Fourteenth Chapter of Isaiah (1742)

Editorial Introduction:

Charles Wesley’s MS Journal makes clear that the book of Isaiah was a favorite source for his preaching in the early 1740s. It was also a focus of his ongoing practice of versifying scripture. On September 1, 1742, William Strahan’s printing ledger records printing a paraphrase of Isaiah 14 for the Wesley brothers. While no copy of this printing appears to survive, its publication is verified in MS Shent. This manuscript collection of Charles Wesley’s hymns opens with several paraphrases of Isaiah, ordered sequentially. On page 13a, under the heading of “The Fourteenth Chapter of Isaiah,” the manuscript simply says “(from the printed one).”

John Wesley included all of the hymns on Isaiah found in Charles Wesley’s early manuscript collections in volume 3 of Moral and Sacred Poems (1744), including a long paraphrase of Isaiah 14 (pp. 247–55). This is surely the text of the publication in 1742.

Editions:

Charles Wesley. Fourteenth Chapter of Isaiah [London: Strahan, 1742] [no copies extant]

Text:

For the text of this hymn, see Moral and Sacred Poems (1744), 3:247–52.