



THE KING  
IS COMING

# Background

- “The King Is Coming” was written in 1970 by Bill and Gloria Gaither
- It was inspired by a sermon on Jesus’ return.
- The Gaithers envisioned it as a coronation anthem, celebrating Jesus’ promised Second Coming.
- The song has since become a staple in Christian worship, reminding believers of the hope of Christ’s return.

# The King is Coming

*The marketplace is empty,  
No more traffic in the streets,  
All the builders' tools are silent,  
No more time to harvest wheat;  
Busy housewives cease their labors,  
In the courtroom no debate,  
Work on earth is all suspended  
As the King comes thro' the gate.*



## Earthly Labors Cease

- When Jesus returns all earthly commerce will no longer matter.

*11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. (Revelation 18:11–13 ESV)*

## Earthly Labors Cease

- We are reminded that material wealth is temporary & cannot save us.

*15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, (Revelation 18:15 ESV)*

## Earthly Labors Cease

- Jesus' coming halts all human striving, showing that only His kingdom endures. (Ecclesiastes 12:3–5)

*3 in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, 4 and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—*

## Earthly Labors Cease

*5 they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—*

*(Ecclesiastes 12:3–5 ESV)*

- The imagery of harvest points to the final separation of righteous & unrighteous - The time to sow seeds of faith is now.

*(Matthew 13:39–43)*

## Earthly Labors Cease

*39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, 42 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.*

*(Matthew 13:39–43 ESV)*

## Earthly Labors Cease

- Earthly debates & trials will cease because God's judgment is final.

*10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.  
(2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV)*

## Earthly Labors Cease

- “Work suspended” underscores the brevity of earthly opportunity & the eternal significance of Jesus’ return.

*4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.  
(John 9:4 ESV)*

# The King is Coming

*Happy faces line the hallways,  
Those whose lives have been redeemed,  
Broken homes that He has mended,  
Those from prison He has freed;  
Little children and the aged  
Hand in hand stand all aglow,  
Who were crippled, broken, ruined,  
Clad in garments white as snow.*



RESTORATION

## Restoration

- “Happy faces redeemed” reflects the joy of salvation & the hope of eternal life.

*9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9–10 ESV)*

## Restoration

- Jesus heals divisions & restores families.

*14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*  
*(Ephesians 2:14–16 ESV)*

# Restoration

- “Prisoners freed” symbolizes freedom from sin, guilt, & bondage, reminding us that Jesus’ redemption is complete.

*1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (Isaiah 61:1 ESV)*

# Restoration

- “Children and aged together” paints a picture of unity across ages, showing heaven’s inclusivity.

*28 “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28 ESV)*

# Restoration

- “Clad in white garments” emphasizes purity, forgiveness, & the righteousness of Jesus covering believers.

*8 “it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” (Revelation 19:8 ESV)*

# The King is Coming

*I can hear the chariots rumble,  
I can see the marching throng,  
The flurry of God's trumpets  
 Spells the end of sin and wrong:  
Regal robes are now unfolding,  
Heaven's grandstand's all in place,  
Heaven's choir now assembled,  
Start to sing "Amazing Grace!"*

# Heavenly Procession



## Heavenly Procession

- “Chariots rumble” symbolizes divine power & majesty accompanying Jesus’ return.

*17 Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

*(2 Kings 6:17 ESV)*

## Heavenly Procession

- “Marching throng” envisions the saints joining in procession, celebrating victory over sin & death.

*12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1 ESV)*

# Heavenly Procession

- “Trumpets sounding” connects directly to the eschatological promise of resurrection.

*16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV)*

# Heavenly Procession

- “Regal robes unfolding” highlights Jesus’ royal authority & the coronation imagery of His return.

*16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,  
King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:16 ESV)*

## Heavenly Procession

- “Choir singing Amazing Grace” ties earthly worship to eternal praise, showing continuity between now & eternity.

*11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*  
*(Revelation 5:11–12 ESV)*

## Practical Applications

- Anticipate Jesus' return daily, shaping choices & priorities.
- Invest in relationships & spiritual growth rather than material pursuits.
- Seek reconciliation & healing in broken relationships.
- Share Jesus' freedom with those burdened by guilt or grief.
- Practice worship now as preparation for eternal praise.
- Remind fellow believers of the blessed hope, strengthening faith in community.



The  
**K**ing is Coming!  
are you ready?

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## Discussion Questions

- How does the image of earthly work ceasing help us focus on eternal priorities?
- What comfort do you find in knowing Jesus restores broken homes & lives?
- How does the vision of children & the aged together encourage you about heaven?
- How does the promise of seeing Jesus' face strengthen your faith today?



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