

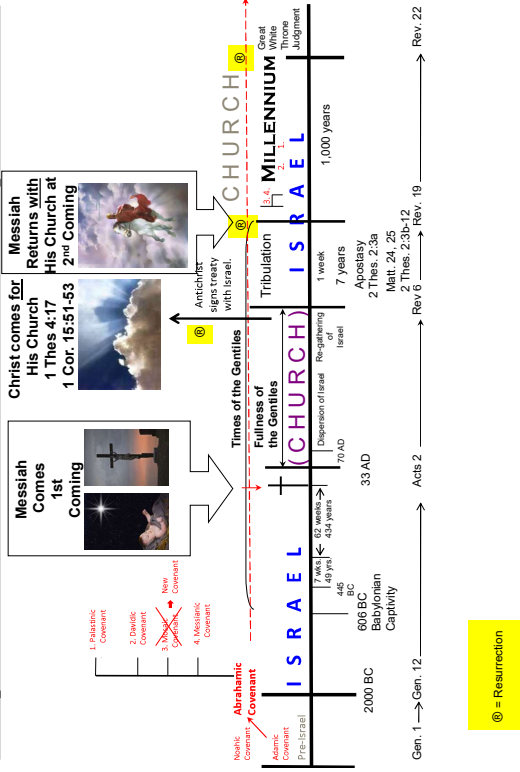


“Prophecy: Bittersweet ”

Rev. 10:8-11

Feb. 11, 2018

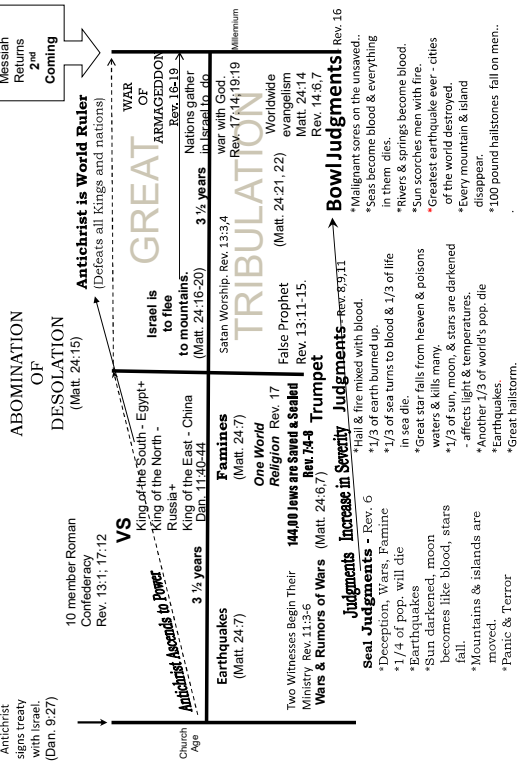
Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Rev 10:1-7

- 1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;
- 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;
- 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.
- 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."
- 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven,
- 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,
- 7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

7 Year Tribulation



“Super-Angel”

- *Traveling with clouds*
- *Associated with the rainbow*
- *Radiant face*
- *Feet like fire*
- *Holding a small scroll*
- *Roars like a lion*
- *Swears by God*
- *Authority over land and sea*

Rev 10:8-11

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God's Word as food . . .

Matt 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

1 Peter 2:2

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

1 Cor 3:2

2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

Job 23:12

12 "I have not departed from the command of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Ps 19:7-10

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;

The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Jer 15:16

16 Your words were found and I ate them,
And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;

Ezek 2:8-10

8 "Now you, son of man, listen to what I am speaking to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house. Open your mouth and eat what I am giving you."
9 Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it.
10 When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.

Ezek 3:1-4

- 1 Then He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."
- 2 So I opened my mouth, and He fed me this scroll.
- 3 He said to me, "Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you." Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth.
- 4 Then He said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them."

"eating" God's Word

Idiom or symbol for:

- absorbing
- devouring
- digesting
- assimilating
- meditating upon

It means to get the Word into your life, get it into your soul.

We use phrases that say the same thing -

"Well, he really devoured that book."

"The class just ate it up"

Prophecy and Scripture, as a whole, are bittersweet –

- There are sweet promises in the Bible, but there are also bitter warnings.
- There are people who are saved, there are people who are lost.
- There is grace and there is wrath.
- There is salvation and there is condemnation.
- There are those who will spend eternity in heaven and there are those who will spend eternity in hell.
- So God's Word can bring joy to our heart, but at times it brings sorrow.
- It both blesses us and burdens us.

John 6:26-28

27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

John 6:31-35

- 31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'"
- 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven."
- 33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."
- 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."
- 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."

"sweet"

- having a pleasant taste.
- something that is delightful.
- pleasing to the mind or feelings.
- that which is much loved and desired.

"bitter"

- we have no sense of taste in our stomachs.
- "be hard on your stomach"
"turn your stomach"
"gut-wrenching"

"Every revelation of God's purposes . . .
is 'bitter-sweet,' disclosing
judgment as well as mercy."

Sweet

Evil, wicked people will be judged.

Satan will be defeated.

The Lord Jesus will triumph over all of His enemies and take back the earth.

There will be no more suffering, sadness, death, persecution, pain, and misery. No more sin and darkness.

Believers will be forever in heaven with God, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Bitter

People reject Christ.

People will be deceived.

Unbelievers will follow false Christs and false messiahs.

Sin in the Tribulation will run rampant, never seen before in human history.

Believers will be persecuted and killed.

Unbelievers will be judged and cast into Hell for eternity with no hope.

If we are properly assimilating God's Word into our lives, then we experience on a deep level "sweetness" in the mouth and "bitterness" in the stomach.

But how does this happen?

What Meditation is NOT.

The world's definition:

"A means of focusing the mind to reduce or eliminate conscious thought, to bring the mind to stillness or rest"

- A. It is not emptying the mind.
- B. It is not the elimination of conscious thought.
- C. It's end goal is not to produce a relaxed state, reduce stress & remove tension.
- D. It is not to achieve a higher state of consciousness.
- E. It is not looking inward to find spiritual reality.

The Missing Link: **Meditation**

* There are over 700 different meditation techniques in the world.

Transcendental Meditation	Ascension
Contemplative Psychotherapy	Self Realization
Holosync	Cosmic Consciousness
Centering	Visualization
Bathing in Protective Light	Power Spot
Astral Healing	Have No Head
Space Between Atoms	Affirmations
Divine Transcendent Wisdom	Mirror Meditation
Multiple Body Part Awareness	Mantras
Non-Expression of Negativity	Creating an Inner Guide
Inhale Suffering, Exhale Peace	Wall of Answers
No Mind	Blank Screen
I am the all, I am the all	Cessation
Infinity, Immortality, Eternity	I am Free Will

Definition of Biblical Meditation.

Meditation is to "think long and deeply" on truth. It is to bring back up or recall to the mind something that was previously studied or learned. It is to dwell on, to hover over, to analyze. It can be a word, a subject, a verse, a passage, or a principle from Scripture. The goal is assimilation into the fabric of one's life.

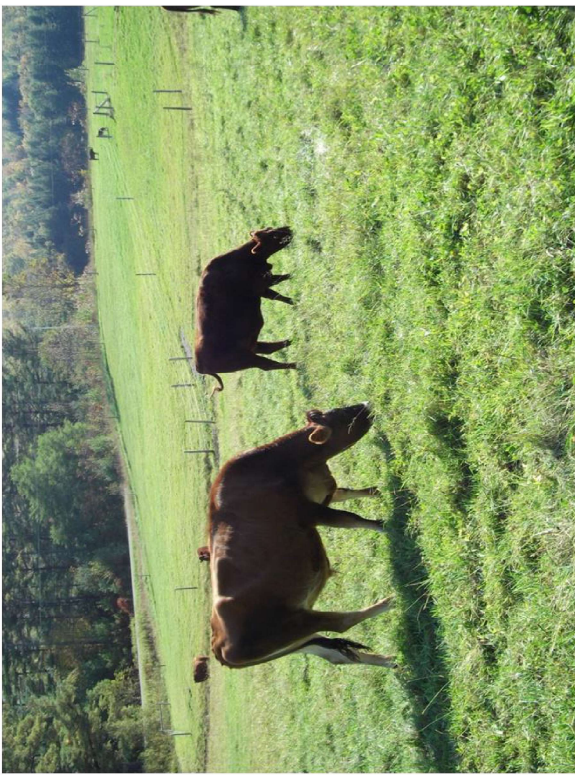
The Hebrew word for meditation is hagah "hagah".

Meanings: 1. to meditate. 2. to mutter. 3. to muse. 4. to ponder.

*"Hagah" comes from the same root word that has the meaning of a cow "chewing her cud".

The Process:

1. Cow grazes on the grass.



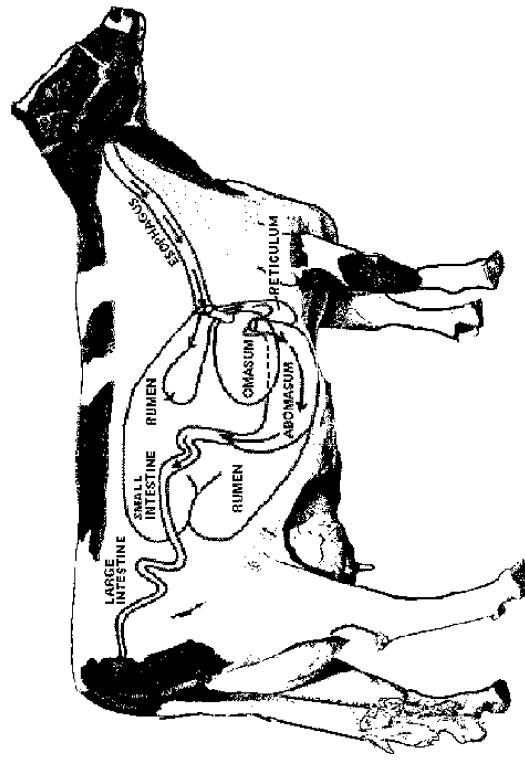
The Process:

1. Cow grazes on the grass.
2. Doesn't spend a lot of time chewing. The object is to get as much grass as possible into the stomach. Much of it is done in the morning hours, while the dew is on the grass.
3. In the afternoon, when it is hot, she can relax, recline, and settle down for a long chew by bringing the grass "back up" into her mouth for further chewing. That which she brings back up is called the "cud". Thus the term "chewing the cud".
4. They grind it, mulch it, and work it into its most basic and simplest form for easy assimilation by the cow's digestive system.
5. The food is brought back up as many times as necessary until it is fully digestible. It is stored in one of 7 compartments in a cow's stomach, waiting to be re-worked in the cow's mouth.
6. Time consuming? Yes. A waste of time? No - not if you want to produce good, rich milk!

*God's Word is not meant to be fast food.

"What digestion is to the body, meditation is to the soul. It is not enough merely to hear the Word or read the Word. We must inwardly "digest it" and make it part of our inner person."

- Warren Wiersbe



"Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in their spiritual life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs from the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows from the tree, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord . . ."

- Charles Spurgeon

On what are we to meditate?

Ps 77:12

12 I will meditate on all **Your work**
And muse on **Your deeds**.

*"muse" - to speak to yourself (about the Word of God).

Ps 119:15

15 I will meditate on **Your precepts**

And regard **Your ways**.

Ps 119:23

23 Even though princes sit and talk against me,
Your servant meditates on **Your statutes**.

Ps 119:97

how I love **Your law!**

It is my meditation all the day.

Ps 119:99

99 I have more insight than all my teachers,
for **Your testimonies** are my meditation.

Ps 119:148

148 My eyes anticipate the night watches,
That I may meditate on **Your word**.

Ps 143:5

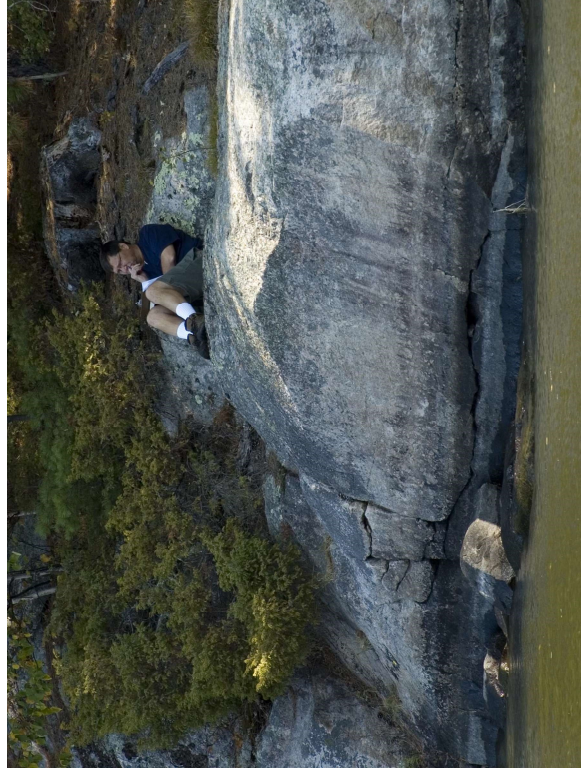
5 I remember the days of old;

I meditate on all **Your doings**;

I muse on the **work of Your hands**.

Ps 145:5

5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on **Your wonderful works**, I will meditate.



Ps 119:27

27 Make me understand the way of **Your precepts**,
So I will meditate on **Your wonders**.

Ps 119:48

8 And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments,
Which I love;

And I will meditate on **Your statutes**.

Ps 119:78

78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a
lie;

But I shall meditate on **Your precepts**.





When should I meditate?

Gen 24:63

63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field **toward evening**; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.

Josh 1:8

8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it **day and night**, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Ps 1:2

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates **day and night**.

Ps 4:4

4 Tremble, and do not sin;

Meditate in your heart **upon your bed**, and be still

Ps 27:4

4 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD **all the days of my life**,

To behold the beauty of the LORD

And to meditate **in His temple**.

Ps 63:6

6 When I remember You on my bed,

I meditate on You in the **night watches**,

Ps 77:6

6 I will remember my song **in the night**;

I will meditate with my heart,

And my spirit ponders:

What is the goal of meditation?

Ps 19:14

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Ps 49:3

3 My mouth will speak wisdom,

And the meditation of my heart will be **understanding**.

Ps 104:34

34 Let my meditation be **pleasing to Him**;

As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.

5 Hindrances to Meditation:

1. Ignorance
2. No Desire
3. No Delight
4. Busyness
5. Distractions

"Hurried reading is of little benefit; to sit down awhile and meditate is very profitable."

- Charles Spurgeon

Think about it . . .

- Eating is a universal idiom for receiving knowledge.
- Biblical knowledge is not merely knowledge for the sake of knowledge. It refers to assimilating knowledge into one's life.
- God wanted John to digest the contents of the revelation he was receiving so that it would change him personally.
- It's the same with us. It is not enough to read the Bible; we must apply the Bible to our lives. Reading the Bible without digesting it, is of limited value.
- If the digesting of physical food results in what I am physically, then digesting God's Word will result in what I am spiritually.

"I hear many different "messages" being proclaimed by the evangelical community, but nearly all of them have a "sweet" taste to them. There are messages about being successful and effective. There are messages about a positive outlook and a positive self-image, but frankly there is not much said negatively about sin and God's holy wrath. Until we are faithful to speak out concerning the "bitter" realities of God's judgment on sin, we will not find the Word of God as "sweet" to us as it could be. We do not appreciate the sweetness of some things until we have first experienced the sourness of others. Is this not the reason why some people "sweeten" watermelon with salt? It is the bitterness of the salt which causes us to sense the sweetness of the melon."

- Keith Krell

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"And I tell you if I had one indictment against the modern pulpit, it is this: the preacher will always preach about the love of God, and he always preaches about the love of Jesus, and he always preaches about things that are fine and nice and things that are sweet and good. But oh, there has dropped out of the modern pulpit that awful sound of warning. We do not have the prophet and his message any longer. You do not ever hear the threatenings of God and the voice of the judgment of God. We need it. For one is as true as the other."

- Charles Spurgeon

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When God sent forth His prophets, He warned them of the danger of compromising their message -

Is 30:10-11

10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions";

And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right,

Speak to us pleasant words,

Prophesy illusions.

11 "Get out of the way, turn aside from the path,

Let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

2 Tim 4:2-4

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

“To almost all people, prophecy is sweet. Prophetic conferences draw larger audiences than virtually any other kind of conference. The voluminous sale of the more sensational prophecy books is another evidence of how “sweet” Bible prophecy has become to so many people. But if “sweetness” is all there is, then it is worth little. Every student of prophecy should have the second experience that John had: bitterness in the stomach. A knowledge of things to come should give every believer a burden for people. For the way of escape from these things is the Rapture, and the requirement to qualify for the Rapture is the acceptance of Messiah now. A true student of prophecy will not simply stop with the knowledge of things to come. Rather this knowledge will create the strong burden to preach the gospel to others and thereby give them a way of escape.”

- Arnold Fruchtenbaum

What does vs. 11 mean?

7 things:

1. Warn men.
2. Tell them of the bitter, tell them of the sweet.
3. Tell them what's in the seventh trumpet.
4. Tell them what's in the seventh bowl and all the ones preceding it.
5. Tell them to taste the honey and avoid the bitter.
6. You're commission John is to repeat what you've heard, to peoples and nations in all languages.
7. It is necessary for the prophet of God to let the word of God affect him first before he ministers it to others.



Peter Philip Bilhorn
1865-1936

Peter Philip Bilhorn (1862-1936) was born in Mendota, Ill. His family name was originally Pulhorn; it was changed by a judge in Ottawa, Illinois, named Abraham Lincoln. His father's early death left the family impoverished. At age seven, Peter himself was barely saved from drowning. Already the Lord was at work in his young life. When he was 15, the family moved to Chicago and opened a carriage business. At 19, he was saved in the Chicago Avenue Church (now Moody Church) under the preaching of George F. Pentecost and the singing of George C. Stebbins. Having discovered his own musical gift, he began to study music under George F. Root. Also he studied the Bible and started evangelistic preaching. He attended Mt. Hermon School, East Northfield, Mass., founded by D.L. Moody.

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So verse 11 is telling us . . .

We are to experience and then testify.

We are to study and to meditate and to learn, and then we are to preach.

We are to consume God's Word and then prophesy.

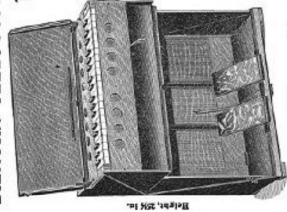


Peter Philip Bilhorn
1865-1936

Thereafter he "devoted himself to preaching and singing the Gospel." His evangelistic work took him into all the states of the Union, Great Britain, and other foreign countries. He served as the song leader for Billy Sunday's evangelistic meetings for a season ending in 1908. Bilhorn invented a portable pump organ for use in his travels and street meetings. The miniature instrument known as the "Bilhorn Telescope Organ" weighed just 16 pounds. He began manufacturing them in 1887, and they were soon in demand all over the world, blessing many in out of the way places with music before the advent of reliable phonographs, radio, and television.

BILHORN TELESCOPE ORGAN.

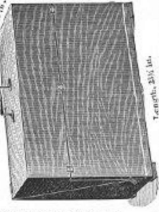
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THE ARTIST.



This organ is made of children. Large sweet enough for the sick room. For and door of tent meetings. A. Young People's C. A. meetings for Y. M. C. A. meetings carried by one hand. Strong and light. It will play any melody you wish to and do. So simple and so beautiful. Range enough for skillful

Organ, used for as represented, or sent C. O. D. with privilege of free you buy. Can be sold to all parts of the globe. Price, \$175.00; double road, \$300.00

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Peter Philip Bilhorn
1865-1936

Bilhorn compiled several song books and wrote nearly 2,000 hymns and Gospel songs including "Peace, Peace, Sweet Peace," "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story," and "Drinking at the Living Fountain."

One of the high points in Bilhorn's career came in 1900, when he traveled to London. There he conducted a 4,000 strong choir in the Crystal Palace, and Queen Victoria invited him to sing in Buckingham Palace. The hymn that he wrote . . .

Come, Lord Jesus, O Come Quickly

1. The day of wrath draws near,
The dreadful day of doom;
The sinner's bitter day,
It maketh haste to come.
2. Then shall these ancient skies
Roll up and pass away;
The sun shall blush, and hide
Its face in dread dismay.
3. Alas! Alas! Alas!
To whom, in that great day,
Shall the sad sinner flee,
On whom for refuge stay?
4. Lost, lost, forever lost!
Too late! Too late! He cries;
Lost, lost forever lost!
The second death he dies;
5. O Jesus, save and bless,
O Son of God on high:
Then safe in thee we live,
And safe in thee we die.