

# WHAT'S IN A SONG?

By Sally Campbell



## Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

English Translation by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Es Ist Ein Ros (German 15<sup>th</sup> c)

(CCLI Lic#1302488)

It is an ancient song, by 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. I've always felt that one of the downfalls of this century is that we have widened the gap between ourselves and our roots. This carol is rarely covered in our commercial Christmas season, and rarely heard outside of liturgical churches. When I consider the words, I find it is one of those one-stop shopping songs that captures the whole point of our Advent celebrations; a chance to remember why.

It's important to remember that Jesus came out of a lineage that went back to King David (Jesse's son), and further back to Abraham who was promised that salvation for all people would come out of his blood line. Even though God called Abraham out of the land of Ur, of the Chaldeans, his lineage goes back to Adam. Remember Adam? Through him sin entered the world.<sup>1</sup> So, through centuries of chaos and dysfunction, a Saviour came. A promise to make a way out of the darkness of oppression, hatred, deceit, and malicious intent that forms the world we live in. A way promised by a covenant between God and himself, since the previous covenants between God and his people were all broken by his people.<sup>2</sup>

So we remember that on a lonely night in ancient Palestine, God came down in the form of a baby.<sup>3</sup> He was on a mission to bring us salvation. Some have said that it was God attempting to fix a big cosmic mistake; the plan went terribly wrong and God was scrambling to make it right again. That line of thinking would suggest a God that got caught off guard. If this is the case, a fair question can be asked; *what is the point in believing?* Why place your faith in a God that can be blindsided? In fact, it was an excellent mission that would model kindness, parental love, love for each other and ultimately the love of a God who would provide his people a way back to their true inheritance. Jesus came to teach us stuff. We should probably pay attention 😊.

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as those of old have sung ...

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air  
Dispels with glorious splendour the darkness everywhere

True man, yet very God. From sin and death, he saved us  
And lightens every load

1. Genesis 3:1-24

2. Hebrews 8:7-12

3. Luke 2:6-7