

A street scene in Olney, England. On the left, a stone building has a sign for 'Le Bistro' with a white lily and the text 'Olney Inn' and '01524 700111'. A horse sculpture is mounted on the wall above the sign. A large flower basket hangs from the building. In the background, a church spire rises above a row of stone houses. On the right, a row of brick houses is visible, with a sign that says 'GOOD WINE HERE'. The street is paved and leads towards the church.

OLNEY
HYMNS

*William Cowper
and
John Newton*

OLNEY HYMNS

In Three Books

Book 1. On Select Texts of Scripture

Book 2. On Occasional Subjects

Book 3. On the Progress and Changes of the Spiritual Life

And they sang as it were a new song before the throne; and no man could learn that song, but the redeemed from the earth. Rev. 14:3.

As sorrowful – yet always rejoicing, 2 Cor. 6:10

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PREFACE

Copies of a few of these Hymns have already appeared in periodical publications, and in some recent collections. I have observed one or two of them attributed to persons who certainly had no concern in them, but as transcribers. All that have been at different times parted with in manuscript are included in the present volume; and (if the information were of any great importance) the public may be assured, that the whole number were composed by two persons only. The original design would not admit of any other association. A desire of promoting the faith and comfort of sincere Christians, though the principal, was not the only motive to this undertaking. It was likewise intended as a monument, to perpetuate the remembrance of an intimate and endeared friendship. With this pleasing view I entered upon my part, which would have been smaller than it is, and the book would have appeared much sooner, and in a very different form, if the wise, though mysterious providence of GOD, had not seen fit to cross my wishes. We had not proceeded far upon our proposed plan, before my dear friend was prevented, by a long and affecting indisposition, from affording me any farther assistance. My grief and disappointment were great; I hung my harp upon the willows, and for some time thought myself determined to proceed no farther without him. Yet my mind was afterwards led to resume the service. My progress in it, amidst a variety of other engagements, has been slow, yet in a course of years the hymns amounted to a considerable number: And my deference to the judgment and desires of others, has at length overcome the reluctance I long felt to see them in print, while I had so few of my friend's hymns to insert in the collection. Though it is possible a good judge of composition might be able to distinguish those which are his, I have thought it proper to preclude a misapplication, by prefixing the letter C to each of them. For the rest, I must be responsible. [Note: in this edition, each hymn is given a full, specific ascription.]

There is a style and manner suited to the composition of hymns, which may be more successfully, or at least more easily attained by a versifier, than by a poet. They should be Hymns, not Odes, if designed for public worship, and for the use of plain people. Perspicuity, simplicity and ease, should be chiefly attended to; and the imagery and colouring of poetry, if admitted at all, should be indulged very sparingly and with great judgment. The late Dr. Watts, many of whose hymns are admirable patterns in this species of writing, might, as a poet, have a right to say, That it cost him some labour to restrain his fire, and to accommodate himself to the capacities of common readers. But it would not become me to make such a declaration. It behoved me to do my best. But

though I would not offend readers of taste by a wilful coarseness, and negligence, I do not write professedly for them. If the LORD whom I serve, has been pleased to favour me with that mediocrity of talent, which may qualify me for usefulness to the weak and the poor of his flock, without quite disgusting persons of superior discernment, I have reason to be satisfied.

As the workings of the heart of man, and of the Spirit of God, are in general the same, in all who are the subjects of grace, I hope most of these hymns, being the fruit and expression of my own experience, will coincide with the views of real Christians of all denominations. But I cannot expect that every sentiment I have advanced will be universally approved. However, I am not conscious of having written a single line with an intention, either to flatter, or to offend any party or person upon earth. I have simply declared my own views and feelings, as I might have done if I had composed hymns in some of the newly discovered islands in the South Sea, where no person had any knowledge of the name of Jesus, but myself. I am a friend of peace, and being deeply convinced that no one can profitably understand the great truths and doctrines of the gospel, any farther than he is taught of God, I have not a wish to obtrude my own tenets upon others, in a way of controversy: yet I do not think myself bound to conceal them. Many gracious persons (for many such I am persuaded there are) who differ from me, more or less, in those points which are called Calvinistic, appear desirous that the Calvinists should, for their sakes, studiously avoid every expression which they cannot approve. Yet few of them, I believe, impose a like restraint upon themselves, but think the importance of what they deem to be truth, justifies them in speaking their sentiments plainly, and strongly. May I not plead for an equal liberty? The views I have received of the doctrines of grace are essential to my peace, I could not live comfortably a day or an hour without them. I likewise believe, yea, so far as my poor attainments warrant me to speak, I know them to be friendly to holiness, and to have a direct influence in producing and maintaining a gospel conversation, and therefore I must not be ashamed of them.

The hymns are distributed into three books. In the first I have classed those which are formed upon select passages of Scripture, and placed them in the order of the books of the Old and New Testament. The second contains occasional hymns, suited to particular seasons, or suggested by particular events or objects. The third book is miscellaneous, comprising a variety of subjects relative to a life of faith in the son of God, which have no express reference either to a single text of Scripture, or to any determinate season or incident. These are farther subdivided into distinct heads. This arrangement is not so accurate but that several of the hymns might have been differently disposed. Some attention to method may be found convenient, though a logical exactness was hardly practicable. As some subjects in the several books

are nearly coincident, I have, under the divisions in the third book, pointed out those which are similar in the two former. And I have likewise here and there in the first and second, made a reference to hymns of a like import in the third.

This publication, which, with my humble prayer to the LORD for his blessing upon it, I offer to the service and acceptance of all who love the LORD JESUS CHRIST in sincerity, of every name and in every place, into whose hands it may come; I more particularly dedicate to my dear friends in the parish and neighbourhood of Olney, for whose use the hymns were originally composed; as a testimony of the sincere love I bear them, and as a token of my gratitude to the Lord, and to them, for the comfort and satisfaction with which the discharge of my ministry among them has been attended.

The hour is approaching, and at my time of life cannot be very distant, when my heart, my pen, and my tongue, will no longer be able to move in their service. But I trust, while my heart continues to beat, it will feel a warm desire for the prosperity of their souls; and while my hand can write, and my tongue speak, it will be the business and the pleasure of my life, to aim at promoting their growth and establishment in the grace of our God and Saviour. To this precious grace I commend them, and earnestly entreat them, and all who love his name, to strive mightily with their prayers to God for me, that I may be preserved faithful to the end, and enabled at last to finish my course with joy.

JOHN NEWTON

Olney, Bucks.

Feb. 15, 1779

BOOK 1

On Select Passages of Scripture

GENESIS

Hymn 1 John Newton

C. M.

Adam. Gen. 3:9

- 1 On man, in his own image made,
How much did God bestow?
The whole creation homage paid,
And owned him Lord, below!
- 2 He dwelt in Eden's garden, stored
With sweets for every sense;
And there with his descending Lord
He walked in confidence.
- 3 But O! by sin how quickly changed!
His honour forfeited,
His heart, from God and truth, estranged,
His conscience filled with dread!
- 4 Now from his Maker's voice he flees,
Which was before his joy:
And thinks to hide, amidst the trees,
From an All-seeing eye.
- 5 Compelled to answer to his name,
With stubbornness and pride
He cast, on God himself, the blame,
Nor once for mercy cried.
- 6 But grace, unasked, his heart subdued
And all his guilt forgave;
By faith, the promised seed he viewed,
And felt his power to save.
- 7 Thus we ourselves would justify,
Though we the Law transgress;
Like him, unable to deny,
Unwilling to confess.
- 8 But when by faith the sinner sees
A pardon bought with blood;
Then he forsakes his foolish pleas,
And gladly turns to God.

Hymn 2

John Newton

L. M.

Cain and Abel. Gen. 4:3-8

- 1 When Adam fell he quickly lost
God's image, which he once possessed:
See all our nature since could boast
In Cain, his first-born Son, expressed!
- 2 The sacrifice the Lord ordained
In type of the Redeemer's blood,
Self-righteous reasoning Cain disdained,
And thought his own first-fruits as good.
- 3 Yet rage and envy filled his mind,
When, with a fallen, downcast look,
He saw his brother favour find,
Who God's appointed method took.
- 4 By Cain's own hand, good Abel died,
Because the Lord approved his faith;
And, when his blood for vengeance cried,
He vainly thought to hide his death.
- 5 Such was the wicked murderer Cain,
And such by nature still are we,
Until by grace we're born again,
Malicious, blind and proud, as he.
- 6 Like him the way of grace we slight,
And in our own devices trust;
Call evil good, and darkness light,
And hate and persecute the just.
- 7 The saints, in every age and place,
Have found this history fulfilled;
The numbers all our thoughts surpass
Of Abels, whom the Cains have killed!¹
- 8 Thus Jesus fell—but O! his blood
Far better things than Abel's cries:²
Obtains his murderers' peace with God,
And gains them mansions in the skies.

Hymn 3

William Cowper

C. M.

Walking with God. Gen. 5:24

- 1 O! for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;

¹ Rom. 8:36

² Heb. 12:24

- A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!
- 2 Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus, and his word?
- 3 What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void,
The world can never fill.
- 4 Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.
- 5 The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be;
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.
- 6 So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

Hymn 4 John Newton

L. M.

Walking with God

- 1 By faith in Christ I walk with God,
With heaven, my journey's end, in view;
Supported by his staff and rod,³
My road is safe and pleasant too,
- 2 I travel through a desert wide
Where many round me blindly stray;⁴
But he vouchsafes to be my guide,
And will not let me miss my way.
- 3 Though snares and dangers throng my
path,
And earth and hell my course withstand;
I triumph over all by faith,⁵
Guarded by his Almighty hand.
- 4 The wilderness affords no food,
But God for my support prepares;

Provides me every needful good,
And frees my soul from wants and cares.

- 5 With him sweet converse I maintain,
Great as he is I dare be free;
I tell him all my grief and pain,
And he reveals his love to me.
- 6 Some cordial from his word he brings,
Whene'er my feeble spirit faints;
At once my soul revives and sings,
And yields no more to sad complaints.
- 7 I pity all that worldlings talk
Of pleasures that will quickly end;
Be this my choice, O Lord, to walk
With thee, my Guide, my Guard, my
Friend.

Hymn 5 John Newton

C. M.

Lot in Sodom. Gen. 13:10

- 1 How hurtful was the choice of Lot,
Who took up his abode
(Because it was a fruitful spot)
With them who feared not God!
- 2 A prisoner he was quickly made,
Bereaved of all his store;
And, but for Abraham's timely aid,
He had returned no more.
- 3 Yet still he seemed resolved to stay
As if it were his rest;
Although their sins from day to day
His righteous soul distressed.⁶
- 4 Awhile he stayed with anxious mind,
Exposed to scorn and strife;
At last he left his all behind,
And fled to save his life.
- 5 In vain his sons-in-law he warned,
They thought he told his dreams;
His daughters too, of them had learned,
And perished in the flames.
- 6 His wife escaped a little way,
But died for looking back:
Does not her case to pilgrims say,
"Beware of growing slack?"

³ Ps 23:4

⁴ Psa. 107:7

⁵ Psa. 27:1,2

⁶ 2 Peter 2:8

7 Yea; Lot himself could lingering stand,
 Though vengeance was in view;
 'Twas mercy plucked him by the hand,
 Or he had perished too.

8 The doom of Sodom wilt be ours
 If to the earth we cleave;
 Lord quicken all our drowsy powers,
 To flee to thee and live.

Hymn 6 William Cowper

C. M.

JEHOVAH-JIREH, The Lord will provide.
Gen. 22:14

- 1 The saints should never be dismayed,
 Nor sink in hopeless fear;
 For when they least expect his aid,
 The Saviour will appear.
- 2 This Abraham found, he raised the knife,
 God saw, and said, "Forbear;"
 Yon ram shall yield his meaner life,
 Behold the victim there.
- 3 Once David seemed Saul's certain prey,
 But hark! the foe's at hand;⁷
 Saul turns his arms another way,
 To save th' invaded land.
- 4 When Jonah sunk beneath the wave
 He thought to rise no more;⁸
 But God prepared a fish to save,
 And bear him to the shore.
- 5 Blest proofs of power and grace divine,
 That meet us in his word!
 May every deep-felt care of mine
 Be trusted with the Lord.
- 6 Wait for his seasonable aid,
 And though it tarry wait:
 The promise may be long-delayed,
 But cannot come too late.

Hymn 7 John Newton

10.10.11.11

The Lord will provide

- 1 Though troubles assail
 And dangers affright,

Though friends should all fail
 And foes all unite;
 Yet one thing secures us,
 Whatever betide,
 The scripture assures us,
 The Lord will provide.

- 2 The birds without barn
 Or storehouse are fed,
 From them let us learn
 To trust for our bread:
 His saints, what is fitting,
 Shall ne'er be denied,
 So long as 'tis written,
 The Lord will provide.
- 3 We may, like the ships,
 By tempest be tossed
 On perilous deeps,
 But cannot be lost.
 Though Satan enrages
 The wind and the tide,
 The promise engages,
 The Lord will provide.
- 4 His call we obey
 Like Abram of old,
 Not knowing our way,
 But faith makes us bold;
 For though we are strangers
 We have a good Guide,
 And trust in all dangers,
 The Lord will provide.
- 5 When Satan appears
 To stop up our path,
 And fill us with fears,
 We triumph by faith;
 He cannot take from us,
 Though oft he has tried,
 This heart-cheering promise,
 The Lord will provide.
- 6 He tells us we're weak,
 Our hope is in vain,
 The good that we seek
 We ne'er shall obtain,
 But when such suggestions
 Our spirits have plied,
 This answers all questions,
 The Lord will provide.
- 7 No strength of our own,
 Or goodness we claim,

⁷ 1Sam 23:27

⁸ Jonah 1:17

Yet since we have known
The Saviour's great name;
In this our strong tower
For safety we hide,
The Lord is our power,
The Lord will provide.

- 8 When life sinks apace
And death is in view,
This word of his grace
Shall comfort us through:
No fearing or doubting
With Christ on our side,
We hope to die shouting,
The Lord will provide.

Hymn 8 **John Newton**

8.8.8.8

Esau Gen. 25:34; Heb. 12:16

- 1 Poor Esau repented too late
That once he his birthright despised;
And sold, for a morsel of meat,
What could not too highly be prized:
How great was his anguish when told,
The blessing he sought to obtain,
Was gone with the birth-right he sold,
And none could recall it again!
- 2 He stands as a warning to all,
Wherever the gospel shall come;
O Hasten and yield to the call,
While yet for repentance there's room!
Your season will quickly be past,
Then hear and obey it today;
Lest when you seek mercy at last,
The Saviour should frown you away.
- 3 What is it the world can propose?
A morsel of meat at the best!
For this are you willing to lose
A share in the joys of the blest?
Its pleasures will speedily end,
Its favour and praise are but breath;
And what can its profits befriend
Your soul in the moment of death?
- 4 If Jesus for these you despise,
And sin to the Saviour prefer;
In vain your entreaties and cries,
When summoned to stand at his bar:
How will you his presence abide?
What anguish will torture your heart?

The saints all enthroned by his side,
And you be compelled to depart.

- 5 Too often, dear Saviour, have I
Preferred some poor trifle to thee;
How is it thou dost not deny
The blessing and birthright to me?
No better than Esau I am,
Though pardon and heaven be mine;
To me belongs nothing but shame,
The praise and the glory be thine.

Hymn 9 **John Newton**

7.7.7.7

Jacob's Ladder Gen. 28:12

- 1 If the Lord our leader be,
We may follow without fear;
East or West, by land or sea,
Home, with him, is everywhere;
When from Esau Jacob fled,
Though his pillow was a stone,
And the ground his humble bed,
Yet he was not left alone.
- 2 Kings are often waking kept,
Racked with cares on beds of state;
Never king like Jacob slept.
For he lay at heaven's gate:
Lo! he saw a ladder reared,
Reaching to the heavenly throne;
At the top the Lord appeared,
Spake and claimed him for his own.
- 3 "Fear not, Jacob, thou art mine,
And my presence with thee goes;
On thy heart my love shall shine,
And my arm subdue thy foes:
From my promise comfort take;
For my help in trouble call;
Never will I thee forsake,
Till I have accomplished all."
- 4 Well does Jacob's ladder suit
To the gospel throne of grace;
We are at the ladder's foot,
Every hour, in every place
By affirming flesh and blood,
Jesus heaven and earth unites;
We by faith ascend to God, 2Cor 6:16
God to dwell with us delights.

- 5 They who know the Saviour's name,
Are for all events prepared
What can changes do to them,
Who have such a Guide and Guard?
Should they traverse earth around,
To the ladder still they come;
Every spot is holy ground,
God is there—and he's their home,

Hymn 10 **John Newton**

7.7.7.7

My name is Jacob. Gen. 32:27

- 1 Nay, I cannot let Thee go,
Till a blessing thou bestow;
Do not turn away thy face,
Mine's an urgent pressing case.
- 2 Dost thou ask me, who I am?
Ah, my Lord, thou know'st my name!
Yet the question gives a plea,
To support my suit with thee.
- 3 Thou didst once a wretch behold,
In rebellion blindly bold;
Scorn thy grace, thy power defy,
That poor rebel, Lord, was I.
- 4 Once a sinner near despair,
Sought thy mercy-seat by prayer;
Mercy heard and set him free,
Lord, that mercy came to me,
- 5 Many years have passed since then,
Many changes I have seen;
Yet have been upheld till now,
Who could hold me up but thou?
- 6 Thou hast helped in every need,
This emboldens me to plead;
After so much mercy past,
Canst thou let me sink at last?
- 7 No—I must maintain my hold,
'Tis thy goodness makes me bold;
I can no denial take,
When I plead for Jesu's sake.

Hymn 11 **John Newton**

L. M.

Plenty in a Time of Dearth. Gen. 41:56

- 1 My soul once had its plenteous years,
And throve, with peace and comfort filled,

Like the fat kine and ripened ears,
Which Pharaoh in his dream beheld.

- 2 With pleasing frames and grace received,
With means and ordinances fed;
How happy for a while I lived,
And little feared the want of bread.
- 3 But famine came and left no sign,
Of all the plenty I had seen;
Like the dry ears and half-starved kine,
I then looked withered, faint and lean.
- 4 To Joseph the Egyptians went,
To Jesus I made known my case;
He, when my little stock was spent,
Opened his magazine of grace.
- 5 For he the time of dearth foresaw,
And made provision long before;
That famished souls, like me, might draw
Supplies from his unbounded store.
- 6 Now on his bounty I depend,
And live from fear of dearth secure,
Maintained by such a mighty friend,
I cannot want till he is poor.
- 7 O sinners hear his gracious call!
His mercy's door stands open wide,
He has enough to feed you all,
And none who come shall be denied.

Hymn 12 **John Newton**

8.8.8.8

Joseph made known to his Brethren.

Gen. 45:3,4

- 1 When Joseph his brethren beheld,
Afflicted and trembling with fear;
His heart with compassion was filled,
From weeping he could not forbear.
Awhile his behaviour was rough,
To bring their past sin to their mind;
But when they were humbled enough,
He hasted to show himself kind.
- 2 How little they thought it was he,
Whom they had ill treated and sold!
How great their confusion must be,
As soon as his name he had told!
"I am Joseph, your brother, he said,
And still to my heart you are dear,

You sold me, and thought I was dead,
But God, for your sakes, sent me here.”

- 3 Though greatly distressed before,
When charged with purloining the cup;
They now were confounded much more,
Not one of them durst to look up.
“Can Joseph, whom we would have slain.
Forgive us the evil we did?
And will he our households maintain?
O this is a brother indeed!”
- 4 Thus dragged by my conscience, I came,
And laden with guilt, to the Lord;
Surrounded with terror and shame,
Unable to utter a word.
At first he looked stern and reverent,
What anguish then pierced my heart!
Expecting each moment to hear
The sentence, “Thou cursed, depart!”
- 5 But O! what surprise when he spoke,
While tenderness beamed in his face;
My heart then to pieces was broke,
O'erwhelmed and confounded by grace:
“Poor sinner, I know thee full well,
By thee I was sold and was slain;
But I died to redeem thee from hell,
And raise thee in glory to reign.
- 6 I am Jesus, whom thou hast blasphemed,
And crucified often afresh;
But let me henceforth be esteemed,
Thy brother, thy bone, and thy flesh:
My pardon I freely bestow,
Thy wants I will fully supply;
I'll guide thee and guard thee below,
And soon will remove thee on high.
- 7 Go, publish to sinners around,
That they may be willing to come,
The mercy which now you have found,
And tell them that yet there is room.”
O, sinners, the message obey!
No more vain excuses pretend;
But come, without farther delay,
To Jesus our brother and friend.

EXODUS

Hymn 13

John Newton

C. M.

The Bitter Waters. Exod. 15:23-25

- 1 Bitter, indeed, the waters are.
Which in this desert flow;
Though to the eye they promise fair,
Their taste of sin and woe.
- 2 Of pleasing draughts I once could dream,
But now, awake, I find,
That sin has poisoned every stream,
And left a curse behind.
- 3 But there's a wonder-working wood,
I've heard believers say,
Can make these bitter waters good,
And take the curse away.
- 4 The virtues of this healing tree
Are known and prized by few;
Reveal this secret, Lord, to me,
That I may prize it too.
- 5 The cross on which the Saviour died,
And conquered for his saints;
This is the tree, by faith applied,
Which sweetens all complaints.
- 6 Thousands have found the blest effect,
Nor longer mourn their lot;
While on his sorrows they reflect,
Their own are all forgot.
- 7 When they, by faith, behold the cross,
Though many griefs they meet;
They draw again from every loss,
And find the bitter sweet.

Hymn 14

William Cowper

C. M.

JEHOVAH-ROPHI, I am the Lord that healeth thee. Exod. 15

- 1 Heal us, EMMANUEL, here we are,
Waiting to feel thy touch;
Deep wounded souls to thee repair,
And, Saviour we are such.
- 2 Our faith is feeble we confess,
We faintly trust thy word;

But wilt thou pity us the less?
Be that far from thee, Lord!

- 3 Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief;
“Lord, I believe, with tears he cried,
O help my unbelief.”⁹
- 4 She too, who touched thee in the press,
And healing virtue stole;
Was answered, “Daughter, go in peace,
Thy faith hath made thee whole.”¹⁰
- 5 Concealed amid the gathering throng,
She would have shunned thy view;
And if her faith was firm and strong,
Had strong misgivings too.
- 6 Like her, with hopes and fears, we come,
To touch thee if we may;
O! send us not despairing home,
Send none unhealed away.

Hymn 15 John Newton

C. M.

Manna. Exod. 16:18

- 1 Manna to Israel well supplied
The want of other bread;
While God is able to provide,
His people shall be fed.
- 2 (Thus though the corn and wine should fail,
And creature-streams be dry;
The prayer of faith will still prevail,
For blessings from on high.)
- 3 Of his kind care how sweet a proof!
It suited every taste;
Who gathered most, had just enough,
Enough, who gathered least.
- 4 'Tis thus our gracious Lord provides
Our comforts and our cares;
His own unerring hand provides,
And gives us each our shares.
- 5 He knows how much the weak can bear,
And helps them when they cry;
The strongest have no strength to spare,
For such he'll strongly try.

- 6 Daily they saw the Manna come,
And cover all the ground;
But what they tried to keep at home,
Corrupted soon was found.
- 7 Vain their attempt to store it up,
This was to tempt the Lord;
Israel must live by faith and hope,
And not upon a hoard.

Hymn 16 John Newton

C. M.

Manna hoarded. Exod. 16:20

- 1 The manna, favoured Israel's meat,
Was gathered day by day;
When all the host was served, the heat
Melted the rest away.
- 2 In vain to hoard it up they tried,
Against tomorrow came;
It then bred worms and putrefied,
And proved their sin and shame.
- 3 'Twas daily bread and would not keep,
But must be still renewed;
Faith should not want a hoard or heap,
But trust the Lord for food.
- 4 The truths by which the soul is fed,
Must thus be had afresh;
For notions resting in the head,
Will only feed the flesh.
- 5 However true, they have no life,
Or unction to impart;
They breed the worms of pride and strife,
But cannot cheer the heart.
- 6 Nor can the best experience past,
The life of faith maintain;
The brightest hope will faint at last,
Unless supplied again.
- 7 Dear Lord, while we in prayer are found,
Do thou the Manna give;
O! let it fall on all around,
That we may eat and live.

⁹ Mark 9:24

¹⁰ Mark 5:34

Hymn 17 **William Cowper**

6.6.6.6.8.8

JEHOVAH-NISSI, *The Lord my Banner.*
Exod. 17:15

- 1 By whom was David taught,
To aim the dreadful blow,
When he Goliath fought,
And laid the Gittite low?
No sword nor spear the stripling took,
But chose a pebble from the brook.
- 2 'Twas Israel's God and king,
Who sent him to the fight;
Who gave him strength to fling,
And skill to aim aright.
Ye feeble saints your strength endures,
Because young David's God is yours.
- 3 Who ordered Gideon forth,
To storm th' invaders' camp,¹¹
With arms of little worth,
A pitcher and a lamp?
The trumpets made his coming known,
And all the host was overthrown.
- 4 Oh! I have seen the day,
When with a single word,
God helping me to say,
My trust is in the Lord;
My soul has quelled a thousand foes,
Fearless of all that could oppose.
- 5 But unbelief, self-will,
Self-righteousness and pride,
How often do they steal
My weapon from my side?
Yet David's Lord, and Gideon's friend,
Will help his servant to the end.

Hymn 18 **John Newton**

C. M.

The Golden Calf. Exod. 32:4,31

- 1 When Israel heard the fiery law,
From Sinai's top proclaimed;
Their hearts seemed full of holy awe,
Their stubborn spirits tamed.
- 2 Yet, as forgetting all they knew,
Ere forty days were past;

With blazing Sinai still in view,
A molten calf they cast.

- 3 Yea, Aaron, God's anointed priest,
Who on the mount had been
He durst prepare the idol-beast,
And lead them on to sin.
- 4 Lord, what is man! and what are we,
To recompense thee thus!
In their offence our own we see,
Their story points at us.
- 5 From Sinai we have heard thee speak,
And from mount Calvary too;
And yet to idols oft we seek,
While thou art in our view.
- 6 Some golden calf, or golden dream,
Some fancied creature-good,
Presumes to share the heart with him,
Who bought the whole with blood.
- 7 Lord, save us from our golden calves,
Our sin with grief we own;
We would no more be thine by halves,
But live to thee alone.

LEVITICUS**Hymn 19** **John Newton**

C. M.

The true Aaron Lev. 8:7-9

- 1 See Aaron, God's anointed priest,
Within the veil appear;
In robes of mystic meaning dressed,
Presenting Israel's prayer.
- 2 The plate of gold which crowns his brows,
His holiness describes;
His breast displays, in shining rows,
The names of all the tribes.
- 3 With the atoning blood he stands,
Before the mercy-seat;
And clouds of incense from his hands,
Arise with odour sweet.
- 4 Urim and Thummim near his heart,
In rich engravings worn;
The sacred light of truth impart,
To teach and to adorn.

¹¹ Judg. 7:20

- 5 Through him the eye of faith describes,
A greater Priest than he;
Thus Jesus pleads above the skies,
For you, my friends, and me.
- 6 He bears the names of all his saints,
Deep on his heart engraved;
Attentive to the state and wants
Of all his love has saved.
- 7 In him a holiness complete,
Light and perfections shine;
And wisdom, grace, and glory meet;
A Saviour all divine.
- 8 The blood, which as a Priest he bears
For sinners, is his own
The incense of his prayers and tears
Perfume the holy throne.
- 9 In him my weary soul has rest,
Though I am weak and vile
I read my name upon his breast,
And see the Father smile.
- 5 He seemed the Lord to know,
And to offend him loth;
But Mammon proved his overthrow,
For none can serve them both.
- 6 May you, my friends, and I,
Warning from hence receive;
If like the righteous we would die,
To choose the life they live.

JOSHUA

Hymn 21 John Newton

L. M.

Gibeon. Josh. 10:6

- 1 When Joshua, by God's command,
Invaded Canaan's guilty land;
Gibeon, unlike the nations round,
Submission made and mercy found.
- 2 Their stubborn neighbours who enraged,
United war against them waged,
By Joshua soon were overthrown,
For Gibeon's cause was now his own.
- 3 He, from whose arm they ruin feared,
Their leader and ally appeared
An emblem of the Saviour's grace,
To those who humbly seek his face.
- 4 The men of Gibeon wore disguise,
And gained their peace by framing lies;
For Joshua had no power to spare,
If he had known from whence they were.
- 5 But Jesus invitations sends,
Treating with rebels as his friends;
And holds the promise forth in view,
To all who for his mercy sue.
- 6 Too long his goodness I disdained,
Yet went at last and peace obtained;
But soon the noise of war I heard,
And former friends in arms appeared.
- 7 Weak in myself for help I cried,
Lord, I am pressed on every side;
The cause is thine, they fight with me,
But every blow is aimed at thee.
- 8 With speed to my relief he came,
And put my enemies to shame;

NUMBERS

Hymn 20 John Newton

S. M.

Balaam's Wish. Num. 23:10¹²

- 1 How blest the righteous are
When they resign their breath!
No wonder Balaam wished to share
In such a happy death.
- 2 "Oh! let me die, said he,
The death the righteous do;
When life is ended let me be
Found with the faithful few."
- 3 The force of truth how great!
When enemies confess,
None but the righteous whom they hate,
A solid hope possess.
- 4 But Balaam's wish was vain,
His heart was insincere;
He thirsted for unrighteous gain,
And sought a portion here.

¹² see also Book 3, Hymn 71