**Editorial Introduction:**

The Seven Year’s War (1756–63) engulfed most of Europe, with Prussia joining Britain as allies against France, Russia, Austria, Sweden and others. While the British and Prussian forces enjoyed some initial encouraging victories, things took a negative turn in the first half of 1759. Frederick the Great and the Prussian forces suffered some severe defeats and there was growing fear of a French invasion of England.

In this context Charles Wesley published just before midyear a small pamphlet of four *Hymns of Intercession for the Kingdom of England*. Unlike the earlier *Intercession Hymns* (1758), which covered a wide range of concerns, these hymns all pleaded for God’s intervention and protection of Britain in this dangerous hour. The hymns were clearly rushed into print, because when Charles incorporated them into a larger set of *Invasion Hymns* in July 1759, he revised them much more than was typical of his other collections.

**Edition:**


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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: 5 February 2010.
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Part 1.\(^2\)

1 Let God, the mighty God,
The Lord of hosts arise,
With terror clad, with strength endued,
And rent, and bow the skies!
Called down by faithful prayer,
Saviour, appear below,
Thy hand lift up, thine arm make bare,
And quell thy church’s foe.
Our refuge in distress,
In danger’s darkest hour,
Appear as in the ancient days
With full redeeming power;
That thy redeemed may sing
In glad triumphant strains,
The Lord is God, the Lord is King,
The Lord forever reigns.

2 We with our ears have heard,
Our fathers us have told
The work that in their days appeared,
And in the times of old;
The mighty wonders wrought
By heaven in their defence,
When Jacob’s God for Britain fought,
And chased th’ invaders hence.
Vainly invincible,
Their fleets the seas did hide,

\(^2\)A manuscript copy of this first hymn is present in the Methodist Archives and Research Centre of The John Ryland University Library (MA 1977/583/32, #6). It contains only one variant, that is noted below.
And doomed our sires to death and hell,
   And Israel’s God defied:
But with his wind he blew,
   But with his waves he rose,
And dashed, and scattered, and o’erthrew,
   And swallowed up his foes.

3 Jesus, Jehovah, Lord,
   Thy wonted aid we claim;
Not trusting in our bow or sword,
   But in thy saving name:
Thy name the mighty tower,
   From whence our foes we see
Ready our country to devour,
   Without a nod from thee.
Thou wilt not give us up
   A prey unto their teeth,
But blast their aim, confound their hope,
   Their league with hell and death;
With such deliverance bless
   Whom thou hast chose for thine,
That every Briton may confess
   “The work is all divine!”

Part 2.

1 God of unbounded power,
   God of unfathomed love,
Be present in our dangerous hour,
   The danger to remove;
To guard this fav’rite land,
   So oft preserved by thee,

3“Every Briton” changed to “we, and Europe” in Invasion Hymns (1759). The manuscript copy MA 1977/583/32, #6 reads “That Brittain’s sons.”
4“Every Briton” changed to “we, and Europe” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
5“Unfathomed” changed to “unwearied” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
6“The” changed to “Our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
7“This” changed to “our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
Come, Lord, and in the channel stand,
   Come, and block up the sea.
Refuse them leave to pass,
   Forbid them to draw nigher;
Surround us as a wall of brass,
   A battlement\(^8\) of fire:
Our lives, our threatened coast
   Beneath thy shadow take,
And turn aside the alien host,
   And drive the ruffians back.

2 Or if thine awful will
   Admit our Romish foe,
And force the sleeping crowd to feel
   The long-suspended blow;
If justice stern hath past
   Th’ irrevocable doom,
And armed with Britain’s crimes\(^9\) at last
   The ravagers must come.
Come first, thou Man in white,
   Thy Father’s love reveal,
His name on every mourner write,
   And every servant seal;
Let their deliverance prove
   Thou canst preserve thine own,
And all who trust thy guardian love
   Are safe in thee alone.

3 Come then, ye hostile bands,
   For one short moment come!

\(^8\)“A battlement” changed to “As battlements” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\(^9\)“Crimes” changed to “sins” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
The Man in white shall bind your hands,
    Ye murderers of Rome:
If suffered from on high
    To reach our threatened shore,
With briddles in your mouths draw nigh,
    And show your bounded power.
Your power to him¹⁰ submits;
    He keeps our faithful souls;
Above the water floods he sits,
    And earth and hell controls:
In dangers, deaths, and snares
    He lays the sacred line;
Nor can ye touch a man that bears
    The¹¹ Saviour’s bloody sign.

Part 3.

1  But will the gracious Lord,
    Who hides us in his breast,
Redeem his servants from the sword,
    And give up all the rest?
Wilt thou thy fury pour
    On the unthinking¹² crowd,
And let the Romish wolves¹³ devour
    The men that know not God?
Bowels divine, forbid!
    Forbid it heavenly grace!
And let the mourning praying seed
    Protect the sinful race:
To Abraham’s son and God
    With Abraham’s faith we cry,

¹⁰“Him” changed to “God” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
¹¹“The” changed to “His” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
¹²“Unthinking” changed to “obdurate” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
¹³“Wolves” changed to “wolf” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
O spare a nation in their blood,
Nor suffer them to\textsuperscript{14} die.

2 Forced by the\textsuperscript{15} public crimes,
If justice\textsuperscript{16} must take place,
Why, Lord, in our degenerate times
Hast thou remembered grace?
Thy kingdom why restored?
What means thy Spirit’s strife,
While thousands by his powerful word
Are passed from death to life?
The tokens of thy love
On every side we see,
And crowds begotten from above
Stretch out their hands to thee:
Against this evil day
Ready prepared they stand,
To turn thy vengeful wrath away,
And save a guilty land.

3 Ev’n now with them we meet
Around thy gracious throne,
And mercy for the\textsuperscript{17} land entreat
Where thou art truly known:
We wrestle for the throng
Who unconcerned\textsuperscript{18} abide,
(Because the judgment lingers long,)
And\textsuperscript{19} all thy threats deride.
What canst thou do to save
The souls insensible,

\textsuperscript{14}“Suffer them to” changed to “let the wicked” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
\textsuperscript{15}“Forced by the” changed to “Drawn down by” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
\textsuperscript{16}“Justice” changed to “vengeance” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
\textsuperscript{17}“The” changed to “a” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
\textsuperscript{18}“Unconcerned” changed to “dead in sins” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
\textsuperscript{19}“And” changed to “Who” in \textit{Invasion Hymns} (1759).
Who madly their destruction brave,
    And laugh at death and hell?
They claim thy scourge from thee,
They bid thy day make haste,
But public ill, o’erruled by thee,
    Shall turn to good at last.

Part 4.

1  Here then we calmly rest,
    Whate’er thy will intend,
It must be for thy people best,
    It must in blessings end:
To those that love the Lord,
    And feel thy sprinkled blood,
Famine, and pestilence, and sword,
    Shall jointly work for good.
Our lives are hid with thine,
    Our hairs are numbered all,
Nor can without the nod divine
    One worthless sparrow fall:
And shall a nation bleed,
    And shall a kingdom fail,
While thou, O Christ, art Lord and Head
    O’er heaven and earth and hell!

2  Beneath thy wings secure,
    In patience we possess
Our souls, and quietly endure
    Whatever our God decrees:
Yet still (we cry) delay
    The careless sinner’s doom,

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\(^{20}\)Line changed to “They ask the scourge to see” in *Invasion Hymns* (1759).
And, till the judgment comes, we pray
That it may never come:
May never come alone,
But guided by thy grace
Their\textsuperscript{21} vain self confidence cast down,\textsuperscript{22}
And all their\textsuperscript{23} pride abase:
Who will not see thy hand,
Thy truth and love adore,
Compel them,\textsuperscript{24} Lord, to understand
The thunder of thy power.

Out of their\textsuperscript{25} slumber woke,
Bid all our nation rise,
And bless the providential stroke,
That turned them\textsuperscript{26} to the skies:
Who walked in darkest night,
In death’s dread shadow lay,
Show them\textsuperscript{27} the great and\textsuperscript{28} glorious light,
The dawn of gospel-day.
Escaped the hostile sword,
O may they\textsuperscript{29} fly to thee,
And find in our redeeming Lord
Their\textsuperscript{30} life and liberty;
Their\textsuperscript{31} strength and righteousness,
O let them\textsuperscript{32} hold thee fast,
With confidence divine, and peace
That shall forever last.

\textsuperscript{21}Their” changed to “Our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{22}Cast down” changed to “o’erturn” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{23}Their” changed to “our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{24}Them” changed to “us” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{25}Their” changed to “our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{26}Them” changed to “us” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{27}Them” changed to “us” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{28}And” changed to “the” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{29}They” changed to “we” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{30}Their” changed to “Our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{31}Their” changed to “Our” in Invasion Hymns (1759).
\textsuperscript{32}Them” changed to “us” in Invasion Hymns (1759).