



Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

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“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

This hymn is focused on Christ’s second coming. It begins with a picture of clouds, a symbol of God’s presence. A cloud by day and fire by night led the Israelites out of Egypt and gave them direction in the desert. At Mt. Sinai, God spoke from a cloud. And during the Transfiguration, God again spoke from a cloud.

Stanza 2 reflects the words of Revelation 1:7: “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.” The whole human race will confront Christ at his second coming. The history of the world and the Church is patterned toward and converges upon the glorious reappearance of Christ.

Revelation 7:9-10 speaks of what is pictured in this hymn: “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

The crowd of people before the God’s throne is countless. This may have reminded John of the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their descendants would be beyond counting—as numerous as the sand of the seashore and as the stars in the heavens. This represents all those who have the same faith as Abraham, both Jews and Gentiles, the faith in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

We may be a bit disappointed by the earthly gifts that Christmas brings, but we will never be let down when we join that great throng in heaven.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for giving me a faith that places me in the crowd journeying to eternal peace. Help me use your Word to remain in that faith and grow ever more secure in my journey to eternity. Amen.