

## Carols of Christmas *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

When you hear this song, what feelings does it produce in you?

If you didn't know the Christmas story or any other Christmas carol, what would you think this song is about?

What person would most like to sing or hear this song?

### **The Story Behind the Carol**

- The writer & setting -
- Some unique aspects –

### **Its Lyrics, Life, Limitations, and Truth**

Stanza 2 – *“O’er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains...”*

Stanza 2 – *“and ever o’er its Babel sounds...”*

Stanza 3 – *“And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low...”*

1. The song correctly identifies man’s condition.
  - The world and the people in it are marred by sin  
2 Cor. 5:1-4; Romans 8:22-23
  - It results in crushing weariness and conflict  
James 4:1
2. The song misses the solution, Jesus Messiah.
  - A different invitation – Matthew 11:28-30
  - A different plan – 2 Cor. 5:4-8
  - A different enablement – Galatians 6:8-9

BUT... We can add things that still promote weariness and ineffectiveness.

- Sin or iniquity – Hebrews 12:1-3; Psalm 66:18
- “Weight” or “encumbrance”