BEFORE IT ALL BEGAN, IT WAS FINISHED

Sample · shop.idm24.com

JESUSTALK

Before it all began, it was finished

Christmas, read from its completion

inspired by six songs

Sample · shop.idm24.com

Before It All Began, It Was Finished
Christmas, read from its completion

(c)mike von oberbauer · jesusTALK
Verlag: IDM · Inspired Devotion & Music
info@idm24.com · bevor-alles-begann.de

All Bible passages in the author's own rendering.
Illustrations: jesusTALK's own imagery.

Contents

An Invitation 9
Chapter 1 · The Day Before the First Day 13
Chapter 2 · The Tent Roof and the Garden 15
Chapter 3 · The First Christmas Announcement 17
Chapter 4 · The Tent in the Wilderness 19
Chapter 5 · Now Is the Time 23
Chapter 6 · The Hidden Becoming 27
Chapter 7 · The Night 31
Chapter 8 · The Manger Carries the Cross 39
Chapter 9 · The Name 45
Chapter 10 · Reconciled 47
Chapter 11 · The Tabernacle of God with Men 51
Chapter 12 · The Gaze That Means You 55
Closing Word: He Himself 57
Silent Night (Honest Night) 58
For Reading Aloud Under the Tree 61
Little Hidden Clues 65
Bonus Song · Before the Stars Were 67

Sample · shop.idm24.com

An Invitation



I would like to ask you a question before we set out. It sounds harmless, and it is not.

What did God know on the day before creation?

Stay with it for a moment. Because if the answer is: everything, then he also knew what it would cost him. And he began anyway. This book is about that Anyway.

The Christmas story is almost always told from below. We stand in the stable, next to the shepherds, our breath steaming, and we look into the manger. That is a good place, and I will not take it from anyone. But there is another one. Every now and then Scripture opens a door through which you may look over the Father's shoulder. You see what he saw before it happened. That is where I want to take you. Not as a spectator. As someone who walks along and wonders along. I have walked this path myself, and I am walking it with you once more.

Six songs accompany us. They came into being on exactly this path, and they stand in the book at the places where they belong. Five of them tell the story, the sixth answers it. You can read them like

Sample · shop.idm24.com

poems, or you can listen to them while you read. At the end of the book you will also find a little story for reading aloud, for the evening under the tree, when the big ones and the little ones sit together.

And at the end a sentence is waiting for you. You have known it all your life. And yet, I believe, you have never heard it.

Come along. We begin where nothing had yet begun.

Sample · shop.idm24.com



Sample · shop.idm24.com

CHAPTER 1

The Day Before the First Day

Strictly speaking, this day never existed. Days only came into being later, when light and darkness received their names. And yet Scripture speaks of a Before. It does so in places that are easy to read past, in subordinate clauses, without any trumpets.

"Chosen before the foundation of the world," Paul writes to a small congregation in Ephesus. "Foreknown before the foundation of the world," Peter writes about Christ. And John, in Revelation, calls him "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Read those three sentences again. Slowly. They say something enormous, and they say it with a calm that sounds as if they know it is true. Before anything existed, it was settled who would come. And what it would cost. The manger is older than the first star. The cross is older than the wood it was built from.

We are used to telling the story the other way around. First creation, then the fall, then, after a long run-up, the rescue. As if God had reacted to a crisis, like a father woken in the night, groping in the dark for the light switch. But Scripture tells it differently. It says: the rescue is older than the damage. The Lamb was settled before there was a single creature that needed saving.

Stay here for a moment, because this is the thought almost nobody has on their radar, and it changes everything that follows. God did not create the world into uncertainty and then hope for the best. He saw first. Everything. The garden, and the day the people in it would hide. The weariness, the questions without answers, the tears with nothing to hold them. He saw the night of Bethlehem, and he saw the afternoon the sky would go dark. He saw what freedom would cost, and who would have to carry the bill. He himself.

Sample · shop.idm24.com

And then he decided. For us, before there was an Us. Love decided first and created second.

If that is true, then Christmas is no last-minute rescue attempt. It is the carrying out of a plan older than light. When the child in the manger drew breath, nothing unforeseen was happening. What happened was what had been decided before all time.

And then, when everything had been seen and everything decided, God spoke the first words ever spoken. You know them. Everyone knows them. But I am not going to say them yet. They belong at the end of this book. Only there, once you have seen what he saw, will you hear what they really say. And whom they mean.

So begins the story that begins before the beginning. With a look, with a decision, and with a word that is still waiting.

Sample · shop.idm24.com

End of sample

The complete book is available at shop.idm24.com