

WEEK 2, DAY 4

COME, DESIRE OF NATIONS, COME



The Garden of Eden, Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1615

**Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,
Stamp Thine image in its place:
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.**

The fourth verse and last verse that we sing uses the first four lines of each of the last two verses Charles Wesley wrote, but it works together incredibly well.

This verse addresses the *protoevangelium*. That's a very big word, but it just means the early or first gospel, when our dear Father gave Adam and Eve hope for the Savior to come. "Rise, the woman's conquering Seed, Bruise in us the serpent's head," points us to Genesis 3, speaking to the serpent, Satan, God said,

*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel. Genesis 3:15*

“Rise, the woman’s conquering Seed,” the carol tells us. It was finally time for the Savior who was promised at the beginning of the world to come and restore us to fellowship with God and renew our nature, which was ruined in the Fall. His coming and dying paid the penalty for the sins of God’s people so that they could be reconciled to God.

And He is coming for all of His people, more than just the children of Abraham, but His people in every nation, too! He is what we are longing for, “Come, Desire of Nations, Come.”

“For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:6-7

The last part of the verse teaches us about Christ as the second Adam, “Second Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy love.”

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. I Corinthians 15:22

Because Adam, the first man, sinned, we have all inherited a sin nature and we are all separated from God.

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Roman 5:19, though the whole passage from verse 12 is very worth reading.

Another reference to the Lord as the second Adam is in I Corinthians.

And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. I Corinthians 15:45

But, what is meant by, “Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface, Stamp Thine image in its place?” Efface means to wipe out.

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...” Colossians 3:9-10

This passage explains that we have to put off the old man and put on the new.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these

He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:29-30

We should be conformed to the image of Christ, which is why the hymn says “stamp Thine image in its place.”

This last verse reminds us that the Lord Jesus Christ’s birth (and death) is the culmination of thousands of years of prophecies beginning in the Garden of Eden. There is incredible theological and devotional richness in this Christmas hymn.

Let’s pray!