

## *Hymns for Times of Trouble (1744)*<sup>1</sup>

[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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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].

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<sup>1</sup>This 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: Sept. 3, 2007.

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**HYMNS  
FOR  
TIMES OF TROUBLE.**

**Hymn I.**

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 unshorten'd,  
And ready to deliver,  
    Thy glorious name  
    Remains the same,  
A rock that stands for ever.

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 wax'd courageous,  
And bad their foes defiance,  
    Strong in the Lord,  
    Escap'd the sword,  
And stopt the mouths of lions.

5 By faith they conquer'd kingdoms,  
And higher rose and higher,  
    March'd thro' the sea  
    Convoy'd by thee,  
And walk'd 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 for ever.

6 I ask thy promis'd 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 II.**

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

Walking thro' fire and water  
I find his presence chearing,  
    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 for ever.

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

- 4 I see stretch'd 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  
Thro' 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 for ever.

### **Hymn III.**

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 ransom'd people,  
And he that bought will have us,  
Secure from harm,  
Whilst Jesus' arm  
Is still stretch'd out to save us.

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

#### Hymn IV.

- 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 join'd,  
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 V.**

- 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 shew us thy grace,  
But hasten to shew 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 VI.**

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 Pluck'd 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.