

Christ Fulfills Our Longings

Longing for the King – Crossroads Advent 2009

December 27, 2009 – Mark Bickel

- **Light White Candle** - Christ

- **Passage:** Birth Narrative: Matt. 2

- **Mediations on Christmas**

(note: tonight various meditations on Christmas ... You will have time to share as well)

- **Discussion:** How do you see Christ fulfill OT promises of Messiah
- **Unexpected Fulfillment:**
 - **“King”** – sets up great kingdom, but also demands subjection
 - **Matt 10:32-39** - Not peace but sword (not physical sword to kill, but divide family ... Hate family, self and take up cross to be disciple)
 - **Matt 5:43-48** - Love as God/Christ giving life, love enemy
 - **Matt 6:19-24** - Joy from not store treasure in this life
 - **Matt 19:28-30** - Hope for eternity
- **God’s “Longing” for Us:** OT full of God longing to save/ change people
- ***“He Made a Way in a Manger”***

Longing for a Savior
A hopeless world would wait
Sin demanded justice
At a price we could not pay;
But God displayed his mercy
The greatest gift of love
When we could not reach heaven
Heaven came to us.

Chorus:

*He made a way in a manger
A way to the cross
Messiah the promised
Before time had begun;
For God so loved this world
Though he knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross.*

In Bethlehem a stable
Became a throne of grace
As God himself our Savior
Drew near to take our place;
His mother smiled in wonder
As shepherds stood in awe
The sacrifice of heaven
Lay sleeping in the straw.

Bridge:

*He is the life that died our death
The precious Lord Jesus
Laid down his sweet head.*

Chorus:

*He made a way in a manger
A way to the cross
Messiah, the promised
Before time had begun;
For God so loved this world
Though He knew what love would cost
He made a way in a manger
To make a way to the cross.*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

"He Made A Way In A Manger" is by Lee Black and Steve Merkel. This song has been performed by Candi Pearson Shelton in the album, Shout Praises.

- **Discussion:** As you have been reading, singing, mediating this advent, any other thoughts God has brought to your heart you would like share
- **“Glory to God”:**
 - **Luke 2:14** – Glory to God in the highest
 - not just ‘for us’ – for God’s glory, huge benefit to us
- **Pray** (*class pray, thanking Christ, coming to him anew*)