

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

378b Sacred Harp

- 1 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie.
- 2 O'er all those wide extended plains Shines one eternal day!
There God, the Son, forever reigns, And scatters night away.

Chorus

We'll stem the storm, it won't be long, the Heavenly port is nigh;
We'll stem the storm, it won't be long, we'll anchor by and by!

Also found in the Lloyd Hymnal, hymn 275 C. M., Title: A transporting view of the heavenly Canaan.

I went to bed tonight and could not sleep thinking about mother in the rehab facility, unable to have company or visitation except by phone or internet. When I talked to her earlier this evening, she was so lost and confused that she didn't even know where she was or what to do. No amount of explanation from me could convince her of anything.

Then my thoughts turned to this hymn and how near the passing through the river of death is for her in time; and some scripture that we have been studying in Bible Study. The children of Israel are beside the Jordan River and will soon be crossing over into the Promised Land of Canaan. As we consider Israel and their position and near future; we see that they are to cross the river into the Promised Land. In the Promised Land they shall have to fight many battles, and they shall have to suffer many tribulations in life.

How alike it is for us in this life. Being born again and grafted into the Church of Salvation by Grace, we, like Israel, must fight many battles and endure many tribulations. This is exactly what Jesus was speaking of in: ***Joh 16:32-33; 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

In this verse, Jesus is explaining to his disciples; you are all going to desert me soon and leave alone, but fear not at all, I am not alone for the Father is with me. He has sent his Holy Spirit to be with me in this time of trouble.

I have foretold you, so that you will not be overly distressed, and you can have confident faith in the work that I have accomplished on earth. Also in: ***Lu 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*** Here Jesus is telling Peter; you will soon deny me. Jesus tells Peter; don't worry about your failure, I have already prayed for you, and when you are strengthened, strengthen thy brethren. Some will say that this is a bit out of context but I remind you of what else Jesus said in: ***Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*** Read John 17 in its entirety.

Joh 17:1-26; 1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. 6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. 7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for

them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Mother, in her state of confused mind, does not know where she is and what is going on. She thinks that her family had deserted her and she is all alone. However, when she is in a lucid state of mind she knows that is not true. We know and understand that Jesus is with her in the Holy Spirit and she is not alone.

Thinking of mother and her condition in life; we know that at best it will not be long before she is called to pass through the river of death. Mother, in this life, was called to enter the promised land, the church of Salvation by Grace, in 1972 I think, and has walked faithfully in obedience to Christ ever since. She has endured many tribulations in this journey, but now is looking at the prospect of going to her eternal home.

What a wonderful prospect this is. What a wonderful blessing from God, that when called to pass through the river of death, she will be carried to the eternal rest by the power of Christ. Upon entering this Eternal Promised Land, there are no battles to be fought, or tribulations to be endured. Mother is now where the poet man has written of in this hymn. *"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, And cast a wishful eye, To Canaan's fair and happy land, Where my possessions lie. O'er all those wide extended plains Shines one eternal day! There God, the Son, forever reigns, And scatters night away. We'll stem the storm, it won't be long, the Heavenly port is nigh; We'll stem the storm, it won't be long, we'll anchor by and by!"*

How precious will be that day when she, and we all, shall be liberated from the battles and tribulations of life and delivered into eternal rest. May God bless us all to hold out faithful to the end, and then, in that great day of resurrection, we will all be gathered together and carried away to our long eternal home; to be with Christ forever. Thanks and praise to Christ Jesus for our Salvation by Grace in time and eternity!

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