



Senior Bible Study Ministry

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>

A night sky filled with stars and a bright, multi-pointed star at the top center. A beam of light shines down from this star, illuminating a town with domed buildings and palm trees in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue and purple, with a large, faint arc of light visible. The text "JOY TO THE WORLD" is centered in the middle of the image.

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the World

- "Joy to the World" was written by Isaac Watts in 1719.
- It was not initially intended to be a Christmas hymn but was inspired by Psalm 98, celebrating the triumphant reign of Christ.
- The melody most associated with the hymn was arranged by Lowell Mason in 1839, borrowing themes from Handel's "Messiah."

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.*



King Of Kings

King of Kings

- The Lord's Coming - Celebrates the arrival of Jesus, referencing His incarnation & second coming

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

(Revelation 19:6 ESV)

King of Kings

- Receiving the King - Calls humanity to welcome Jesus as King

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11 ESV)

King of Kings

- Preparing Him Room - Reflects the need to make space for Jesus in our hearts
- (Luke 2:7

37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 ESV)

King of Kings

- Universal Rejoicing - Heaven & nature celebrate Jesus' coming

4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! 5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

King of Kings

- Heavenly Song – All of heaven sings praises to God

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13 ESV)

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.*

I'VE GOT the
JOY, JOY,
JOY, JOY,
DOWN in MY
HEART

Joy

- Songs of Praise - All believers join in songs of worship

95 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (Psalm 95:1-2 ESV)

- Repeating Joy - Reflects the eternal & ever-renewing joy found in Jesus

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. (Philippians 4:4 ESV)

Joy

- Global Worship - Suggests the universal reach of Jesus' kingdom

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14 ESV)

Joy to the World

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.*

HIS KINGDOM

RULES OVER ALL

Psalm 103:19



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His Kingdom Rules Over All

- Truth and Grace - Christ's reign is marked by truth & grace

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17 ESV)

- Global Recognition - Nations witness & acknowledge Christ's righteousness (Isaiah 9:6-7)

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His Kingdom Rules Over All

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV)

His Kingdom Rules Over All

- Glories of Righteousness – There is beauty & perfection of God's rule

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

(Psalm 19:7-9 ESV)

His Kingdom Rules Over All

- Wonders of His Love – The depth of God's love is overwhelming

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 ESV)

His Kingdom Rules Over All

- Eternal Rule – Jesus' reign is everlasting

14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:14 ESV)

Practical Applications

- Let the joy of Jesus fill your heart, especially during trials.
- Share the message of Jesus' reign with others.
- Praise God daily for His blessings.
- Trust in Christ's redemptive work to undo the curse of sin.
- Reflect the "wonders of His love" by showing love to others.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to "prepare Him room" in your life today?
- How can you reflect the joy of Jesus' reign in your daily interactions?
- How does Jesus' victory over sin and sorrow give you hope?
- What are some "wonders of His love" that you've experienced in your own life?

A night sky filled with stars and a prominent bright star with a four-pointed glow. A beam of light shines down from the star towards a town in the foreground. The town is illuminated with a warm, golden light, and several palm trees are visible. The sky is a deep blue and purple, with a large, faint, circular pattern of light. The text "JOY TO THE WORLD" is centered in the middle of the image.

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