



Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus



"There is never a day so dreary,
there is never a night so long,
But the soul that is trusting Jesus
will somehow find a song.

"There is never a cross so heavy,
there is never a weight of woe,
but that Jesus will help to carry
because He loveth so.

"Wonderful, wonderful Jesus,
in the heart He implanteth a song:
A song of deliverance, of courage, of strength;
in the heart He implanteth a song."
- Anna B. Russell

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." - Psalm 18:1-2

"You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance." - Psalm 32:7

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. God is to us a God of deliverances ... " - Psalm 68:19-20

Today we consider the fact that God is our Deliverer. David surely found this to be true, as he often fled from his enemies. He also knew the relief of deliverance from the burden of sin that sometimes weighed upon him. This "man after God's own heart" could find no inner peace when he was living apart from the close fellowship he'd shared with his Shepherd in Psalm 23.

I did not find any background story to "Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus," but I did come across a devotional on Psalm 68:19-20 by Scott Hubbard, the editor of desiringGod.org, which reads:

"Our worst days have a way of making the future feel impossible. Perhaps we wake up to a depression that makes our chest cave in. Or a relationship on the verge of collapse.

Or pain in our bones that makes the smallest focus a feat. The thought of enduring for a lifetime, or even another week, can send us searching for an escape.

"We do not, however, need to know on our worst days how God will sustain us for a lifetime. We do not need to know even how He will sustain us tomorrow. We need to know, even with a mustard seed of faith, that He will get us through today.

"We might think that God, creator of continents and stars, would be too big to notice our days. Don't a thousand years pass before him like a watch in the night (Psalm 90:4)? Yes. But God's care for His world is as intricate as it is grand. He keeps inventory of every hair (Matthew 10:30). He catches every sigh (Psalm 139:4). He slows down to walk through every 24 hours with His children.

"And so, He not only gives us promises that cover the span of our lives, but also a precious few that meet us on our worst days, and remind us what He will do for us today.

"Our salvation does not rest merely somewhere in the past, at that first moment of repentance and faith. God did save us then. But as long as we are in this world, we need daily saving. 'Blessed be the Lord who daily bears us up'."

Let me clarify that we are saved once and for all at that moment of repentance and faith, but we are in desperate need of being saved daily from the temptations and trials of life we all face. Isn't it so good to know that we have a God who is willing to take the weight of those burdens from us, giving us courage and strength for each new day? As David said in Psalm 68:20, "God is to us a God of deliverances."

I am also reminded of something I read years ago to the effect that when God brings us through a trial, we have a song that we could not have sung before that difficult experience. It is as if God sings His song of deliverance to us in our suffering, so that one day we can sing a new song of praise to Him.

As a gardener, I love the wording to the chorus of today's hymn, speaking of our wonderful Savior, Jesus, who gives "a song of deliverance, of courage, of strength." He implants a song within the heart of each one who entrusts their burdens to Him. May you find the echoes of His music within your heart and soul as you learn to give your burdens over to the One who promises to deliver you and daily bear you up in every trial.