

*Hymns for Times of Trouble (1744)*¹

[Baker list, #82]

Editorial Introduction:

The early Methodist revival encountered resistance and some persecution from the beginning, for various reasons. The resistance grew significantly in early 1744, as France threatened to invade England and the two countries became embroiled in the War of Austrian Succession (cf. the attacks described in Charles's *MS Journal*, Jan.–Feb. 1744). The reason that this made things worse for the Methodists is that they were broadly assumed to be Jacobites.

“Jacobite” was the nickname for supporters of the claim of James Edward Stuart (1688–1766), exiled son of King James II, to be legitimate holder of the English throne. James II had ascended to the throne in 1685 as an overt Roman Catholic, triggering popular support for the staunchly Reformed William of Orange—who was married to James's daughter Mary (also Protestant)—to invade and drive James into exile. As fellow Roman Catholics, the French received James II in exile and nurtured his group of supporters, who continued to plot ways of returning him (and, after his death in 1701, his son) to the throne. The threatened invasion in 1744 was one such effort.

While Samuel Wesley Jr., the older brother of John and Charles, had favored the Jacobite cause, both of the younger brothers had rejected it and affirmed loyalty to the Hanoverian line. But the fact that they challenged the spiritual vitality of the established church made them targets in times of intrigue for accusation of covert support for the Jacobite cause (and thus the French invaders). As such, much of their energy in 1744–45 was expended in stressing their support of George II and the British cause against the French. Charles devoted his efforts in this regard to a series of hymns for “times of trouble and persecution.”

This first short collection was rushed to press on March 1, 1744, as the French fleet was gathering in Dunkirk. It drew together manuscript hymns about God's help in times of trouble, with little suggestion of the specific current event. While the volume was issued anonymously, it is clear from manuscript copies that Charles was the author of the six hymns included. John seems to have taken a lead in getting the volume to press.

After two printings in early March of 1744, this initial collection was not issued again in its independent form. However, it was appended to the 3rd edn. (1756) of *HTTP* (1744), on pp. 77–83. No significant variants occur in this appended reprint.

Editions:

[John & Charles Wesley.] *Hymns for Times of Trouble*. [London: Strahan, 1744].

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: Dec. 3, 2007.

Table of Contents

Hymn 1	3-5
Hymn 2	5-7
Hymn 3	7-8
Hymn 4	8-9
Hymn 5	10-11
Hymn 6	11-12

**HYMNS
FOR
TIMES OF TROUBLE.**

Hymn 1.

1 My present help in trouble,
My soul's eternal lover,
 Beneath thy shade
 I hide my head
Till all the storm is over.

O bring me by thy mercy
Through this severe temptation,
 And all day long
 My joyful song
Shall publish thy salvation.

2 Thine arm is still unshortened,
And ready to deliver,
 Thy glorious name
 Remains the same,
A rock that stands forever.

This, this is our sure refuge,
When earth and hell oppress us,
 For earth and hell
 Bow down, and feel
Th' almighty name of Jesus.

3 Jesus, by faith I place me
Beneath thy name's protection:
 While thou art nigh
 I dare defy
The hellish insurrection.

On the accusing serpent
After thy great example
 Fearless I tread,
 And bruise his head,
And on his kingdom trample.

4 I now admire the worthies,
And saints in sacred story;
 Their steps pursue,
 Their wonders do,
And emulate their glory.

By faith they waxed courageous,
And bade their foes defiance,
 Strong in the Lord,
 Escaped the sword,
And stopped the mouths of lions.

5 By faith they conquered kingdoms,
And higher rose and higher,
 Marched through the sea
 Convoyed by thee,
And walked unhurt in fire.

Them in the burning furnace
Thou didst, O Lord, deliver:
 And in the flame
 Thy help I claim,
And trust in thee forever.

6 I ask thy promised succours,
Nor fear I a denial:
 Thou Son of man,
 My soul sustain
Throughout the fiery trial.

With thine almighty presence
Let me be still attended,
 And lo! I dwell
 Secure in hell
Till all my days are ended.

Hymn 2.

1 Safe in the fiery furnace,
Joyful in tribulation,
 My soul adores
 With all its powers
The God of my salvation.

Walking through fire and water
I find his presence cheering,
 By faith I see
 The deity,
And shout at his appearing.

- 2 The fire of persecution,
The floods of sin surround me,
 The flames forget
 Their power to heat,
The waters cannot drown me.

Midst undevouring lions
The Saviour's arms embrace me,
 And from their den
 He up again
Shall for his glory raise me.

- 3 Kept by the strength of Jesus,
Almighty to deliver,
 I find his name
 Is still the same,
A tower that stands forever.

The wrath of men and devils
With feeble malice rages,
 They cannot shock
 Me on the Rock
Of everlasting Ages.

- 4 I see stretched out to save me
The arm of my Redeemer:
 That arm shall quell
 The powers of hell,
And silence the blasphemer.

The God of my salvation,
The mighty serpent-bruiser
 Shall soon o'erthrow
 The brethren's foe,
And cast down our accuser.

5 He gives me now a token
Of his protecting favour,
 I shall be more
 Than conqueror
Through thee my loving Saviour.

I render thee the glory,
I know thou wilt deliver:
 But let me rise
 Above the skies,
And praise thy love forever.

Hymn 3.

1 Some put their trust in chariots,
And horses some rely on,
 But God alone
 Our help we own,
God is the strength of Sion.

His name we will remember
In every sore temptation,
 And feel its powers,
 For Christ is ours,
With all his great salvation.

[2] We are his ransomed people,
And he that bought will have us,
Secure from harm,
Whilst Jesus' arm
Is still stretched out to save us.

He out of all our troubles
Shall mightily deliver,
And then receive
Us up, to live
And reign with him forever.

Hymn 4.

- 1 How happy are we
Who trust in the Lord!
Untroubled we see
The imminent sword,
Our merciless hater
We calmly defy,
Secure in a nature
That never can die.
- 2 Destruction may come,
The scourge may o'erflow,
And blood-thirsty Rome
Our country o'erthrow;
May torture and burn us,
But never can shock,
But never o'erturn us
Who stand on *the Rock*.

- 3 The waster of Rome
 Is now on his way,
The lion is come
 To scatter and slay:
Beyond his fierce power
 We run to the Lamb,
And rest in the tower
 Of Jesus's name.
- 4 Our life is secure,
 And hidden above,
Our safety as sure
 As Jesus's love;
Our joy and our heaven
 Within us shall stay;
What Jesus hath given
 None taketh away.
- 5 In tumult and war
 His tokens we hear,
The noise of his car
 Proclaims our Prince near:
Plague, earthquake and famine
 Are awfully joined,
To publish his coming,
 Who ransoms mankind.
- 6 We know that his word
 And promise are past;
Thy kingdom, O Lord,
 Shall triumph at last:
The kingdoms before thee
 And nations shall fall,
And all men adore thee,
 The monarch of all.

Hymn 5.

- 1 Omnipotent Lord,
Whom armies obey,
And lose at thy word,
Or carry the day;
With faithful affection
To thee let us cleave,
And in thy protection
Triumphantly live.

- 2 Thou great God of war,
Thine Israel bless,
For conquest prepare,
And grant us success:
With sorrow before thee
And shame let us fall,
And meekly adore thee,
The Saviour of all.

- 3 If first thou chastise
Our insolent boast,
Yet bid us arise
As out of the dust;
In deep tribulation
Thy power let us own,
Ascribing salvation
To Jesus alone.

4 O Jesus, if now
Too many we are,
Too stubborn to bow
And seek thee in prayer;
By judgments subdue us,
But show us thy grace,
But hasten to show us
The light of thy face.

5 When humbly on thee
Alone we depend,
We trust thou wilt be
Our helper and friend;
Go forth with our armies,
Our leader and guide;
And nothing shall harm us
With God on our side.

Hymn 6.

1 O Saviour of all
Who trust in thy love,
And faithfully call
For help from above,
To our supplication
In mercy attend,
And send us salvation,
And victory send.

- 2 To thee with our heart
And spirit we cleave,
Who takest the part
Of all that believe:
Our Lord we confess thee,
Whoever oppose,
And joyfully bless thee
In sight of thy foes.
- 3 Plucked out of the flame,
Thy soldiers we stand;
Fight under thy name,
And love thy command:
Our Captain and Saviour
Thee, Jesus, we hail,
And trust in thy favour,
Which never shall fail.
- 4 Whatever thy will
And wisdom ordain,
Our safety is still
With thee to remain:
Our lives are all hidden,
Our souls are above,
And rest in the Eden
Of ransoming love.
- 5 In thee we have hope,
In thee we have peace,
And calmly go up
To final success:
Thy fear is our treasure,
Thy service our gain,
And we in thy pleasure
Eternally reign.