

Lessons from the Great Hymns
“A Mighty Fortress”
November 1, 2017

“Declaring music to be second only to the Word of God, Luther composed sacred hymns so that ‘the Word of God may dwell among the people also by means of song.’”
– Joni Eareckson Tada

“...the devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.” – Martin Luther

Battle hymn of the reformation.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Translated by John Piper, with Matthias Lohmann

A strong castle is our God,
A good defense and weapon.
He helps us become free from every misery
That has now affected us.
The old evil enemy
Is now in earnestness with his intents.
Great Power and much deception
Is his cruel armor.
On earth is not its likeness.

With our power nothing is accomplished.
We are very soon lost.
The right man fights for us
Whom God himself has chosen.
Do you ask who that is?
His name is Jesus Christ,
The Lord of hosts,
And there is no other God.
The battlefield he must hold.

Even if the world were full of Devils
And would want to swallow us up,
We would not thus fear so very much.
We will nevertheless succeed.
The prince of this world,
How bitterly he might pretend to be,
Nevertheless will not do anything to us
Because he is judged.
A little word can fell him.

That word they shall let stand
And will have no thanks for it.
He is with us according to plan
With his Spirit and gifts.
If they take the body,
Goods, honor, child, and wife,
Let them go away.
They will have no profit.
The kingdom must remain for us.

Notable Changes:

1. Offense, not just defense.
2. Help from every misery.
3. The world could be much worse.
4. No other God than Jesus.
5. His kingdom is for us.

What the Bible tells us about our enemy. Who is he?

Luke 10:18 says his name is: Satan.

Matthew 4:1 refers to him as the devil.

John 12:31 he is described as the prince of this world.

Matthew 4:3 he is referred to as the tempter.

2 Corinthians 4:4 he is singled out as the god of this world.

Ezekiel 28:14 says that he is not only an angel but a cherub.

John 8:44 is the most descriptive: A murderer and liar.

- Satan is a force to be dealt with.
- Our enemy is always scheming.
- He is sinister.
- Our enemy is the “master of gradualism.”

Not omnipresent.

Not omnipotent.

Not omniscient.

How exactly does Satan attack us?

Namely through deceit.