

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made,
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns;
 5. Let all the peo - ple rise and bring



does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 and end - less prais - es crown His head;
 dwell on His love with sweet - est song,
 the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 their spe - cial hon - ors to our King;



His king - dom spread from shore to shore,
 His name like sweet perfume shall rise
 and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 the wea - ry find eter - nal rest,
 an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,



till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 and all who suf - fer want are blessed.
 and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

TEXT: Isaac Watts
 TUNE: John Hatton

DUKE STREET

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is one of the many hundreds of hymns Isaac Watts wrote based on the Psalms. His groundbreaking *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719) provided a way to worship that helps show how the Psalms, like all the Old Testament, resound with new meaning in the context of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension. As Leland Ryken states in *40 Hymns on the Christian Life*, Watts' work "is similar to Jesus's reading Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue and then announcing, 'Today the Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'" Through Psalms-rooted hymns like "Joy to the World" and many others, Watts helps us "travel through the cross" and apply the Psalms well in worship.

"Jesus Shall Reign" is Watts' second hymn written on Psalm 72, subtitled "*Christ's kingdom among the Gentiles*." Where Psalm 72 petitions God to bless Israel's king ("may he have dominion from sea to sea," verse 8), Watts uses the same metaphors and images from the psalm to remind us that Jesus *already* reigns over all. He shall reign in all places under the sun particularly as all nations hear of the gospel and respond in faith—men and women, old and young—in every language.

As a result, this hymn not only points to the reign of King Christ but also the mission of His church. Missionaries in the past like Eric Liddell have taken these words as a rallying cry for God's people to labor to see "*people and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song*."

Today, most Christians sing five of the eight total verses Watts penned for this psalm. The omitted stanzas include specific references to nations like Persia and India. What new peoples might be included as God continues to send us out into the world? May this hymn be another way the Lord equips us to take part in the spread of Christ's name and praise around the world.

Scripture to consider:

Psalm 72 Isaiah 61
 Psalm 107 Acts 1-2
 Isaiah 45:14-25 Philippians 2:1-10

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun



1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made,
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns;
 5. Let all the peo - ple rise and bring



does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 and end - less prais - es crown His head;
 dwell on His love with sweet - est song,
 the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 their spe - cial hon - ors to our King;



His king - dom spread from shore to shore,
 His name like sweet perfume shall rise
 and in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 the wea - ry find eter - nal rest,
 an - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,



till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 and all who suf - fer want are blessed.
 and earth re - peat the loud A - men.

TEXT: Isaac Watts

TUNE: John Hatton

DUKE STREET

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun is one of the many hundreds of hymns Isaac Watts wrote based on the Psalms. His groundbreaking *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament* (1719) provided a way to worship that helps show how the Psalms, like all the Old Testament, resound with new meaning in the context of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension. As Leland Ryken states in *40 Hymns on the Christian Life*, Watts' work "is similar to Jesus's reading Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue and then announcing, 'Today the Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'" Through Psalms-rooted hymns like "Joy to the World" and many others, Watts helps us "travel through the cross" and apply the Psalms well in worship.

"Jesus Shall Reign" is Watts' second hymn written on Psalm 72, subtitled "*Christ's kingdom among the Gentiles*." Where Psalm 72 petitions God to bless Israel's king ("may he have dominion from sea to sea," verse 8), Watts uses the same metaphors and images from the psalm to remind us that Jesus *already* reigns over all. He shall reign in all places under the sun particularly as all nations hear of the gospel and respond in faith—men and women, old and young—in every language.

As a result, this hymn not only points to the reign of King Christ but also the mission of His church. Missionaries in the past like Eric Liddell have taken these words as a rallying cry for God's people to labor to see "*people and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song*."

Today, most Christians sing five of the eight total verses Watts penned for this psalm. The omitted stanzas include specific references to nations like Persia and India. What new peoples might be included as God continues to send us out into the world? May this hymn be another way the Lord equips us to take part in the spread of Christ's name and praise around the world.

Scripture to consider:

Psalm 72

Isaiah 61

Psalm 107

Acts 1-2

Isaiah 45:14-25

Philippians 2:1-10