

**Longing for the Coming of Emmanuel**  
**2 Corinthians 4:7–15**

“The Christian life oscillates between these two poles: the overflowing joy of the “already” redeemed (Ephesians 1:7) and the tearful yearning of the ‘not-yet’ redeemed (Ephesians 4:30). Not that we ever leave the one or the other in this life. We are ‘sorrowful, yet always rejoicing’ (2 Corinthians 6:10).”—John Piper

**1. Long for Emmanuel—the continuous presence of God with you.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here,	Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
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*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of our God’s vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify him.”* (Isaiah 61:1–3)

*“Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.”* (Revelation 21:3)

**2. Long for the Rod of Jesse to rescue from sin and death.**

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o’er the grave.	Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel. Here we have another image. This one from Isaiah.
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*“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”* (Isaiah 11:1–2)

*“The ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me.”—Jesus* (John 14:30)

*“and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”* (Revelation 20:10)

### **3. Long for the Dayspring, to bring light in darkness.**

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*“Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”* (Luke 1:78–79)

### **4. Long for the Key of David, to open the gates of heaven.**

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*“The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.”* (Isaiah 22:22)

### **5. Long for the Desire of Nations, to bring peace to His creation.**

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*“For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.”* (Haggai 2:6–9, NKJV)