

# Come Ye Blessed of My Father

Abraham Booth

(1734-1806)

**A**NOTHER thing that will add to the blessedness of saints at that day is their public acquittal by Jesus the Judge, when standing before His tribunal. Behold He cometh with clouds and every eye shall see Him! Infinitely grand and awfully amiable<sup>i</sup> He now appears. Innumerable angels attend His approach, and pour around His chariot. The brightness of ten thousand suns is lost in the blaze of His glory and in the luster of His countenance.

Behold! A great white throne is erected, clear as light and fiery as flame. The Judge, inflexibly just and immensely glorious, ascends the tribunal. Before His presence, the heavens and the earth flee away. Those innumerable millions of rational creatures that people the universe are now assembled.

The books are opened. Myriads of adoring seraphs and countless multitudes of anxious spectators await the grand result. The wicked, with trembling hands and throbbing hearts, with horror in their aspect<sup>ii</sup> and damnation in view, would be glad to lose their being. But the righteous are bold and intrepid<sup>iii</sup>, for the Judge is their Friend and their Savior. The righteousness in which they appear was performed by Him. The plea that they make He cannot reject: For it is the blood that lie shed to atone for their sins and the promise He made to comfort their souls under the expectation of this important event.

They there stand—not to have any fresh indictment brought against them nor to have anything laid to their charge by Satan, the Law, or

justice, but to be honorably acquitted in the presence of angels and of the whole assembled world. The sentence of justification, long before pronounced in the court of heaven and in the court of conscience at the time of their conversion, is now recognized in the most solemn and public manner. The works of faith and labors of love, performed by them toward their needy fellow Christians in the time of their pilgrimage here below, are now produced by the omniscient Judge. [These are the] fruits and evidences of their union with Him, of their faith in Him, and of their love to Him. The nature and quality of their works, the principle from which they proceed, and the end for which they were done, together with the character of those that were benefited by them, will afford sufficient evidence to whom the performers of them belong.

These expressions of love and fruits of holiness being remembered by Christ though forgotten by the saints—He will avow them for His own. He will number them among His jewels. He will confess them before His Father and all the holy angels. Then shall their characters, which in the time of their sojourning here below were aspersed<sup>iv</sup> with every foul reproach, be fully vindicated to their everlasting honor and to the eternal confusion of all their adversaries. For with a smile of Divine complacency,<sup>v</sup> the Judge will say, "*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*" (Mat 25:34).

Reviving words! Having long desired to be near the Lord, they are invited to come and to be with Him forever. Now the painful fears that they once had are eternally removed, for they are pronounced blessed of the Father by a voice that the whole assembled world shall hear. They were all poor in spirit and the generality of them poor in temporals<sup>vi</sup>. How agreeably, then, must they be surprised to hear that they are called to possess a Kingdom, called to inherit it as princes of the blood royal who are born to thrones and crowns! Lost, they will be in pleasing

astonishment to find that before they had a being or the foundations of the world were laid, the eternal God had prepared this Kingdom for them! Every reflection upon the way in which they came to possess it must heighten their amazement and joy. Then shall they be admitted in their whole persons into the fullness of bliss, into a nearer and more perfect fruition of God than they ever before enjoyed.

Their blessedness thus heightened shall be eternal. Eternity stamped on their enjoyments gives them their infinite worth. For could they, who are so high in bliss, be apprehensive of an end of their happiness, however remote, "that ghastly thought would drink up all [their] joy." But their inheritance is unalienable<sup>vii</sup>, their crown unfading, and their Kingdom everlasting. Jehovah Himself is their light, and the Most High their glory. Yes, the infinite God is their portion and their exceeding great reward. Their felicity<sup>viii</sup>, therefore, is permanent as the Divine perfections they adore and enjoy; and [it is] made certain to their own comprehensive minds beyond the possibility of a doubt. This makes their state supremely glorious. This constitutes it heaven indeed. Nay, what if the limits of their capacities should be forever enlarging and forever receiving greater measures of glory? For the Deity is an infinite source of blessedness, and finite vessels may be forever expanding and forever filling in that ocean of All-sufficiency. What an amazing state of ever-growing pleasure! What an astonishing scale of bliss! Jehovah shall open inexhaustible stores of blessings, as yet unknown to angels, and feast their souls with joys that are ever new. Nothing equal to this can be conceived by mortals! Nothing superior can be enjoyed by mere creatures.

Yet this—hear it, O ye nations! And listen, ye isles from afar (Jer 31:10)! While the millions of beatified<sup>ix</sup> saints dwell on the stupendous truth!—this is the END<sup>x</sup> of the victorious reign of grace. Grace reigned in the eternal counsels, when contriving the way to this glorious end. Grace reigned in providing the means and in bestowing the blessings that were

necessary to its accomplishment. Grace reigned to the complete execution of the noble, the astonishing design, from first to last. Surely, then, reigning grace should have the unrivalled honor of all the blessings enjoyed by believers on earth or by saints in light. Yes, and it shall have the glory in all the churches of Christ below and in all the triumphant hosts above. For when the last stone of the spiritual temple shall be laid, it will be with shoutings, "*GRACE, GRACE UNTO IT!*"

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Abraham Booth (1734-1806): English Baptist preacher; considered one of the most learned men of his day; author of *The Reign of Grace, A Defense for the Baptists*, and others; born in Blackwell, Derbyshire, England.

“The wicked may now pride themselves that in the Day of Judgment, they will placate God by their tears. But they will then find that not only His justice, but His outraged mercy also calls aloud for His vengeance upon them.—A. W. Pink

<sup>i</sup> Awfully amiable – majestically inspiring love..

<sup>ii</sup> aspect – gaze. <sup>iii</sup> Intrepid – without fear.

<sup>iv</sup> Aspersed – slandered, falsely accused.

<sup>v</sup> Complacency – satisfaction; pleasure.

<sup>vi</sup> Temporals - possessions

<sup>vii</sup> Unalienable – incapable of being transferred to another

<sup>viii</sup> Felicity - happiness

<sup>ix</sup> Beatified – blissfully, supremely happy

<sup>x</sup> End - goal