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Mormonbasics.com is humbled to bring you a commentary on the hymns published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This commentary is presented in a two-column format. The original text, as presented in the hymnbook published by the LDS Church, is in the left column. The comments on the right are provided by mormonbasics.com. We have even changed the color of the text so there won't be any question as to who wrote what.

Personal note from the commentator:

The hymns of the Church are sacred text. The Lord has made it very clear to us through his prophets that the singing of hymns is a form of prayer, and as such is sacred communication. Much of the sacred Spirit and reverence we experience in our meetings, especially Sacrament Meeting, comes from the Spirit that accompanies the singing of the hymns.

The hymns are written in poetic form, and as such are able to take certain licenses and liberties with the English language that cannot normally be expressed in any other way. It is certainly not the aim of this commentary to improve on the beauty of the poetic expressions found in our sacred hymns. As a teacher of English to those who speak other languages, I have found that many of the hymns have expressions that are difficult for some people to understand.

Because hymns are written to fit a set rhythmic pattern or meter, often the expression has to be condensed to fit in a small space, but still convey its intended meaning. It is the combination of the rhythm, text, and music that create such a powerful Spiritual experience when singing the hymns. My attempts to explain some of the meaning behind the text should not detract from the original meaning, nor should it replace the original meaning. Hymns, like parables, take on different meanings as the circumstances of our lives change. My commentary is only a starting point for (hopefully) a better understanding of the overall meaning of the hymn in this work. Anyone else writing this same commentary would have different perspectives and points to make. That is the nature of a commentary. I pray that what I say will, in some way, help in your understanding of this hymn. Since this is a personal study of the hymns, I will sometimes use the first person when writing the commentary.

Kelly P. Merrill

Come Rejoice

1. Come, rejoice, the King of glory
Speaks to earth again.
Gladsome words ring out from heaven,
Joyous, wondrous strain.
Truth bursts forth in radiant light,
Showing all the path of right.

(Chorus]
Shout hosanna to his name;
One and all his might proclaim.

2. Angels, messengers from heaven,
Come to earth once more;
Bring to men the glorious gospel;
Priceless truths restore.
Let all hear who live today!
This is life, the truth, the way.

3. Great, oh, great is Christ our Savior.
None can stay his hand.
Now he brings to us salvation,
Cheering ev'ry land.
Sing, rejoice, the King of love
Speaks to earth from heav'n above.

MUSIC

Tracy Y. Cannon, 1879-1961, adapted (c) 1948 IRI

TEXT

Tracy Y. Cannon, 1879-1961, adapted (c) 1948 IRI

SCRIPTURES

Doctrine and Covenants 29:4, Doctrine and
Covenants 128:19-21

The "King of glory" is Christ, and he has revealed himself to prophets on the earth once more. "Gladsome words" are the gospel of Christ that came from heaven. The word "strain" refers to singing praises, as though the joyous words were sung from heaven.

Radiant light refers to crystal clear truth that has suddenly appeared and cleared up many questions, showing us how to move forward in the right way.

Hosanna is a shout of praise to God, sometimes for deliverance, and sometimes just a term for giving glory to God. We should shout praise to His name and everyone should announce or speak of his might or greatness.

Angels who are messengers from heaven are coming to earth again. They bring God's glorious gospel to men and are restoring priceless truths. Their message is to all who live on earth today, that they should listen to the message because this is the only way to find eternal life, the real truth, and the way back to God.

"Stay his hand" is a reference to the work Christ is performing. It is saying that no one can stop (stay) his work. He brings us salvation which cheers or makes every land happy. We should all sing and rejoice that Christ, the "King of love" is speaking from to us from heaven.