

Jesus Is Coming Soon

Introduction:

1. The lyrics and music for this song were written by Robert Emmett Winsett.
2. He was born on January 15, 1876, in Bledsoe County, Tennessee.
3. In his lifetime, Winsett wrote over 1,000 gospel songs and hymns.
4. In 1907 he published a hymnal titled: *Pentecostal Power*.
5. In 1923 he became a minister for the Church of God (Seventh Day).
6. In 1942 he published the song that is the subject of this lesson – “Jesus Is Coming Soon.”
7. He died on June 26, 1952.

I. Is Jesus Coming?

- A. Absolutely! (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11)
- B. There will be a day of judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

II. Is Jesus Coming Soon?

- A. “Soon” is a relative term.
- B. Relatively speaking, the answer is “yes” (Romans 13:11).
- C. His return is closer now than it has ever been before.
- D. But, no one knows when He will return (Matthew 24:36, 42-43; 25:13; Mark 13:35-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3; 2 Peter 3:10).

III. Is This Song Scriptural?

Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear,
 Freedom we all hold dear now is at stake;
 Humb'ling your heart to God, saves from the chast'ning rod.
 Seek the way pilgrims trod, Christians awake.

Love of so many cold, losing their home of gold,
 This in God's Word is told, evils abound,
 When these signs come to pass, nearing the end at last,
 It will come very fast, trumpets will sound.

- A. To answer this question, one must understand the teachings of the Church of God (Seventh Day). {Quotations are taken from cog7.org/what-we-believe.}
 1. “Through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, all human beings became sinners by nature and by choice.”
 2. “The penalty for our sin is alienation from God, physical death (without consciousness), and, ultimately, eternal death for those who do not receive the salvation offered by Christ.”
 3. “Sinful humanity may be saved from the penalty of eternal death and receive eternal life instead, solely by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from human merit, works, or

ceremonies. Atonement for sins, with its attendant promise of eternal life, comes through Christ's death and resurrection on our behalf and is received in human experience by faith and repentance."

4. "Christ prescribed two ordinances that confirm faith in Him: 1.) baptism, preceded by a confession of faith in Christ and repentance, symbolizing the believer's initial union with Christ by death to sins, burial (immersion) in water, and rising to new life."
 5. "And 2.) Lord's Supper, an annual memorial of Christ's death in which believers eat the bread and drink from the cup — symbols of His body and blood. ... It is accompanied by footwashing."
 6. "The seventh-day Sabbath is God's gift to humanity from creation, was written into the Ten Commandments by God's finger, kept and taught by Jesus, and observed by the apostolic church. A memorial of both creation and redemption, the Sabbath should be faithfully celebrated by believers now as a day of rest, worship, and well-doing."
 7. "As a result — not a cause — of redemption, believers should ...observe these Bible principles: give tithe and freewill offerings for the support of the church and its gospel ministry; eat for food only those meats the Bible describes as "clean"; regard participation in physical warfare as contrary to a Christian's humanitarian calling; avoid intermixing Christianity with extra-biblical practices, as in the common observances of Sunday, Christmas, Easter, Lent, and Halloween."
 8. "Bible prophecy preserves and strengthens a believer's hope for the Second Advent. It identifies religious, social, and political trends and events, including the rebirth of the nation of Israel, which point to the imminent return of Christ and the eventual establishment of God's eternal kingdom on earth."
 9. "Jesus will return to earth in power and glory to resurrect the righteous dead, bestow immortality and eternal life upon the resurrected and the living righteous, avenge the saints, and be glorified in them. His earthly reign of one thousand years will be a universal kingdom in which all principalities, powers, and enemies are overcome. At its conclusion, the unrighteous will be resurrected to suffer annihilation at the great white throne judgment."
 10. "God's eternal kingdom will begin when Jesus Christ, having put all enemies under His feet, turns the kingdom over to the Father. God will dwell with the redeemed in a new heaven and a new earth where no disappointment, defilement, or death can enter and where righteousness and peace will prevail forever."
- B. This denomination "began in the mid-1800s as [an] outgrowth of the William Miller Adventist movement."
 - C. It is Pentecostal, Sabbatarian, and Premillennial.
 - D. In their FAQ's, this statement is made: "Jesus Christ will soon return physically to the earth." (cog7.org/frequently-asked-questions)
 - E. The lyrics of this song are clearly in harmony with the Premillennial beliefs of its composer.

1. He claims that troublesome times are signs that point the approaching return of Jesus.
 2. And, if one will humble himself before God, he will be spared from the chastening or tribulation.
- F. However, the return of Jesus is not the beginning of “the tribulation” or of the kingdom; rather, it is the end of the world (Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 3:10).
- G. Furthermore, there is no literal “millennial kingdom” in Scripture (cf. Revelation 20).
- H. Assuredly, there are no signs that predict or foretell the return of Jesus.
1. Matthew 24:1-35 is in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70.
 2. This is also true of Mark 13:1-31 (vs. 14) and Luke 21:5-33 (vs. 20).
 3. The time of Jesus’ return is unpredictable (Mark 13:32-37).

Troubles will soon be o’er, happy forevermore;
 When we meet on that shore free from all care;
 Rising up in the sky; telling this world good-bye,
 Homeward we then will fly, glory to share.

Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon,
 Many will meet their doom, Trumpets will sound,
 All of the dead shall rise, Righteous meet in the skies,
 Going where no one dies, Heavenward bound.

- I. It is not necessarily wrong to say that Jesus is coming soon.
- J. However, one must be clear that this statement does not mean that he knows when Jesus will return or that he has seen signs indicating the nearness of His return.
- K. Should this song be sung in worship?
 1. The 3rd stanza and chorus probably could be sung without teaching or endorsing error, so long as the nature of Jesus’ “coming soon” is understood.
 2. The 2nd verse is overtly Premillennial, and the 1st verse heavily implies this erroneous doctrine.
 3. To avoid error and confusion, it is wise not to include this song in public worship.
- L. As with all songs, the Christian must sing with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15).

Conclusion:

1. Whether soon or later, Jesus is returning.
2. Are you ready?