

COME, LORD JESUS

SONG DEVOTIONAL - STEPHEN COLLINS

LYRICS

Christ has risen
Good news for all the world
Sin is retreating
But still it has a hold
We long for You to come
Set every evil right
Put every curse to flight

Your second coming
It fills our hearts with hope
Your final victory
When death and sin's no more
We long for your return
Your kingdom come to earth
As it is on high

Come, Lord Jesus, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
You are the vict'ry
You are the kingdom
Come, Lord Jesus, come

Your future glory
When You have come again
Will heal our sorrow
Our life will have no end
Holy are You Lord
Come restore us now
Come restore us now

We, live
To see Your glory come to earth
As it is in Heaven
We, see
Your love that's shining like the sun
We bow before You Jesus

DEVOTIONAL

Revelation 21:1-5a, 22:20

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

"Come, Lord Jesus" is a song that speaks to the deep desire, hope, and longing within humanity, within the very core of creation, and deep within the message of the Bible for restorative justice. "Come, Lord Jesus" is the cry of those who desperately want to see the world put right, for every curse of sin to be thrown out, and every evil that has been perpetuated to be brought into the open and redeemed. It is a cry that acknowledges our blessed hope is found in "the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). This cry recognizes that final justice will only occur when every knee in heaven, on earth, and under the earth is bowed before Christ Jesus and when every tongue confesses his lordship (Philippians 2:10-11). So we cry, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come renew us. Come restore us and your creation."

This hope and cry brings us to action, daring action to see injustice cease in the here and now as we await Christ's final return. Like the bridge lyrics say, "We live (actively) to see your glory come to earth, as it is in heaven." Knowing Jesus promised to return gives us the motivation to live and love self-sacrificially. We have a secure future! We can continually be poured out in service of Christ's kingdom because we know that final restorative justice will be realized. "Come, Lord Jesus," therefore, is not an invitation to sit back and do nothing, but a call to action for the body of Christ to live "self-controlled, upright and godly lives," that we may be a "people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:12,14).

Finally, crying "Come, Lord Jesus" reminds us that only he brings true renewal, restoration, and justice. The number of possessions we have, the amount of power we wield, or the abundance of food and pleasure will never fully satisfy or renew us, and so we cry "Come, Lord Jesus." We must be wary that we don't become like the seed thrown among the weeds and become so choked with the worries and pleasures of life that we never bear fruit (Matthew 13). Those who own so much and can afford much pleasure may be tempted to say, "Perhaps Jesus can wait for a few years before coming back. I haven't quite accomplished everything I want to and, after all, I plan on going to Europe this spring and don't want that trip not to happen." Crying "Come, Lord Jesus" jolts us awake to the injustice in the world that we need to help set right and that only Jesus and his final return can fully set right.

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 22:17). We pray "Come, Lord Jesus." Amen.

