



Mormonbasics.com is not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are a private website, and the comments and opinions expressed here are not from the LDS Church. The opinions expressed in this work are solely the product of this website. If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve these commentaries in the future, please click [here](#) and leave a comment. This will help us give you the best assistance for your studies in the future.

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

## Awake, Ye Saints of God, Awake!

1. Awake, ye Saints of God, awake!  
 Call on the Lord in mighty prayer  
 That he will Zion's bondage break  
 And bring to naught the tempter's snare,  
 And bring to naught the tempter's snare.

2. Tho Zion's foes have counseled deep,  
 Although they bind with fetters strong,  
 The God of Jacob does not sleep;  
 His vengeance will not slumber long;  
 His vengeance will not slumber long.

3. With constant faith and fervent prayer,  
 With deep humility of soul,  
 With steadfast mind and heart, prepare  
 To see th'eternal purpose roll,  
 To see th'eternal purpose roll.

4. Awake to righteousness; be one,  
 Or, saith the Lord, "Ye are not mine!"  
 Yea, like the Father and the Son,  
 Let all the Saints in union join.  
 Let all the Saints in union join.

### MUSIC

Evan Stephens, 1854-1930

### TEXT

Eliza R. Snow, 1804-1887

### SCRIPTURES

Romans 13:11-14, Doctrine and Covenants 38:27

The call to be awake is the call to become spiritually informed and sensitive. It shows activity in doing good and keeping commandments, instead of "slumbering in sin." This verse urges the members of the Church to pray to the Lord and ask that he will help us escape from our sins that hold us hostage, for all sin creates some form of bondage. The purpose of Satan's temptations is to bind us down into spiritual inactivity and to addict us in some way. Our prayers to the Lord are that his traps (snares) will not be effective in catching us.

We need to remember that even though the enemies of God's people (Zion) work hard to trap us once and for all, our God is not sleeping, he is awake himself, and is aware of what is happening. God's vengeance on those who seek to harm his obedient children will not wait long.

If we want to see God's eternal plan move forward, and be part of it, we need to have constant faith, genuine, heartfelt prayer, deep humility, and be steady and constant in our minds and hearts to do His will.

A Zion people are those of one heart and one mind. If we want to be claimed by God to be his people we must be up and doing good, becoming one in heart and purpose or the Lord will disown us and claim we are not his people.