## CAROLS

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the dawn, more than watchmen wait for the dawn.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: And I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

### Waiting

#### The Psychology of Waiting

#### Undefined Waiting

Unexplained Waiting

Unfair Waiting

Uncomfortable Waiting

The story of Christmas begins with a promise that would require faith to believe it but would result in hope as you wait for it.

# The story of Israel's waiting for Christmas is the *back* story to *the* story of Christmas.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the dawn, more than watchmen wait for the dawn.

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

#### ...kings will come from you.

Genesis 17:6 ESV

...I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth...

When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.

He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

### Jerusalem destroyed 586 B.C.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:7 NIV

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and 

Isaiah 9:8 NIV

...I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

## Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3 NIV

My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

Malachi 1:11 NIV

For no word from God will ever fail.

# God may delay in keeping his promises but God never fails to keep his promises.

# We trust in His promise, we hope for his promise, and we wait on his promise.

God's promises are a portrait of our future.

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

### God's promises give us hope for how things will be in the future despite how bad things might be in the present.