

In the Morning of Joy

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Introduction: “For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven... with a trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thess. 4:16).

Hymns have been written about most every Bible subject. Several songs have been written about the Lord’s second coming. One of which is “In the Morning of Joy” (#353 or #528).

The text was written by Mrs. R. A. Evilsizer about whom no further information seems available. The tune was composed by Anthony Johnson Showalter (1858-1924). He is best known as the composer of “Leaning on The Everlasting Arms.” This hymn was published in 1895.

This song specifically mentions three events that will accompany Christ’s return.

- I. The first stanza talks about the resurrection from the dead (Acts 24:15).
- A. When the Lord returns, “the trumpet shall sound” (1 Cor. 15:50-53).
 - B. All “the dead shall arise” at the Lord’s coming (John 5:28-29).
 - C. The sounding of the trumpet and the raising of the dead will signal the end (1 Cor. 15:21-24; 1 Thess. 4:13-17).

- II. The second stanza implies the fact of judgment (Heb. 9:27).
- A. Even in the Old Testament God revealed that a day of judgment would come (Eccl. 12:13-14).
 - B. This judgment will occur “when the King shall appear in His beauty on high” to sit on His throne of judgment (Matt. 25:31-46).
 - C. Other passages tell us about the nature of the judgment day.
 - 1. The standard (John 12:48).
 - 2. The judge (Acts 17:30-31).
 - 3. The participants (Rom. 14:10-12).
 - 4. The basis (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 5. The results (Rev. 20:12-15).

- III. The third stanza speaks of our reunion in heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-5).
- A. Jesus promises when He comes back, He will gather us unto Himself (John 14:1-3).
 - B. It will be a time “when the saved ones we meet.” (The original lyrics said, “when our loved ones we meet.” That phrase would have to assume that our loved ones are among the saved.) All those who faithfully served Christ will be there (Rev. 22:12-14).

C. The true hope of the Christian is everlasting life in heaven with the redeemed of all ages (Col. 1:5; Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25).

Conclusion: The chorus repeatedly points us toward that morning of joy. That phrase may have been taken from Psalms 30:5. Sometimes we pillow our heads in the evening with hearts made heavy by toils and cares. We wonder how we will ever make it through the night. Yet, after several hours of rest we usually find things look a little brighter in the morning. In like manner, someday, after all the cares and toils of this life are over there will be a final time when all will be made right. God's people will experience eternal bliss "In the Morning of Joy."