preserved them as an authoritative body of literature. God's use of human servants in revealing Himself resulted in writings that clearly bear the stamp of time and place. The message of the Scriptures is, of course, eternal and unchanging — but the circumstances and conditions of the people of the Bible are unique to their times. Consequently, we most clearly understand God's truth when we know the cultural context within which He spoke and acted and the perception of the people with whom He communicated. This does not mean that God's revelation is unclear if we don't know the cultural context. Rather, by learning how to think and approach life as Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Esther, and Paul did, modern Christians will deepen their appreciation of God's Word. To fully apply the message of the Bible, we must enter the world of the Hebrews and familiarize ourselves with their culture. That is the purpose of this study. The events and characters of the Bible are presented in their original settings. Although the videos offer the latest archaeological research, this series is not intended to be a definitive cultural and geographical study of the lands of the Bible. No original scientific discoveries are revealed here. The purpose of this study is to help us better understand God's revealed mission for our lives by enabling us to hear and see His words in their original context. Understanding the World of the Hebrews More than 3,800 years ago, God spoke to His servant Abraham: "Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you" (Genesis 13:17). From the outset, God's choice of a Hebrew nomad to begin His plan of salvation (that is still unfolding) was linked to the selection of a specific land where His redemptive work would begin. The nature of God's covenant relationship with His people demanded a place where their faith could be exercised and displayed to all nations so that the world would know of Yahweh, the true and faithful God. God showed the same care in preparing a land for His chosen people as He did in preparing a people to live in that land. For us to fully understand God's plan and purpose for His people, we must first understand the nature of the place He selected for them. By New Testament times, the Jewish people had been removed from the Promised Land by the Babylonians due to Israel's failure to live obediently before God (Jeremiah 25:4 – 11).

The exile lasted seventy years, but its impact upon God's people was astounding. New patterns of worship developed, and scribes and experts in God's law shaped the new commitment to be faithful to Him. The prophets predicted the appearance of a Messiah like King David who would revive the kingdom of the Hebrew people. But the Promised Land was now home to many other groups of people whose religious practices, moral values, and lifestyles conflicted with those of the Jews. Living as God's witnesses took on added difficulty as Greek, Roman, and Samaritan worldviews mingled with that of the Israelites. The Promised Land was divided between kings and governors, usually under the authority of one foreign empire or another. But the mission of God's people did not change. They were still to live so that the world would know that their God was the true God. And the land continued to provide them opportunity to encounter the world that desperately needed to know this reality. The Promised Land was the arena within which God's people were to serve Him faithfully as the world watched. The land God chose for His people was on the crossroads of the world. A major trade route, the Via Maris, ran through it. God intended for the Israelites to take control of the cities along this route and thereby exert influence on the nations around them. Through their righteous living, the Hebrews were to reveal the one true God, Yahweh, to the world. They failed to accomplish this mission, however, because of their unfaithfulness. Western Christianity tends to spiritualize the concept of the Promised Land as it is presented in the Bible. Instead of seeing it as a crossroads from which to influence the world, modern Christians view it as a distant, heavenly city, a glorious "Canaan" toward which we are traveling as we ignore the world around us. We are focused on the destination, not the journey. We have unconsciously separated our walk with God from our responsibility to the world in which He has placed us. In one sense, our earthly experience is simply preparation for an eternity in the "promised land." Preoccupation with this idea, however, distorts the mission God has set for us. Living by faith is not a vague, otherworldly experience; rather, it is being faithful to God right now, in the place and time in which He has put us. This truth is emphasized by God's choice of Canaan, a crossroads of the ancient world, as the Promised Land for the Israelites. God wants His people to be in the game, not on the bench. Our mission, as Christians today, is the same one He gave to the Israelites. We are to live obediently within the world so that through us the world may know that our God is the one true God.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Rideout:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled *The 12 Days of Christmas: The Story Behind a Favorite Christmas Song (Traditions of Faith from Around the World)* can be good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

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Shawn Clay:

The book untitled The 12 Days of Christmas: The Story Behind a Favorite Christmas Song (Traditions of Faith from Around the World) contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your ex idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official website and order it. Have a nice learn.

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