

Shall We “Reign” With Him?

by Wayne Walker

Not much is known about James Gerald Dailey who, in 1892, wrote the text and the tune for the song “**He Loved Me So**,” which begins, “*Why did my Savior come to earth?*” This song is certainly a good reminder of how He “*loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood*” (Rev. 1:5-6). When I was growing up, it was frequently used to prepare our minds for partaking of the Lord’s supper. It is generally assumed that Dailey was associated with the Church of Christ. He also provided the tune for Mary Ann Kidder’s “**Fear Not, Little Flock**,” and wrote another hymn, “**The Comfort Song**,” which appeared in some of our older books. In addition, he produced a number of “*temperance songs*” which were popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Most of our books, at least the recent ones, omit a stanza of “**He Loved Me So**,” for reasons that I do not know—maybe some editor cut it out because of space and others just (blindly?) followed after him. It says, “*And now He bids me look and live, And by His grace to know A home in heaven He will give, Because He loved me so.*” This is actually the third stanza and comes after the one beginning, “*Why did He drink the bitter cup?*” The first line is based on the story of how Moses lifted up the brass serpent in the wilderness so that those who looked upon it might live (Num. 21:9). Jesus made reference to this event a couple of times in comparison to His coming death (John 3:14, 12:32).

Also, most of our books make a change in the third line of the final stanza. The original read, “*Till Jesus comes I’ll sing His praise, And then to glory go, And reign with Him through endless days, Because He loved me so.*” It was changed to “*And live with Him through endless days.*” I have never understood this because Revelation 22:5 says of those who surround the throne of God beside the river of life in the new heaven and new earth that “*they shall reign forever and ever.*” I suppose that somehow someone thought that reigning with Christ after His coming is premillennial, but if the scriptures say that His servants shall reign with Him forever, why should anyone have a problem singing that?

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