

The biggest news this week has been the decision to pull American troops out of Afghanistan. It has been heartbreaking to see the footage of Afghan men, women, and children fleeing, crowding runaways, clinging to airplanes, desperate to get out of the country.

Whether you agree or disagree with our President's decision, we can all agree that life under Taliban rule will be oppressive for so many, and this is heartbreaking. And it will be especially horrible for Afghan Christians. Reading reports from those on the ground, persecution has already begun. Many Afghan Christians have fled to the mountains or are in hiding. Many who have been discovered to be Christians have been executed on the spot by the Taliban, and their wives and children sold into slavery.

One article I read was particularly moving. A group of Afghan Christians had gathered for a retreat and they heard reports that the Taliban had returned to the streets of Kabul, once again hunting and threatening Christians. All throughout the weekend, these Afghan Christians prayed together and studied about persecution and suffering. One brother describes the end of the Sunday morning service,

Our song leader chose the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." As we sang the final verse, an Afghan brother came and whispered in my ear, "Ashraf Ghani, Afghanistan's president, just resigned. The Taliban are now in control." And we sang,

Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!¹

We should continue praying for these men and women, that God would provide ways for them to leave the country into safety. But even more that they would hold on to their confidence in Christ.

I hope that as you hear these stories of Afghan Christians, that it does something inside you. That it stirs and awakens something in your heart. Here is a Christianity that isn't comfortable or safe, that stares suffering and persecution and death in the face, and says, "God's truth abideth still, his kingdom is forever!" Where does that kind of confidence come from?

This is a very ancient confidence that has always marked the people of God. Today, we are going to travel back to ancient Israel, and listen to the song of a woman, Hannah, who found this same confidence in God as those Afghan Christians.

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/afghanistan-afghan-pastors/>

If you have your Bibles, turn to 1 Samuel 2. I preached on chapter one a few weeks ago, you can find that sermon online if you're interested.

You'll remember that Hannah was barren and miserable. And yet in her misery, she turned to God in prayer and God heard her prayers and granted her a son. But this experience transformed Hannah. In it, she saw something of God and His saving work. The story ends not with Hannah gloating over her enemies, but Hannah fulfilling her vows and devoting her only son to God. Amazingly, we see Hannah leaving her son Samuel in the care of Eli the priest and heading home, not bitter, or angry, but rejoicing and singing God's praises. Her story is very different than those Afghan Christians... but she has the same hope and confidence as they do. We get to listen in on her song and prayer this morning.

[Read 1 Sam. 2:1-10]

If you're taking notes, here's my outline to help us work through Hannah's song.

- 1) Rejoice in the holy God (1-3)
- 2) Who will vindicate the faithful (4-8)
- 3) Through His anointed King. (9-10)

I pray that we would all walk away today with the same confidence that Hannah had, no matter what we are facing in our lives today.

1) Rejoice in the holy God (1-3)

The first thing we should notice is that this is a prayer and song of joy. This is not a dirge. This is not a theological treatise. This is a song! Hannah is exulting and rejoicing.

Notice the object of Hannah's joy. "My heart exults **in the LORD**; my horn (my strength) is exalted **in the LORD**." She rejoices in God Himself, in Who He is.

And the reason she is able to do that is because of what God has done for her. "I rejoice **in your salvation**." Previously, as a good Jew, Hannah would've praised the LORD as the Maker of Heaven and Earth, the all-powerful Creator, the all-knowing, the all-wise. But now Hannah has come to know God personally, intimately. God has heard her prayers and has acted for her salvation. Hannah has come to know that God is **for her**, and that has transformed her. God's glory and power and sovereignty are not just abstract concepts... no, God is on her side! God is **with** her and **for** her.

Therefore, Hannah's joy is not in her son, it's not in her shame being removed... yes those blessings are real, but ultimately, they point Hannah to God. Her joy is in the LORD.

And so in verse, 2, she praises God:

1Sam. 2:2 “There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

The rest of the world did not understand Hannah’s pain and could not do anything to save her. Her enemies mocked her. Her husband minimized her pain. The priest thought she was drunk! But God is not like any of them. God is holy. He is set apart. Which means God alone is able to save.

There is no **rock** like our God. Hannah knew this from personal experience. Though she was trapped in a horrible situation, though her pain was so deep, yet God remained ever holy, ever righteous, ever good. Though every earthly hope and dream melted away like sinking sand, God remained the Rock. And as the holy God, the ROCK, He heard her. And He acted miraculously for her.

And now, standing on the Rock, Hannah no longer fears her enemies. Previously, they used to break her heart and Hannah feared so much what they said and did to her. But now that fear has been replaced with a massive vision of God. A God who is holy and just and faithful. And the worst that they might do to her, does not compare with God’s faithful love for Hannah.

So now, rather than fearing her enemies, she derides them. We hear her rebuke against her enemies in verse 3:

Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.

Hannah here is not trash-talking. She’s not gloating. No, she is warning her enemies. She does not fear them, but speaks truth to them. The LORD is a God of knowledge. Enemies, beware. God knows all things. He knows the evil intentions of your hearts. He knows the mocking words that you whisper. He knows the bitter looks and the evil thoughts. He is a God of knowledge and He sees all your wicked pride.

And He will judge. “BY him actions are weighed.” Every thought. Every word. Every deed. Every moment of our lives. Enemies, beware: There is a God who weighs everything we do, and He will judge according to His perfect holiness.

Hannah, who was once so consumed by what her pain and by her enemies, has now been transformed to fear and rejoice in God and God alone.

I wonder if you know God like this? Here in this church, we aim to be orthodox and accurate in the way we talk about God. We recite Confessions of Faith. Some of us here are involved with the seminary. We like to read books. But how do we move beyond merely knowing stuff about God to rejoicing in God? To exulting and glorying in who He is and what He has done?

Imagine you had an assignment to write a report about Elon Musk (or whoever). And so you study about how brilliant he is and how rich he is... but what if it turns out, he's your long lost relative! And he is thrilled to have you in his family and to share everything he has with you! Can you imagine how much more joyful it would be to discover who he is?

In the same way we might study about God's aseity and immutability and omnipotence and compassion, but all those attributes remain abstract. But what if we believed, really believed that God is for us? That He loves us? And that all the power and glory and goodness that we learned about God was ours? If your knowledge of God has not produced in you a deep and abiding joy in Him, then you haven't yet known Him as you ought.

And perhaps more than anything else, we must know that God is holy. We must know that God is utterly set apart and distinct and untouched by the suffering and evil of this world. I love this image of God as the ROCK. In a world where we are battered by wave after wave of illness and terrorists and natural disasters and unemployment and chronic illness and loneliness... wave after wave of suffering... and yet amid countless waves, the Rock stands unmoved, age after age He stands. We try to find footing in all kinds of places, but they all wash away. There is no Rock like our God.

Amid all that goes on in our world, we need to know that God is Holy. I think of that scene from the Lord of the Rings. Sam and Frodo are traveling towards Mount Doom surrounded by danger and suffering... they settle in for the night and Sam takes the first watch... and this is what he sees -

"There, peeping among the clouds above a dark [peak] high up in the mountains, Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach."²

As horrific and painful as this world may be, our experience, and sin, and failures does not change who God is. He is ever holy and righteous and good, and the Shadow is only a small and passing thing. Which means, He is able to save. Brothers and sisters, find your hope and your joy in Him.

² J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

Many of us here might not be able to identify with Hannah's experience of having enemies. But all of us have experienced the temptation to fear man. Fear of man can take a thousand different forms. In Afghanistan, Christians are tempted to fear the physical harm that the Taliban might bring to them. We should pray that they will hold fast to Christ amid those fears. Here in the West, we might not be martyred, but we still deal with the fear of man. We fear being cancelled, or being fired for not celebrating transgenderism, or even simply being known as a Christian. Those of you in middle school and high school, it's so tempting to care so much about what your peers think of you, wanting to be in the in-crowd, to be accepted by those who are cool, or by a certain someone. (Even though I mention MS & HS, I'm always surprised how these kinds of fears still exist in my heart)

Of course, wanting to be thought well by others and accepted by others isn't wrong. But how easily that desire can grow into a fear that consumes and enslaves us. We begin to allow others to control us. We give in to peer pressure. We compromise our convictions.

The reason fear of man exists is because all we see is how huge and important and powerful people are... and God in comparison looks small. We're like children obsessing and arguing over a pothole, fighting for a turn to play in the pothole, not realizing they are at the parking lot to the Grand Canyon... The solution is not to dominate one another or to find other potholes. No, it is by looking up and seeing the Grand Canyon. And realizing, here is something far more awesome and fearsome and majestic!

Jesus said,

Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

This is how Hannah overcame her fear of her enemies. She encountered the holy God, a God Who was far bigger than all her enemies, a God to Whom she could entrust all her fears and hopes and dreams. This was a God in Whom she could rejoice. And now having been set free from the fear of man, she is able to speak to them truthfully, boldly.

The only cure to the fear of man is a greater fear of God.

The key to a life of joy and freedom, the greatest thing you can do for yourself, is to cultivate a big vision of God. And the best way to do that is to cultivate a life of meditation on God's Word and prayer. Rather than staring at the pothole, stare at the Grand Canyon. Study how God has revealed Himself in His Word. Allow that inform your perspective as you go through life. Talk to others about God. Bring God into view in every part of your life. The bigger your vision of God, like Hannah, the greater your joy and freedom will be.

If you are a non-Christian here this morning, as we reflect on God's holiness, I wonder if you can imagine a God who actually is different than you? I once read this fictional story where these

husbands turn their wives into these perfect robots, who never crossed their will and always complied with their every wish. That's often how people want to approach God. They pick and choose what they want to believe from the Bible, and they end up with a God that basically agrees with everything they believe. But this becomes essentially a God of their own making, not a real God with whom you can have a relationship. But here, we're being confronted with a God that is like no other. A God that is holy, and distinct, and different from us. A God who might even contradict us. Friend, would you want to know this God, as gloriously different as He might be? Or would you prefer a robot God that simply conforms to all your ideas?

Well, the God who is holy is also the God of knowledge, who weighs all human actions. And in our next point, we see a glimpse of what His judgment will be like.

2) Who will vindicate the faithful (4-8)

- 4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the feeble bind on strength.
- 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
 but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
 The barren has borne seven
 but she who has many children is forlorn.
- 6 The LORD kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low and he exalts.
- 8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
 he lifts the needy from the ash heap
 to make them sit with princes
 and inherit a seat of honor.
 For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
 and on them he has set the world.

There are two themes we should notice here in these verses, when it comes to God's judgment.

The first is the theme of **reversal**. We all love Cinderella stories... why is that? Why do we like to root for the underdog? But more than just being a good story, that idea of reversal is actually how things will turn out. God will judge the world and, in the end, it will not go as we expected. And we see that pictured in verses 4-5.

Today, the feeble are hunted down and killed. We live in a world where might makes right. Whether it is the might of an AK-47, or of a corrupt legal system, this is a world where those with power win. And those who get in their way are trampled. Oh, but the day is coming when the feeble will bind on strength. They will be shown to be the truly strong ones. And all the best weapons of the mighty, no matter how daunting or invincible they seem, will come to nothing.

Today, the hungry remain trapped in their poverty. No matter how hard they work, they cannot get ahead. In the meantime, those who are full have more food than they know what to do with it. They have no cares and life is easy for them. But the day is coming when the hungry will be satisfied. All their hunger will come to an end. And those who thought they were full will sell themselves for bread and hunger forever.

Today, the barren woman is ashamed and overlooked, while the one with children despises her. But the day is coming when the proud one will pine away, while the barren one will be vindicated. Whatever shame she experienced will be totally wiped away and instead of being empty, she will be profoundly fulfilled. The number here seven is significant as it a number of completeness, of fullness. This reversal must have been particularly sweet for Hannah.

What's going on here in these verses? Clearly, we know from Hannah's story that she didn't bear seven children. This passage is not a promise for how God will act in this world.

Rather, in her own experience of going from utter misery to fullness of joy, Hannah has experienced a foretaste, a glimpse of what is coming. The God who weighs all actions will one day judge, and on that day, we will see a surprising outcome, a shocking reversal. We thought we would see celebrities and leaders and preachers and authors and influencers exalted with the greatest honor and the biggest crowns... but it won't be them. No, in the end, it will be the janitor, the widow, the sick... God will see their faithfulness amid tremendous trials and He will reward them. We're going to be shocked by how it will turn out.

Which brings us to the second theme: **vindication**. God will vindicate His people.

This song isn't teaching us that it is somehow intrinsically righteous to be feeble or hungry or barren. No, you can certainly be those things and still be proud and cruel towards others. Rather, we see that the reversal is about God's act to vindicate those who are faithful. We see that explicitly in verse 9, which we'll get to. But we also understand that from the context of Hannah story. Hannah wasn't righteous because of her barrenness. No, she was miserable. And yet, in her misery, she turned to God in humility and dependence. Her barrenness caused her to recognize her need for God.

And as she entrusted herself to God, God vindicated her. In bearing a son, Hannah saw a glimpse of the truth that God will one day vindicate all those who place their trust in Him. No matter how feeble, no matter how poor, no matter how low, God will not fail those who trust in Him, but will prove Himself to be worthy of their trust.

And the reason He can guarantee this is because we see in verses 6-7, that He alone has all authority. He is the one who kills and brings life, who brings down to Sheol and who raises up. We think that the power to bless lies in the hand of legislators or bosses, or doctors, or those we fear... No, God alone is the one who gives life. If anyone in this life has any capacity to bless,

it is a stewardship given to them by God. All blessing, all life, all honor belongs to God alone and in the end, He alone will exalt and He will condemn.

When God weighs everything in the end, it will not be the mighty and rich and popular that will be exalted. No, but as we see in verse 8, in the end, it will not be the celebrities and the rich philanthropists and the famous influencers that will be exalted. No, we will be shocked to see... that it will be the poor and needy raised up from the ash heap and sitting with princes at the place of honor.

After all, isn't this what Jesus taught?

Matt. 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied...

Matt. 5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Yes, the day is coming when the first will be last and the last will be first. There will be a shocking reversal... and God will vindicate those who trusted in Him.

So friends, let Hannah's words here sever the root of pride in your heart. All that you have, all that you've accumulated, the work that you've put in, all this comes from God. Yes you've worked for it, but He has allowed you to work for it. He has provided all that you need for it. Even now, He sustains your very breath. And all this has been given to you, not merely for your enjoyment, but for your stewardship. It is a trust, an assignment. What will you do with all that you've been given, in these 70, or 80 short years of life that you are given?

I think death is the ultimate confirmation that a reversal is coming. No matter how powerful or successful or accomplished we are, every one of us will die and we will not be able to take any of it with us and who knows what our descendants will do with it all after we're gone. All the honors and accolades and wealth that we accumulate will come to nothing, and the only thing that will matter will be the judgment of God.

John Wesley once recorded this in his journal:

I was in the robe-chamber, adjoining the House of Lords, when the King put on his robes. His brow was much furrowed with age and quite clouded with care. And is this all the world can give even to a king? All the grandeur it can afford? A blanket of ermine round his shoulders, so heavy and cumbersome he can scarcely move under it! A huge

heap of borrowed hair, with a few plates of gold and glittering stones upon his head!
Alas, what a bauble is human greatness! And even this will not endure.³

In the end, the key is faithfulness. It's not about how many books you sell, or how big your church is, or how many followers you have on social media... that's how the world weighs actions. That's not how God weighs actions. Our job is to be faithful with whatever much or whatever little we've been given.

[Story of the widow who have gave her two pennies]

God has given us the joy of blessing others, of caring for those who are hungry, who are lonely, who are weak. Friend, whatever strength you have, whatever resources you have, whatever relationships you have, don't turn them into an opportunity for pride. Steward them well for others. Be faithful.

And if you're saying, "I have no idea what that looks like." Well, maybe that's your starting point. Pray. Ask God for help. Confess how you have been selfish and ask him to help you to bear your stewardship faithfully. Pray that He would open your eyes to those around you and show you how you can be a blessing to others, even this week.

Because, make no mistake, a great reversal is coming. And how will God bring it about?

3) Through His anointed King (9-10)

1Sam. 2:9 “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
 but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
 for not by might shall a man prevail.
10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
 against them he will thunder in heaven.
 The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
 he will give strength to his king
 and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Here we see the surprising summary of Hannah's song. God will guard the feet of the faithful ones. Isn't that a wonderful promise? They will not prevail by might, but by God's faithfulness. He will see to it that they will persevere to the end. This is a promise that we desperately need amid the trials of this life.

But the wicked? Their pride and schemes and violence will surely come to an end. They will be cut off in darkness and broken to pieces. God will thunder against them from heaven, and he will execute his judgment to the ends of the earth.

³ <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/wesley/journal.vi.x.ix.html>

God is not just the God of Israel. No, He will judge the ends of the earth... And how will He do this? Through his anointed king.

Who is king in Israel at this point during Hannah's time? At this point in history, Israel doesn't have a king! What is Hannah talking about?

Even though there is no King in Israel at this point, Hannah's hope is that a king is coming. Why? Because this is what God had promised.

He promised it from the very beginning in the Garden when he cursed the serpent:

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
 he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel."

God promised it through Jacob as he lay dying and blessed his sons:

Gen. 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
 nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
 until tribute comes to him;
 and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

God promised it through Balaam, when he was paid to curse Israel, but instead He prophesied the coming king:

Nu. 24:17 I see him, but not now;
 I behold him, but not near:
 a star shall come out of Jacob,
 and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

...

19 And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion

God promises it through Moses, as they prepared to enter the Promised Land, and he gave them commands for how they were to appoint a king to rule over them (Deut. 17).

And so by the time we get to Hannah, there was a longing and an expectation for a king among the people of Israel.

Little did she know, her son, Samuel, would be the prophet to anoint the very first king of Israel. His name was Saul. Tall, handsome, strong. But in the end, he proved to be a total failure. He

lived in the fear of man. He proved unfaithful to God. And in the end, he was rejected by God and the kingdom was torn away from him.

But then God would command Samuel to anoint another king: a young shepherd boy called David. And David would be a man after God's own heart. If ever there was a surprising reversal, it would be this. Tall, handsome, strong Saul brought low. Small, insignificant David, exalted to the throne. David trusted in God, and God made a covenant with David saying that his kingdom would never end, and his throne would be established forever.

Finally, here was the anointed King that Israel was waiting for! But David was far from perfect. He committed horrible sins and eventually David died. His sons also proved to be unfaithful. In the end, Israel, rather than judging the nations, they were defeated by the nations and taken into exile, including the line of David. Even after they were allowed to return to the Land, they still lived under foreign oppression. What happened to all this talk about a King?

And then 2000 years ago, in the small town of Bethlehem, a child was born from the line of David to Joseph and Mary: Jesus of Nazareth. Here was a man like every one of us, and yet he was like no one who's ever lived. This Jesus was holy. He loved God perfectly. He loved his fellow man perfectly. He spoke the truth. He acted with compassion. He lived with boldness. And yet throughout his life, he was despised.

Is. 53:2 he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

At the end of his life, he was betrayed by one of his own disciples. He was rejected and condemned by his own people. And he was crucified by the Roman government. Jesus was feeble, homeless, alone... and he was put to death. And yet, amazingly, even to his death on a cross, Jesus entrusted himself to His heavenly Father. Even while on the cross, Jesus did not retaliate, but prayed, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." To the very end, Jesus was faithful.

And He died. And he was buried.

But then on the third day, God had had enough. The LORD who kills and brings to life, the LORD who brings down to Sheol and raises up, that LORD raised up His Son from the dead. Jesus of Nazareth walked out of the tomb resurrected! Back from the dead! Triumphant over sin and death. And anointed by his resurrection life as the king of the universe.

Oh friends, the greatest Cinderella story that ever took place is right here, in Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

If you are not a Christian today, here is what you need to know. Jesus Christ is your King. Whether you know it or not, whether your life reflects it or not, that has no bearing on the fact that Jesus of Nazareth has been raised from the dead and He is the promised King that God has foretold from the very beginning. Jesus has crushed the head of the serpent. The scepter of the universe has been given to Him. And as Hannah says here, He is the anointed king that will judge the ends of the earth. The day is coming when Jesus will return, and He will bring about all of God's judgments.

But here's the amazing news. Though we all have sinned and deserve God's eternal wrath, King Jesus came to bear that wrath in our place. That's why He offered his life on the cross. There on the cross, He bore the wrath of God that sinners deserved. So that now, for all who will repent of their sin and place their hope in Christ, they will be saved.

Friend, this is the most fundamental way we humble ourselves before God. WE stop trying to save ourselves. We stop boasting in our own righteousness. We confess that we have sinned and that there is nothing we can do to commend ourselves to God. And we cling to what Christ has done for us. If you will humble yourself before God... if you come to Jesus like the feeble, hungry, barren person that you are... then God will count your sins as forgiven in Christ and promises you that on that Day, you will be united to His Son and exalted along with Him. Not by might shall a man prevail, but only through God's anointed King. Even now you can place your trust in Him.

Brothers and sisters, in a world full of uncertainty, full of pain. In a world where the Taliban hunt down our brothers and sisters and execute them in the streets. In a world where we are slandered and mocked for our faith... in this world, we will have tribulation. But take heart! King Jesus has overcome the world. And if he has overcome, then we too will overcome. Not by might will we prevail, but only by entrusting ourselves to our great king.

Today, entrusting yourself to Jesus looks foolish, careless, unrealistic. That's true for us American Christians, as much as it is for those Afghan Christians... The world asks, "Why put all your eggs in one basket? Yes, trust in Jesus, but also live for the American Dream. Yes trust in Jesus, but also enjoy the pleasures of this world also. Surely Jesus can't expect you to give up your life for him?"

Oh friends, living for Jesus may look foolish today... but I tell you, on that day, when the trumpet sounds and clouds roll back like a scroll, and King Jesus is revealed in all his glory with millions upon millions of the saints and angelic host attending to him, any faith in Him will not look foolish, but will be utterly vindicated. On that day, those who spent all their lives accumulating this world's wealth and pleasures will wail because they have missed out on the greatest Joy of all. And those who banked everything on Christ will shine like the sun and reign with Him forever.

Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!