

“Amazing Grace!”
The Hymns Of Charles Wesley
“Come, Lord Jesus”
Revelation 22:20

Introduction:

1. Let's Start By:
 - Turning In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Revelation 20!
 - Of Course - As We've Been:
 - Studying The Book Of Revelation:
 - In Our Adult Sunday School Class:
 - We've Learned That:
 - The Great Theme Of The Book:
 - Is The Return Of Jesus Christ To This World!
 - Also Known As:
 - The Second Coming!
 - Which Can Only Take Place:
 - Since Jesus Had His:
 - First Coming - Through His Virgin Birth In The Little Town Of Bethlehem!
2. Now - At Jesus' First Coming:
 - He Came In Order To:
 - Provide Full Redemption:
 - To Those Who Believe In Him!
 - Whereas - At His Second Coming:
 - He Will Come In Order To:
 - Provide Full Restoration:
 - For His People!
 - And - To Be Reunited:
 - With Them - After Such:
 - A Long Absence!
3. And So - In Revelation 22:20:
 - We Find - At The End Of All Things:
 - Contained In This Book:
 - These Words:
 - “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”
 - Now - In This Verse:
 - We First Find Something:
 - Said Of Jesus!
 - He Is Described As:
 - “He Which Testifieth These Things!”
 - So - Once Again - We Learn About:
 - His Testimony - Which:
 - Because Of What We Know About Jesus:
 - Is Always True!
 - Because - Whatever Jesus Says:
 - Is So!
 - Then - In Revelation 22:20:
 - We Find Something:
 - Said By Jesus!
 - And That Is - “Surely, I Come Quickly!”
 - And So - We Have Jesus' Own Promise:
 - To Come Again:
 - To This World:
 - For His People!
 - And - There Is:
 - No Doubt:
 - About His Coming! (“Surely”)
 - And - When Its Time - There Will Be:

- No Delay:
 - To His Coming! (“Quickly”)
- But Then:
 - We Also Find Something:
 - Said To Jesus - In This Verse!
 - By John - “Amen! Even So, Come, Lord Jesus!”
 - And This Has Been:
 - The Longing Of Every True Christian:
 - Since Jesus Returned To Heaven:
 - After His Resurrection!
- 4. And - This Is Also The Theme:
 - Of The First Hymn That:
 - We Will Look At:
 - That Was Penned By:
 - Charles Wesley:
 - Who We Were Introduced To:
 - Last Week!
 - The Title Of The Hymn In Our Hymn Books:
 - Is - “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!”
 - It Is The Same Hymn:
 - That Was Played For The Offertory:
 - This Morning - But To A Different Tune!
 - But - Even Though:
 - We Often Sing This Hymn:
 - When We Are Celebrating:
 - Jesus’ First Advent & Coming:
 - Around Christmas!
 - It Actually Looks More Toward:
 - Jesus’ Second Advent & Coming:
 - And Expresses The Longing:
 - Of Our Hearts As Christians!
 - “Come, Lord Jesus!”
 - 5. And - We Can Get This Sense:
 - From Even The First 2 Lines:
 - Of Wesley’s “Holy Poem!”
 - Let’s Look At Those Lines Together:
 - “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus,
Born To Set Thy People Free!”
 - The First Word:
 - Of The Second Line:
 - “Born” - Looks Back To:
 - The Birth Of Jesus:
 - At His First Coming!
 - Whereas - The First Word:
 - Of The First Line:
 - “Come” - Looks Forward To:
 - The Return Of Jesus:
 - At His Second Coming!
 - And So - Sets The Theme:
 - For The Entire Hymn!
 - 6. But - One Of The Most Remarkable Thing:
 - About This Hymn:
 - Is That - It Expresses The Longing:
 - That Was Felt By All Of God’s People:
 - No Matter When They Lived:
 - In Relation To The Cross!
 - Those Who Believed In Jesus:
 - Before He Was Born:
 - Longed For Him To Come:
 - As Their Messiah!

- While - Those Of Us Who Believe In Jesus:
 - Since He Was Born:
 - Long For Him To Come:
 - As Well!
- So - All True Believers - Everywhere:
 - And At All Times:
 - Have Been “Looking Unto Jesus” - Who Is:
 - “The Author And Finisher Of Our Faith!” (Hebrews 12:2)

7. Now - If You Remember From:

- Our Introduction To Charles Wesley Last Week:
 - We Learned That After His Conversion To Christ:
 - In 1738 - Everything About:
 - The Church Calendar:
 - That He Grew Up With:
 - In The Church Of England:
 - Came Alive To Him!
 - And So - When It Was Time:
 - To Celebrate The Birth Of Christ:
 - At Christmas - He Was Inspired To Write:
 - Many New Poems & Hymns:
 - About His Birth!
 - And - The Same Thing Happened:
 - When It Came Time:
 - To Remember:
 - The Death Of Christ & His Resurrection As Well!
 - But - The Birth Of Christ:
 - Was Such A Special Time For Wesley:
 - That In 1744 - Just 6 Years After He Was Truly Born Again:
 - He Published A Booklet With 18 Hymns Titled:
 - “Hymns For The Nativity Of Our Lord!”
 - And - The One We Are Looking At Tonight:
 - Was Simply Labeled:
 - “Hymn 10!”
 - Though Some Hymnals:
 - Have It Split Up Into:
 - Four Separate Stanzas!
 - Wesley’s Original Poem:
 - Was Written In & Sung In:
 - Two!

8. Now - The First Thoughts:

- That Wesley Had - About What Would Become:
 - This Hymn - Had Nothing To Do:
 - With Christmas At All!
- Because - At Some Point Before:
 - He Wrote It - He Was Traveling:
 - On Board A Coach - And Was Concerned About:
 - The Situation Of Orphans:
 - In The Places He Lived & Served!
- And - As He Thought About Their Needs:
 - The Lord Brought A Verse From:
 - The Book Of Haggai To His Mind:
 - Haggai 2:7 - “And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts!”
 - And - This Gave Him:
 - A Deep & Earnest Longing:
 - For The Return Of Jesus At His Second Coming!
 - Because - He Knew That:
 - When Jesus Came:
 - Who Is “The Desire Of All Nations!”
 - Everything That Is Wrong:

- In This World:
 - Would Be Made Right!
- Including - No More Orphans!
- And So - Wesley Wrote Down:
 - A Brief Prayer:
 - For Jesus' Coming:
 - That Is Found In The Second Stanza:
 - Of His Hymn!
 - But Then - He Added:
 - The First Stanza:
 - To Focus On The Promises:
 - Of Jesus' Coming!
 - And So - We Were Given:
 - A Hymn That Has Stood:
 - The Test Of Time!

9. So - As We Think About:
The Teachings Found In This Hymn:
- We First Focus On:

1. *The Promises For God's People:*

- That The Coming Of Jesus:
 - Would & Will Fulfill!
 - And - There Are Two Clear Promises:
 - That We Find In The First Stanza Of This Hymn!
- First - The Promise Of Freedom!
 - Again - From The First Two Lines:
 - "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus,
Born To Set Thy People Free!"
 - Of Course - This Is The Reason:
 - That Jesus Himself Gave:
 - For Coming Into This World!
 - When Jesus Started His Ministry:
 - One Of The First Places He Went:
 - Was His Home Town Of Nazareth!
 - And - According To Luke 4:
 - On A Particular Sabbath Day:
 - He Went Into The Synagogue And Stood Up To Read:
 - Some Verses From The Book Of Isaiah!
 - And - We Are Told That He Read These Words:
 - Luke 4:18 - "The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord!"
 - And Then - As "The Eyes Of All Them That Were In The Synagogue Were Fastened
On Him - He Began To Say - This Day Is This Scripture Fulfilled In Your Ears!"
- This Is Why Jesus Came!
 - This Is Why Jesus Was Born:
 - "Born To Set (His) People Free!"
 - And He Did So:
 - Through His Life & Death & Resurrection:
 - From The Dead!
- But Then - Wesley Added Two More Lines:
 - To Turn This Promise:
 - Into A Prayer - For Those:
 - Who Sing It!
 - "From Our Fears And Sins Relieve Us,
Let Us Find Our Rest In Thee!"
- Now - In Most Hymnals - Including Ours:
 - We Don't Sing How Wesley Originally:
 - Wrote It!

- Instead Of “Relieve” - We Sing:
 - “Release!”
- And - This Change In Wording:
 - Occurred Not Too Long After:
 - The Hymn Was First Published!
 - The First Time I Could Find “Release” Was:
 - In A 1797 Edition - Which Was Still:
 - Some Years After Wesley’s Death In 1788!
- But - I Wonder If Wesley:
 - Would Have Like The Change?
 - After All - To “Release” Means:
 - Just About The Same Thing As:
 - To “Set Thy People Free!”
- But - As We Know From The Gospel:
 - There Is An Objective Freedom:
 - That A Person Has:
 - The Moment They Are Saved!
 - You Are Saved Immediately:
 - And Set Free From:
 - The Penalty Of Sin!
 - And - The Power Of Sin!
 - But - One Of The Struggles:
 - Christians Still Face Is To Find:
 - “Relief” In Their “Release!”
 - And So - This Would Be:
 - A Good Prayer For True Believers:
 - “From Our Fears And Sins Relieve Us!”
 - Since - Through Faith In Christ:
 - We Have Already Been “Released” From Them!
 - Now - We Just Long For:
 - The Personal & Practical Experience:
 - Of That Freedom!
 - So That We Might:
 - “Find Our Rest In Thee!”
- But Then - Second - We Find - The Promise Of Fulfillment!
 - In The Last 4 Lines Of The First Stanza:
 - Wesley Strings Together:
 - Several Descriptions That Are Applied:
 - To Jesus - From The Old Testament!
 - He Is “Israel’s Strength!”
 - From 1 Samuel 15:29 - When Samuel Said To King Saul That:
 - “The Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he [is] not a man, that he should repent!”
 - He Is Also Their “Consolation!”
 - Which Is Who Old Simeon Was Waiting For:
 - In Luke 2:25 - “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him!”
 - He Is Also The:
 - “Hope Of All The Earth!”
 - Which Comes From Joel 3:16 - Where We Are Told That:
 - “The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD [will be] the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel!”
 - And - He Is Also The:
 - “Desire Of Every Nation!”
 - Which We Find In Haggai 2:7:
 - Which Was The Verse That God Gave To Wesley:
 - Just Before He Wrote This Hymn!
 - Now - Even Though There Are Different Ways:

- Of Translating This Phrase:
 - From This Verse!
- Its Still Better To See It:
 - As Speaking Of Jesus As:
 - The Greatest Treasure Of The World!
- Whether The World:
 - Desires Him:
 - Or Not!
- And - Of Course - He Is Also:
 - The “Joy Of Every Longing Heart!”
 - And - Isn’t This What Jesus Himself Promised In John 16:22?
 - “And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you!”
- When Jesus Returns:
 - Our Joy Will Be Full!
- These Are Some Of Great Truths & Promises:
 - That Wesley Knew:
 - Would Satisfy The Heart:
 - Of Anyone Who Truly:
 - Longed After God!
 - And - Only The Coming Of Jesus:
 - Will Fulfill Your Longing:
 - For Strength & Comfort!
 - For Hope & Joy!
 - Because He Is Your Greatest Treasure:
 - And Can Be Your Greatest Desire!
 - But - From This Focus On:
 - The Promises For God’s People:
 - In The Second Stanza:
 - Wesley Offers:

2. ***The Plea Of God’s People!***

- Of Course - This Was The Original Prayer & Plea:
 - That He Had - When He Thought About:
 - The Plight Of The Orphans!
 - But - He Knew That:
 - It Could & Should Be:
 - The Prayer & Plea Of:
 - All Of God’s People!
- So - In The First Part - He Expresses:
 - The Reason For The Plea!
 - “Born Thy People To Deliver,
Born A Child And Yet A King,
Born To Reign In Us Forever!”
 - All Three Of These Lines:
 - Point Back To:
 - The First Coming Of Christ:
 - And His birth!
 - He Was Born:
 - To Redeem & Deliver:
 - His People!
 - He Was Born:
 - As Royalty:
 - “A Child & Yet A King!”
 - Now - This Part Of Wesley’s Hymn:
 - Was Something That God Used:
 - To Spread The Hymn:
 - Beyond The Methodist Circles - Where It Was Always Quite Popular!
 - In 1855 - The London Baptist Preacher:
 - Charles Spurgeon Preached A Message On:

- December 23 - About:
 - “The Incarnation & Birth Of Christ!”
- And - One Of The Points:
 - In His Message Was:
 - “What Did Jesus Come For?”
- His Answer:
 - “He Came To Be Ruler In Israel!”
 - To Which He Added:
 - “A Very Singular Thing Is This, That Jesus Christ Was Said To Have Been Born The King Of The Jews! Very Few Have Ever Been Born King! Men Are Born Princes, But They Are Seldom Born Kings! I Do Not Think You Can Find An Instance In History, Where Any Infant Was Born King!
 - And Then - He Quotes These Two Lines From Wesley’s Hymn:
 - “Born Thy People To Deliver,
Born A Child And Yet A King!”
- There Are Many Who Attribute This Quote:
 - By Spurgeon - As The Point When:
 - This Hymn Started To Spread:
 - To All Christian Denominations:
 - And As One Of The Best Christmas Carols We Have!
- But - Not Only Was Jesus:
 - Born To Redeem & As Royalty:
 - He Was Also Born:
 - To Reign!
- And So - These Are The Reasons:
 - Why We Can & Should:
 - Pray This Prayer With Wesley:
 - In This Hymn!
- But - What Is:
 - The Request In The Plea?
 - Found In The Next Several Lines:
 - Starting With - “Now!”
 - This Is The True Desire:
 - Of God’s People!
 - This Is What We Want & Ought To Pray For! Even As Jesus Taught His Disciples To Pray In The Lord’s Prayer:
 - “Thy Kingdom Come!”
 - So - Plea To The Lord:
 - “Now Thy Gracious Kingdom Bring!”
 - And - As John Said:
 - Revelation 22:20 - “Come, Lord Jesus!”
 - But - How Long Will Have To Wait:
 - For An Answer To Our Plea?
 - Well - According To The Hymn & Scripture Itself:
 - Not Long At All!
 - Because - Not Only Is There:
 - A Future Dimension:
 - To The Kingdom Of Christ!
 - Which Will Be Quite Physical In Nature!
 - There Is Also:
 - A Present Dimension:
 - To The Kingdom Of Christ!
 - Which Is Spiritual In Nature!
 - Or - As Some Have Put It:
 - A - “Not Yet” Dimension:
 - Which Will Come About:
 - In The Future - When Jesus Returns In All Of His Glory!
 - But - There Is An:
 - “Already” Dimension:
 - To His Kingdom:

- In His Church & Through His Spirit!

- Which Is Why We Can Pray & Plea:
 - As Wesley Does:
 - “By Thine Own Eternal Spirit,
Rule In All Our Hearts Alone!”
 - So - We Can & Ought To:
 - Long For Christ’s Rule:
 - Now - In Our Hearts!
- While - At The Same Time:
 - Still Longing For Christ’s Reign:
 - That Has “Not Yet” Come!
 - So - “By Thine All-Sufficient Merit
Raise Us To Thy Glorious Throne!”

Conclusion:

1. May The Longing:
 - Of This Hymn:
 - Be Our Longing As Well!
 - “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!”
 - Let’s Pray!
2. Let’s Stand Together:
 - And Sing This Hymn Together:
 - Using The Words That:
 - Charles Wesley First Published:
 - In 1844!
 - Now - When It Comes To:
 - The Tune For This Hymn:
 - We Don’t Know How It Was:
 - Originally Sung!
 - Nor Do We Know:
 - The Tune Wesley:
 - Might Have Had In Mind For It!
 - The Earliest Known Tune:
 - To Be Published With The Text:
 - Is A Traditional German Tune:
 - “Stuttgart” - And Was First Found Together In 1715!
 - However - That Tune:
 - Required The Hymn To Be Split Into:
 - Four Stanzas!
 - The Tune We Find In Our Hymn-Book:
 - Is A Welsh Tune:
 - “Hyfrydol” - Which Retains:
 - The Two Stanza Structure:
 - Wesley Originally Wrote!
 - 3. Let’s Sing This Together:
 - Remembering - As Someone Once Said:
 - “This Is A Hymn For Anytime, Not Just Advent!”
 - So - Based On Jesus’ Promises:
 - Let Us Make Our Plea:
 - “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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