

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

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JOY TO THE WORLD

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Psalm 34:3)

Magnify - make great by praising.

Praise and worship in the congregation is deeper and more meaningful than individual worship. How blessed we are to have so many hymns that tell Jesus how glad we are that He has come, paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross, and in our baptism made us his dear children.

“As a young man in Southampton, Isaac Watts had become dissatisfied with the quality of singing, and he keenly felt the limitations of being able to sing only the Psalms, so he ‘invented’ the English hymn.

He did not, however, neglect the Psalms. In 1719, he published a unique hymnal—one in which he translated, interpreted, and paraphrased the Old Testament psalms through the eyes of New Testament faith. He called it simply, *The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*. Taking various Psalms, he studied them from the perspective of Jesus and the New Testament, and then formed them into verses for singing...”



“‘Joy to the World!’ is Isaac Watts interpretation of Psalm 98, which says: ‘Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth’ (verse 4). As he read Psalm 98, Isaac pondered the real reason for shouting joyfully to the Lord – the Messiah has come to redeem us. The result... has been a timeless carol that has brightened our Christmases for nearly three hundred years.”

Taken from Morgan, Robert J. *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories Book 2*. Thomas Nelson Incorporated, 2004. Page 24.

Christian Life Committee
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