

heaven's perfect Lamb! Then, *as John was baptizing at the Jordan and saw Jesus coming toward him he said:* ^{NAS} **John 1:29** ...“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” That is *who Jesus is and what He did!* The Bible says: ^{NAS} **1 John 1:7** “...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” **Let us worship heaven's perfect Lamb!**

4. **Line 14:** **This sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.** ^{NIV} **Exodus 3:14** God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” **Then, in Gethsemane:** ^{NIV} **John 18:4** Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked the soldiers who had come to arrest Him, “Who is it you want?” ⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” [literally, “I AM”] Jesus said... ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” [literally, “I AM”] they drew back and fell to the ground. **JESUS IS “the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God” (Nicene Creed) and so much more!**

Conclusion: Therefore, let us → be sorry for our sins, → receive Him as our only Savior, → live for Him every day, → share Him with others, and → celebrate a Christ-centered Christmas! And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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“Mary, Did You Know?”

Part 3 of 3

Based on the Contemporary Hymn by the Same Name

Lyrics: *Mark Lowry* Music: *Buddy Green*

3rd Wednesday of Advent – 2010

December 15 → 11:00 & 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, in this *final* part of our series – *Mary, Did You Know* – we will try to better understand **the perspective of Mary**, by matching hymn lyrics with Bible passages. May God work through this series to ✦ grow our confidence in our Savior, ✦ equip us to reach out to others, and ✦ prepare us to celebrate a Christ-centered Christmas!

More Mark Lowry Information: As stated in earlier sermons, Mark *began singing as a preschooler and had some difficulties in elementary school, but, as a very young teenager, he was* ✦ on-the-road as a singer and ✦ recording albums.

Then, in 1984, *when writing his church's Christmas choir program, he began to think what it would have been like to be Jesus' mother. Those thoughts developed into a poem in the form of questions a reporter might ask to Mary, for example:* **“Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?”**

Even though Mark knew the poem was powerful, *even sending chills up his spine, he knew he needed the right music to go with the powerful lyrics. Therefore, when he was unable to find the right music – right after his completion of the lyrics, he decided to wait on the Lord's timing.*

Four years later, in 1988, he became a member of the Gaither Vocal Band; then, in 1990, Buddy Green joined the band. Soon after, *at Mark's request*, Buddy wrote the music we know today – *the rest is history!* “**For the first time ever, southern gospel music had given the world a Christmas carol.**”¹ We now turn our attention to the final four lines of “*Mary, Did You Know?*”

1. **Line 11: Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?**

- a. Jesus – *after His suffering, dying, and rising* – spoke these words to the eleven disciples: ^{NAS} **Matthew 28:18** ...“All authority [absolute power] has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Even when that reality doesn’t seem to be true, God wants us to know – *by faith in Him and His Word* – that **JESUS IS Lord of all creation!**
- b. Jesus will reign until all His enemies are destroyed: ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 15:24** “Then the end will come, when he [*Jesus*] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” Because we are – *by grace through faith* – God’s forgiven children, many may oppose us in today’s world; nevertheless, *we need not fear!* ^{NIV} **Romans 8:31** “...If God is for us, who can be against us?” **That reality should fill us with great joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

¹ Ace Collins, *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 101.

2. **Line 12: Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?**
 - a. Consider this description of our Savior: ^{NIV} **Revelation 1:5** ...Jesus Christ...is ✦ the faithful witness, ✦ the firstborn from the dead, and ✦ the ruler of the kings of the earth. Evil people may appear to be in control, but ***the Ultimate Ruler is Jesus Christ!***
 - b. Christians also rule with Jesus:
 - i. ^{NIV} **Ephesians 2:4** “...God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ... ⁶ And...raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...”
 - ii. ^{NIV} **Revelation 20:6** “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection [*God raising us to spiritual life in Christ (the second – our bodies being raised on the last day)*]. The second death [eternal punishment (the first – the fall into sin)] has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years [the NT era, until Jesus’ returns].” Potentially fearful things are happening in today’s world, *things that look like an unstoppable evil*, but let US be at peace *because **Mary’s baby boy is ruling the nations!***
3. **Line 13: Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?** The blood of the first Passover lambs *in the time of Moses*, and the vast multitude of other Passover lambs slaughtered over the following 1,400+ years, were all pointing ahead to