

OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LESSON 20 Lower Level – When He Cometh

PACING: 1 day

ESSENTIAL QUESTION, BIG IDEA, and STANDARDS: See Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.

CONCEPT: Christian hymns are a cherished and valuable legacy, expressing the emotions and experiences of God's people through many centuries.

OBJECTIVES: Learn the text and tune of an important hymn of faith. Interpret the spiritual meaning of the hymn. Understand and communicate important facts about the life of the author of the words and/or the composer of the music.

VOCABULARY: hymn, hymn writer, hymnal, text, tune, composer, verse, stanza

RESOURCES: Links to performances of the hymn "When He Cometh"

- ✓ Gaither Family group (2:40), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tCMwECQhM>
 - ✓ Little girl solo, 3ABN (KidsTime) (1:54), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWUjyvpohrt4>
 - ✓ Boys' duet, 3 ABN (KidsTime), in another language part of the time (1:51), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWrpu4NHfdA>
 - ✓ Alison Krauss, country, PowerPoint of old family photos (2:56), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjbnepoWbs>
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ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Either give each student a printed copy of the hymn, display the hymn for the class electronically or have the students find the hymn "When He Cometh" (#218) in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.
- ✓ Read the words through together. Discuss what the words mean.
- ✓ Discuss what a *jewel* is. Refer to Malachi 3:17 and discuss how people can be "jewels."
- ✓ Play a recording of the hymn for the students. (See links above)
- ✓ Use discussion questions found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Sing the hymn together. Discuss its form, melody and rhythm. Note how many *verses* or *stanzas* it has. Does it have a Refrain?
- ✓ Read or tell the story of William O. Cushing who wrote the words of this hymn, using the biographical sketch found in this lesson.
- ✓ Review the story by completing the Lesson 20 Review.
- ✓ Sing the hymn, focusing on its expressive qualities and memorization of at least the first stanza.
- ✓ Learn the sign language for the first stanza of the hymn.
- ✓ Choose a venue to perform the hymn. If no opportunity is found for a performance at the school, church or other community event, consider videotaping a performance for future use.
- ✓ Create posters for a bulletin board display featuring aspects of the hymn story or the words of the hymn in a calligraphic style with hand-drawn illustrations.
- ✓ Teach another of Cushing's hymns that are in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. They are: "There'll Be No Dark Valley" (208), "Hiding in Thee" (525) and "Under His Wings" (529). Sing "There'll Be No Dark Valley" with the students. (It is very repetitious and easy to learn.)
- ✓ Use activities found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER STUDENTS:

- Create a choral reading of the hymn.
- Create a special arrangement of the hymn, utilizing vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles, etc.
- Create a skit telling the story of the hymn writer or the circumstances under which the hymn was written. This may be presented to the younger students in a worship or at Sabbath School or church.

ASSESSMENT:

There is a Lesson 20 Review included. Also, any of the following assessments may be used: teacher observation, discussion, performance, teacher-created worksheets.

ANSWER KEY: (10 points) "When He Cometh"

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. A
6. True
7. C
8. False
9. B
10. B

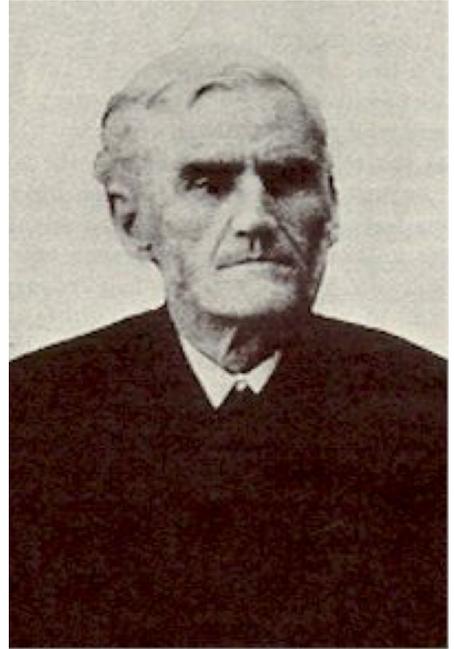
When He Cometh

William Orcutt Cushing (1823-1903)

Although Mr. Cushing has four hymns in our hymnal—hymns that are quite loved by many—we don't know much about him.

We do know that he was born and lived in Hingham, Massachusetts, on the South Shore of Boston.

He wrote the “jewel song” when he was a young man in his 20s. It refers to Malachi 3:17 in the Bible: “And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels.”



Mr. Cushing wrote the song for the Sunday School where he taught. A very well-known composer at the time, George Root, wrote the music for it.

The story is told of a minister who was returning from Europe on a British steam ship. He visited steerage, the lower deck of the ship where the very poor immigrants traveled among the cargo. He suggested to the people there that they have a song service and started it with Mr. Cushing's “jewel song.”

The immigrants from many different nations quickly learned the hymn and sang it frequently during the rest of the voyage. Some even sang it as they continued their journey by train, filling the cars with their singing. As you can imagine, the song spread throughout the land with the help of those travelers.

Cushing also wrote “There'll Be No Dark Valley” (#208), “Hiding in Thee” (#525), and “Under His Wings” (#529).

Student Name:

Hymns, Our Christian Heritage Lesson 20 - Review

Score:

10

“When He Cometh” Words by William O. Cushing

1. How many hymns does William O Cushing have in the *SDA Hymnal*?
 - a. 1
 - b. 4
 - c. 8
2. Where did Mr. Cushing live?
 - a. Texas
 - b. Michigan
 - c. Massachusetts
3. For what purpose did Mr. Cushing write “When He Cometh”?
 - a. For his Sunday School class
 - b. As a lullaby for his children
 - c. As an advertisement to help sell jewelry
4. What text in the Bible does the “jewels” idea come from?
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. Genesis 1:1
 - c. Malachi 3:17
5. Who was George Root?
 - a. He wrote the music for the song
 - b. He published the song
 - c. He taught the song to the people on the ship
6. True or False. The people in steerage loved the “jewel song.”
7. What type of people were in steerage?
 - a. The wealthiest travelers
 - b. The ship’s crew
 - c. The poor immigrants
8. True or False. The people who learned the “jewel song” on the ship forgot it when they reached land.
9. Mr. Cushing compares the jewels to
 - a. The sun
 - b. The stars
 - c. The moon
10. Who are the jewels?
 - a. All of us
 - b. Little children
 - c. Good people

When He Cometh

William O. Cushing, 1866

George F. Root

When He com - eth, when He com - eth to make up His
jew - els, All the jew - els, prec - ious jew - els, His loved and His
own; Like the stars of the morn - ing, His bright crown a -
dorn - ing, They shall shine in their beau - ty, Bright gems for His crown.

4

8 Refrain

12

2. He will gather, He will gather the gems for His kingdom;
All the pure ones, all the bright ones, His loved and His own.
REFRAIN

3. Little children, little children, who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.
REFRAIN