



The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Hope.

With fervent desire and patient expectation, we wait in hope for the coming of our King. Anticipation of this event offers bright hope to carry us through the days between now and his return. Whether as a song of Advent—preparing for the coming celebration of the birth of Christ—or as a general hymn acknowledging Christ’s impending return, we sing of this hope in “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns.”

Dawn represents the first ray of light that peaks over the horizon and shatters the darkness. It is significant to note that the darkness of night must first take place, before the beauty of daybreak is realized. Likewise, the coming of Christ occurs after a period of separation. We are separated from the full celebration of Christ’s birth during the period of Advent; and, until Jesus returns to earth to gather his faithful followers, we are partially separated from him in body, not yet made complete or whole. We must experience the darkness of night and separation before the triumphant dawn breaks forth.

By engaging in this hymn, we are proclaiming our belief that Christ *will* come. It is not a matter of speculation or wondering, but a statement that this event will occur. There *will* be a time when the shadows of our earthly existence fade—when fear and sadness pass, when joy and peace reign. We say with hope that when Christ comes, truth shall prevail, and right shall triumph over wrong. Indeed, this has been spoken of with fervent belief for generations and generations by saints and Christ-followers hungry for wholeness and life in the presence of God.

In recognizing this coming event, we persevere in the present with hope and peace. “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12, NIV). When times of discouragement fall upon us, when we face frustrating situations or difficult trials, when sadness and grief threaten to overwhelm us, we can summon hope, knowing and believing that dawn will break in; the King will come. In these times, we see poorly, as if peering through the dim light of dusk. Yet there will be a time when the light shines brilliantly, when we see Christ face to face.

So let us persevere. Carry on, maintaining a sense of hope despite the present darkness. Continue to sing and pray together with all the saints, “Come, Lord Jesus. Come.”

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