

A DAY OF GLORY

BY CHRIS COLLINS

Jesus, by His coming, ushered in the Kingdom of God. He is our great King who has launched a landed offensive against the kingdom of darkness. But this was no surprise attack. Scripture long beforehand told of this coming kingdom when God Himself would rule over His people after having triumphed over our enemies in the day of glory. We reflect on Christ's coming as a day when God's glorious light pierced the gloomy darkness (Isaiah 60:1-6), and we also look forward to His return as a future day of glory when He will make all things new (Revelation 21:5-6). The lyrics of the song "Day of Glory" cause us to reflect on the glorious reality of Christ's coming and to direct our hearts toward the future day of glory when we will behold our great King in the fullness of His majesty.

"A day, a day of promise"

The coming of Jesus on the earth was a long-awaited day, promised long beforehand, and now fulfilled in our midst. This song's first verse carries this truth, and it is meant to cause the people of God to rejoice in this day of promised victory. The coming of Jesus spelled doom for Satan and his kingdom of darkness. This day meant God's triumph over the vanquished forces of darkness. By the coming of our King, we too are assured triumph through Him over our spiritual foes, for Paul writes in Colossians,

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." – Colossians 2:15

"In flesh, His entrance humble"

Jesus did not triumph over darkness through military force or political authority. His demonstration of power and glory was in his meekness, humility, and hidden strength. Jesus' birth was in a stable's manger, where He was wrapped in rags. Our entrance into the kingdom of God must be in the same way as His entrance – with

humility and meekness – and these lyrics cause us to reflect on our great King’s lowly state while on earth. While rejoicing with Elizabeth, her relative, Mary proclaims and exults in the very truth reflected in the second verse:

“[51] He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

[52] he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” – Luke 1:51-52

“Let angels shout the triumph”

The birth of the King of kings is the most glorious moment of history. The chorus brings us to this moment of worship and triumph. Luke tells us that the heavenly host of angels came down from heaven and visited lowly shepherds to attest to this day of glory in a song of praise to God as they beheld the Son of heaven and earth:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” – Luke 2:14

God’s heavenly host joins with the lowliest of mortal men in praise over this moment, the birth of Jesus. Heavenly hosts come down to worship and celebrate with men, and it’s all about Jesus! Heaven has invaded earth! His coming means the fulfillment of God’s promises, victory over darkness, the display of power through meekness, and the glory of God among men. Whenever we sing about this reality, we join in the song of the angels that night recorded in Luke.

“A day, a day of glory”

The story of the birth of our King is not over, though. The third verse reminds our hearts to hope in the glory yet to be revealed. By Jesus’ coming in meekness to dethrone the king of darkness and by His suffering to save those who are spiritually oppressed, we are assured of even greater things: that Jesus will return in power on a future day of glory to take us up with Him in resurrected bodies, free from suffering. It is only because of the first day of glory that we look forward to a future day of glory. Paul tells us in Romans that because of Jesus, we are children of the King,

“and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” – Romans 8:17

The first day of glory, when King Jesus was born into the world, makes us hope and long for the future day of glory, when our glorious King eternal will return for His own and share with us in His glorious inheritance. We will be taken up in glory on some future day, but as in the pattern Jesus laid out, humility always precedes glory. Our glory, like Jesus’ before us, is hidden in humility, suffering, and meekness in this age, but the promise of Scripture is as clear about the future day of glory as it was about the first:

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” – 2 Corinthians 4:17

We worship and rejoice for the coming day of glory as we sing “Gloria! Glory!” He has come in glory to vanquish our foes, and thus we have every reason to trust that He will come again in glory to make all things new.

“‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” – Revelation 22:20