



Mormonbasics.com is not affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are a private website, and the comments and opinions expressed here are not from the LDS Church. The opinions expressed in this work are solely the product of this website. If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve these commentaries in the future, please click [here](#) and leave a comment. This will help us give you the best assistance for your studies in the future.

Mormonbasics.com is humbled to bring you a commentary on the hymns published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This commentary is presented in a two-column format. The original text, as presented in the hymnbook published by the LDS Church, is in the left column. The comments on the right are provided by mormonbasics.com. We have even changed the color of the text so there won't be any question as to who wrote what.

Personal note from the commentator:

The hymns of the Church are sacred text. The Lord has made it very clear to us through his prophets that the singing of hymns is a form of prayer, and as such is sacred communication. Much of the sacred Spirit and reverence we experience in our meetings, especially Sacrament Meeting, comes from the Spirit that accompanies the singing of the hymns.

The hymns are written in poetic form, and as such are able to take certain licenses and liberties with the English language that cannot normally be expressed in any other way. It is certainly not the aim of this commentary to improve on the beauty of the poetic expressions found in our sacred hymns. As a teacher of English to those who speak other languages, I have found that many of the hymns have expressions that are difficult for some people to understand.

Because hymns are written to fit a set rhythmic pattern or meter, often the expression has to be condensed to fit in a small space, but still convey its intended meaning. It is the combination of the rhythm, text, and music that create such a powerful Spiritual experience when singing the hymns. My attempts to explain some of the meaning behind the text should not detract from the original meaning, nor should it replace the original meaning. Hymns, like parables, take on different meanings as the circumstances of our lives change. My commentary is only a starting point for (hopefully) a better understanding of the overall meaning of the hymn in this work. Anyone else writing this same commentary would have different perspectives and points to make. That is the nature of a commentary. I pray that what I say will, in some way, help in your understanding of this hymn. Since this is a personal study of the hymns, I will sometimes use the first person when writing the commentary.

Kelly P. Merrill

The Happy Day at Last Has Come

1. The happy day at last has come.
The truth restored is now made known.
The promised angel's come again
To introduce Messiah's reign.

2. The gospel trump again is heard.
The truth from darkness has appeared.
The lands which long benighted lay
Have now beheld a glorious day:

3. The day by prophets long foretold,
The day which Abram did behold,
The day that Saints desired so long,
When God his great work would perform,

4. The day when Saints again shall hear
The voice of Jesus in their ear,
And angels, who above do reign,
Come down to speak again with men.

MUSIC

Ebenezer Beesley, 1840-1906

TEXT

Philo Dibble, 1806-1895. Included in the first LDS hymnbook, 1835.

SCRIPTURES

Doctrine and Covenants 128:20-21, Acts 3:19-21

The happy day referred to is the restoration of the gospel of Christ. The promised angel is Moroni.

The trump is the trumpet that represents the loud announcement that the gospel has arrived. The Lord wants all to hear the good news. The world was in darkness, and suddenly the truth that brings light has shown in the darkness. The world that been in the shadows of spiritual ignorance for so many centuries now sees a bright new day of spiritual enlightenment.

Verses three and four are part of the same sentence so must be treated together. The last days (now) have been talked about by the prophets since the days of Adam. Even Father Abraham saw our day. This is the period of time that all the saints of every dispensation have longed for, the day when God's work would be performed.

This is the day that is preparing the Saints for the day when Christ himself will speak to us and we shall hear him with our own ears. This is the time when we are preparing for the day when angels will come and mingle with mankind and teach us.