



# Rejoice, the Lord Is King

The joyful Wesleyan hymn, “Rejoice, the Lord is King,” is a song of high praise and tribute to our God. With language that speaks of God’s transcendence and royalty, we are called to give the honor and glory reserved only for a great King.

In both our corporate and private worship of God, it is appropriate to consider God’s eminence, his nearness, his love and friendship. Yet we should not exclude hymns that focus on God as King—as ruler of all creation, Lord of heaven and earth. The very fact that we cannot completely comprehend all of God is reason enough to worship him. We continue to grow in knowledge and understanding as we draw closer to our Lord; but he is still God, beyond all comprehension.

This soaring hymn of hope reminds us of several Old Testament passages, in which the Israelites worshiped Yahweh, notably:

“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns!’  
Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;  
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!  
Then the trees of the forest will sing,  
they will sing for joy before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth” (1 Chronicles 16:31–33, NIV).

and

“Praise the Lord  
Sing to the Lord a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the saints.  
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;  
let the people of Zion be glad in their King” (Psalm 149:1–2, NIV).

Finally, we are reminded of Paul’s repeated admonition, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4, NIV).

Let us give thanks and sing forever, lifting up our hearts and voices. Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!