

Favorite Hymns of the Season

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

The full story of how the New and Old Testament views of the Messiah came together in the birth and life of Jesus!

Introduction: Dear friends: On the three Wednesdays in Advent, we will focus on three favorite hymns of the season:

- **12/17** – O Little Town of Bethlehem (TLH 647)
- **12/10** – Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (TLH 94)
- **Today** – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (TLH 62)

Some basics before we consider the words of the hymn:¹

- Spelling: Immanuel – *Hebrew*; Emmanuel – *Greek*.
- Writer: His name is unknown, but he ♦was probably a RC monk or priest, ♦had a good knowledge of the OT and NT, and ♦wrote sometime before AD 800 – *according to Ace Collins*, even though TLH notes 1100.
- Original Hymn: It had **seven** stanzas (see LSB 357); one was chanted on the seven days before Christmas.
- Benefit: Since many people ♦could not read and ♦did not have a Bible, *the hymn helped people understand Jesus from an OT and NT perspective*.
- Worldwide Acclaim: John Neale, an Anglican priest, *who could write and speak in more than twenty languages*, ♦came across the words in Latin in the mid 1800's, ♦translated them into English, and ♦coupled them with the tune we use today: Veni, Emmanuel

¹ Ace Collins, Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 126.

This sermon includes the **four** stanzas found in The Lutheran Hymnal. Each stanza identifies Jesus with a descriptive name: **1) Emmanuel**, **2) Rod of Jesse**, **3) Dayspring from on high**, and **4) Key of David**. Each stanza ends with the same refrain, calling us to **rejoice** because **Emmanuel** is **coming**!

1. **Stanza 1 Summary** – For all who are being held captive by sin and separated from God, **Emmanuel** – *God with us* – has come to ♦forgive, ♦set free, and ♦restore!
 - a. **Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel**
 - i. In **Isaiah chapter 7**, the southern kingdom of Judah was being threatened by two great enemies – *Aram and Israel*. So, to bring peace to king Ahaz and his people, the LORD promised that by the time a virgin had a baby and weaned it, *the enemy threat would be gone*.
 - ii. The greater fulfillment of that promise came, *about 700 years later*, when the Virgin Mary conceived and gave birth to a Son, **“Emmanuel”** – *God with us*! **When** we were captive and helpless, *the Son of God put on flesh and conquered our greatest enemies* – sin, death, and the devil!
 - b. **That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.** // To be in exile is to live away from one’s true home. For believers, our true home is heaven,² *and Jesus has opened the way!*
 - c. **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.** // We now rejoice in Emmanuel’s first coming and gladly anticipate His certain return!

² Philippians 3:20.

2. **Stanza 2 Summary** – **Emmanuel** is the Son of David, who is the Son / **Rod of Jesse**. When we were ♦held captive, ♦spiritually dead, and ♦hell-bound, God gave His Son to make us ♦free, ♦spiritually alive, and ♦heaven-bound!
- a. **Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny;** // When ♦Satan was bullying us, and ♦we were hopelessly trapped, God gave His Son, the “Rod of Jesse,” to ♦defeat Satan and ♦grant eternal life to all who are repenting and believing in **Jesus.**”
 - b. **From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.** // Our sins brought death and hell upon us, but the “Rod of Jesse” ♦has defeated death and ♦invites everyone to share in His victory!
 - c. **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.** // Through Jesus, *we are the true Israel!*
3. **Stanza 3 Summary** – Sin, separation, and death are darkness; so, “**the Dayspring from on high**” pierced the darkness and brought ♦forgiveness, ♦unity, and ♦life!
- a. **Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;** // Before the invention of the light bulb in 1879, the nights were dark and dangerous. ***Spiritual darkness is even greater!*** So, let us rejoice in the “Dayspring from on high”!
 - b. **Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.** // No matter the greatness of ♦our sin or ♦our depression, the “Dayspring from on high” is always able to ♦fully forgive and ♦fully restore!
 - c. **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.** // Since He has come, *let us greatly rejoice!*

4. **Stanza 4 Summary** – Before “*the Key of David*” – came, heaven was locked and we were hopeless. But now, ♣heaven is open and ♣our path is joy!
- a. **Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home:** // Have you ever found yourself locked out and keyless? Not pleasant☹. *Imagine being locked out of heaven for eternity☹.* Jesus is the “**Key of David**,” to the **repentant** – *He unlocks heaven*, to the **unrepentant** – *heaven remains locked*. So, let us urge everyone to turn **from sin to God**!
- b. **Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.** // While we are here on earth, the forces of evil are working 24/7 to ♣deceive us and ♣mislead us. So, let us ➡stay in the word of God and ➡walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit!
- c. **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.** // Who is Israel? **In the OT, Israel** ♣was Jacob’s new name, ♣were the descendants of Israel who entered the Promised Land, and ♣was the name of the northern kingdom. **But who is Israel now?** All who are repenting and believing in Jesus. Let’s rejoice that He ☺**took away our sins** and ☺**will come again**!

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, even before anyone sinned, *You planned our salvation*. Then You promised Emmanuel. Then, *in perfect obedience*, He came and saved us. So, let us rejoice and let us share the good news of His coming and work!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”
Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230