

A golden cityscape with a bright beam of light shining through a central archway, set against a background of colorful, swirling clouds. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a heavenly or divine realm. The architecture features domes and classical-style buildings. The clouds below are vibrant with shades of blue, purple, and pink, creating a dramatic and ethereal atmosphere.

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

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- Psalm 137:1-6 - “By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion! 4 How shall we sing the LORD'S song In a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! 6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth-If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy.”
- Psalm 17:8 - “Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings”

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- I love thy kingdom, Lord, The house of thine abode;
- The church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.
- I love Thy church, O God! Her walls before Thee stand,
- Dear, as the apple of Thine eye, and graven on Thy hand.

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- The church and the kingdom are the same
 - Matt. 16:18-19 - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- The church is the house of God
 - 1Tim. 3:15 - "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."
 - Eph. 2:19-22 - "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- The church is the house of God
 - Heb. 3:4-6 - “For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. 5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- The church is saved by the blood of Christ
 - Acts 20:28 - “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
 - Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”
 - Eph. 5:23 - “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- We ought to love the Lord's church
- How do you prove your love for the church?
 - How does one prove his love for his mate?
 - 2Cor. 8:8, 24 - "I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others... 24 Therefore show to them, and before the churches the proof of your love and of our boasting on your behalf."

Verse One - God's Love for the Church

- When we see a lack of dedication and zeal for the church on the part of those who profess to be a part of it, we doubt their love for the church.
- The church is precious to the Lord (Eph. 5:25-32). Shouldn't it be equally precious to us?

Verse Two - Our Love for the Church

- For her my tears shall fall, For her my pray'rs ascend;
- To her my cares and toils be giv'n, Till toils and cares shall end.
- Beyond the highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
- Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.

Verse Two - Our Love for the Church

- We ought to bring our toils and cares to it. We need the close communion and fellowship that is found in the Lord's church.
 - Gal. 6:2 - “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
- What about your care and concern for the church?
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- Jesus, Thou Friend Divine, Our Savior and our King!
- Thy hand from every snare and foe, shall great deliverance bring.
- Sure as thy truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n.
- The brightest glories earth can yield, And brightest bliss of heaven.

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- John 14:13-14 - “And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”
- 1John 4:14 - “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.”

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- Jesus is to be honored as the eternal, immortal and invisible King
 - 1Tim. 1:17 - “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”
 - 1Tim. 6:15 - “He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords”
 - Rev. 17:14 - “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- We are called into His kingdom
 - 1Thes. 2:12-13 - “that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”
 - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- The church will be honored with the bliss of heaven
 - 1Cor. 15:24 - “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”

Verse Three - Jesus is our Friend, Savior and King

- The church is clearly “the apple of the Lord's eye.” He loved it enough to die for it
 - Acts 20:28 - “...shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood”
- It is through Christ and in the church that we receive reconciliation
 - Eph. 2:16 - “and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity”
- If you appreciate the death He died to save you from your sins, then you must appreciate His Church for which He shed His blood.