

# Merry CHRISTmas!

A beautiful gift to yourself would be to enjoy some relaxing instrumental Christmas hymns by Ava Lee this season as background music on your computer or on your smart phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TdgLS99Nsc>

While listening, I found myself returning to the beautiful background scene of a moonlit evening snowfall because it instills a calm, peaceful, relaxing mood of reflection, **feeling God's holy nudge, gently and quietly beckoning me to rest in Him and His promises this Christmas season.** He's calling me to bask in the beauty of this promised miracle baby that *grew in favor with God and man*. He's leading me in holy moments of worship to Jesus, this promised Messiah *Emmanuel, God with us*. He's reminding me that Jesus suffered the full range of the hardships of life in this fallen world so you and I could escape suffering for eternity. It's a treasured and intimate encounter for those who have placed their faith in the miracle of this baby Jesus who came from Heaven to earth to restore the Way back to a holy God for unholy sinners such as us. And then the climatic promise of eternal life with God:

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

In a world of empty promises, God is our promise-keeper. Only *He* has a perfect track record. From Genesis to Revelation, we can count on every single one of His hundreds of promises that have been, or are still yet to be, fulfilled. From His promises to His beloved Israel by whom the Messiah came, to His mercies that extend to the Gentiles who know Him and fear Him, to His promises associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus - not one will go unfulfilled.

Like the magi following the star, wise men still seek Him. May we pursue King Jesus wholeheartedly, daily presenting Him our gifts and our allegiance in anticipation of His return.

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