

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
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## **“Ye prisoners of hope”**

*Zechariah 9:12*

*Hail, sovereign love, that first began, the scheme to rescue fallen man!  
Hail, matchless, free eternal grace, that gave my soul a hiding place!*

*Against the God who rules the sky, I fought with hand uplifted high,  
Despised the mention of his grace, too proud to seek a hiding place.*

*But thus the eternal counsel ran, “Almighty love, ARREST that man!”  
I felt the arrows of distress, and found I had no hiding place.*

*Indignant justice stood in view, to Sinai’s fiery mount I flew,  
But justice cried, with frowning face, “this mount is no hiding place!”*

*Ere long a heavenly voice I heard, and mercy’s angel-form appeared,  
She led me on, with placid pace, To JESUS, as my hiding place.*

*Should storms of sevenfold thunder roll, and shake the globe from pole to pole, no  
flaming bolt could daunt my face, For JESUS is my hiding place.*

*On Him almighty vengeance fell, that must have sunk a world to hell,  
He bore it for a chosen race, and thus became their hiding place.*

*A few more rolling suns, at most, will land me on fair Canaan’s coast,  
Where I shall sing the song of grace and see my glorious hiding place.*

*(Gadsby hymnal # 134)*

*Dear brethren, if our sovereign Father and eternal Master had not determined to  
“ARREST” such sinners such as we, there would be NOWhere else to flee. Oh! For  
loving mercy that drew us to salvation’s place and caused us to become PRISONERS*

*of divine love and everlasting grace. I say "ARRESTED," yes dear brethren, would you have come to Calvary's mount by thine own desire to see a bloody body on a tree?*

*No! No! You would not have any desire to see such a sight but run the opposite way to escape the crimson red stream. It was by determined warrant the Almighty sent forth his Spirit's power to deliver such ones from sins dread stains and bound us with his decreed love through sovereign grace that was predestined from above. Before our seed had ever made union in this mortal process here below, our God has chosen us to be brought under ARREST and be captives and prisoners of His sweet covenant rest. CHRIST, has made this warrant charge as was determined before the stars, our names written in God's Lambs Book of life to be his elect heirs of eternal life.*

*Oh! Dear brethren, can you see, how that deity came to rescue you and me, from sin's dread curse and eternal death, we have been born again and made NEW creatures by His power of everlasting life, to never die that separated death, but be translated and clothed with immortal robes prepared afore as a Bride for our Saviour to adore? How wondrous, how glorious is the thought that the Holy God would rescue such a sinful lot. The angels look on with solemn sober look to see what the Ruler of the heaven and earth is doing to these unworthy creatures here below. Never to know the redeeming love that is expressed to sinful man, they are no doubt puzzled as we sing of salvation's glorious and redeeming work, knowing that it was not a mere PLAN, but designed and determined by our God's sovereign hand.*

*Rejoice, oh prisoners secured and kept by our Saviour's hand, praise him that he has determined to ARREST poor, helpless, lost and sinful men.  
To Christ be praise, adoration and glory forever without end!*

*March 18, 2007*

*Some Lord's Day ponderings of Christ's prisoners of grace*