

P O E M S

by the Vice & Virtue class of 2009



Typeset using L^AT_EX in 12-point URW Garamond.

Walter Publication D/7

February 2009

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The Birth of the Savior

By James Callahan

To Mary the maid from Nazareth
An angel from on high appeared
And announced the coming of a babe.
She heard this news and greatly feared.

The angel said to her, "Fear not!
You will conceive this very babe,
Who will take away the sins of men
And sit at the right hand of God.

Down in the manger was God's great Gift,
The gift promised to Abraham—
Spoken of by the prophets,
Freely given to save the world.

Three magi came from far lands
To worship a King greater than they;
They followed the star to the cave
And saw the holy family.

People had waited for thousands of years
For a savior to save the world:
Jesus was that savior. He had come
As a baby wrapped in rags.

Christ's Birth

By Theresa Dierkes

A light—a breath—the angel bright:
The earth, it waits in quiet still
For Mary's "yes" to God that night
In surrender to his holy will.

To Judea Mary went
To see her cousin dear;
To help was her intent,
John's birth so very near.

The census brought them there
To Bethlehem that night;
A stable they did share
While she bore the light.

The shepherds came that night
To see the Saving One;
The glory in their sight
Was God's humble Son.

Invited by a special star,
The wise men now did run;
They were from distant lands afar,
But came to see God's Only One.

The Great Flood

By Grace Fernandez

Men were evil during those days.
They fought and hit with their hands;
Only Noah respected God's ways.
So God said, "I'll flood the lands."

God told Noah to build an ark
Higher than a church's steeple.
Noah built it from morning till dark
While bearing the mocks of the people.

The animals came two by two,
Fur coats and feathers galore;
Some said "caw" and some said "moo,"
And then God shut the door.

Then it rained forty days and nights,
Knocking down idols and walls;
The water rose to great heights
And covered the mountains tall.

Then God suddenly stopped the flood
And sealed a promise with a rainbow.
"Never again will I make the earth mud.
Set all the animals free and go."

Joseph and His Brothers

By Lily Fitzgibbons

Old Jacob son of Isaac bore twelve sons;
He loved the dreamer Joseph most of all.
“Let him be killed!” his brothers said at once.
The cruel brothers sold him as a thrall.

In Egypt Joseph was bought as a slave.
The master’s wife told a terrible lie.
To prison he went, but he was true and brave;
He solved Pharaoh’s dream and was raised high.

Many people came to Egypt for wheat;
Jacob sent ten of his sons for some food.
Joseph and his guilty brothers did meet;
Happy, sad, angry, wavered Joseph’s mood.

“Return home,” he said; “put Simeon in jail.”
In time his brothers came back for more grain.
They brought the youngest: they could not fail.
Joseph tested them; his heart felt great pain.

“Be not afraid, brothers; come near to me.
My presence here kept us from starvation.
Come live with me; now Simeon is free.
God allowed your betrayal for our preservation.”

The Perfect Sacrifice

By Nicholas Kane

He lived two thousand years ago.
A perfect man and lord was he:
Nor vice nor sin was in his heart;
His holy life was heaven's key.

The noonday sun shut off as he
Was dying on the cross in pain.
The curtain in God's house was torn;
That gave his sheep a way to heaven.

Among the crowd a stranger stood.
He watched the sky, the cross, the crowd
Who beat their chests in victory;
His heart was changed and praised the Lord.

The tomb was bare before the Lord
Was wrapped in cloth and rested there.
The women wept as he was laid.
The Sabbath day was coming near.

The third day came—the women too,
And readied the fragrant spices for him.
But Jesus rose, no longer dead;
He forgave us all our sins.

Daniel in the Den of Lions

By William Kocher

There was a man in days of old;
His king Darius he faithfully served.
His name was Daniel, of Hebrew birth—
A favorite at court, some others observed.

The princes and Darius made a decree:
“He that prayeth to any but me
Must into the den of lions be cast.”
But Daniel three times a day prayed he.

Then these men assembled and said,
“O king, didst thou not sign a decree
That he that prayeth to any but thee
The lions’ dinner soon shall be?”

So Daniel to the den was sent,
And to the lions he was cast;
But Daniel was Darius’ friend,
And all night long the king did fast.

But God did close the lions’ mouths;
His faithful servant’s life he spared,
And early when Darius came
He saw how much the Savior cared.

Daniel in the Lions' Den

By Grace Mox

The princes find no fault with Dan.
They ask the king to make a law:
“You cannot pray to God or man—
Else be devoured by lion’s jaw!”

But Daniel prays to God on high
Just as he did each day before.
The princes come and tell the king;
The law is sealed forevermore.

Into the lions’ den was cast
This meek and holy man of old.
The lions yawned—the lions roared—
But Daniel still was brave and bold.

Awake all night, the king arose.
To Daniel he did run and say,
“Your God—has he delivered you?”
— “Oh yes, dear king, I’m here today!”

Extremely glad to see his friend,
The humble king made this decree:
“Before the sovereign living God,
All people, fear and bend the knee!”

Canute

By Sidarth Nama

Canute was a mighty Dane
Who filled people's hearts with fear;
All his victories made him vain
Until at him the sea would sneer.

At first he displayed so much vice,
But then the years kept rolling by.
He slowly mellowed, became nice—
Now he wouldn't hurt a fly!

They praised the king like he was God.
But how to make them realize
That he was not of everything Lord,
And change his image in their eyes?

Canute commanded the sea, "Be still!"
But the frisky ocean did not obey;
It washed ashore its floating krill
To the eager subjects' dismay.

They all soon saw very clearly
That King Canute was not so great:
He was but a human merely;
Him like God they mustn't rate.

Daniel

By John Paul Stevens

The king loved Daniel heartily
And gave him power over all.
The satraps, filled with jealousy,
Did plot with rage to make him fall.

They got the king to sign a law:
“You cannot worship anyone
But Darius.” The satraps saw
That Daniel prayed to God a ton.

What Daniel did they told the king,
Then threw him in the lion’s den.
To God did faithful Daniel cling,
Who sent an angel to him then.

The king did not sleep sound that night.
At dawn he rushed to Daniel’s cell
And saw a most peculiar sight
For Daniel was somehow still well!

The angel shut the lion’s maw,
And so the king in thanks decreed
That all men should obey his law
To worship God in word and deed.

Queen Esther

By Elsa Pearl Walter

King Xerxes chose himself a queen;
Esther was her name.
She was a Jew—her people too;
Her uncle was the same.

Haman was the king's chief servant;
The Jews he wanted to kill.
The brave Queen Esther saved her people
Because it was God's will.

Haman was a bad, proud servant:
He wanted to be bowed to,
But Queen Esther's uncle wouldn't
Because he was a Jew.

With courage Esther risked her life
To save her people dear;
She went before King Xerxes' throne
And begged the king to hear.

Fairly Haman had been hanged
For the things he had done so bad;
Mordecai was made chief servant,
And everyone was glad.