

# THE LITURGICAL SCRIPT OF THE CHURCH

## HYMNS – BEN BRODY

Study Guide

Session #4 | Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

### INTRODUCTION

In our fourth session we will look at Charles Wesley’s hymn “Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending” and ask how a song can help us understand and imagine the future. The drama in Wesley’s hymn helps us vividly imagine and picture ourselves as witness to Christ’s return to earth. We will reflect on how a careful reading of this hymn can impact how we live now in light of the knowledge that Christ will return in glory.

### NOTES

### HOMEWORK

Choose another hymn by Wesley (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling or Jesus, Lover of My Soul are good options) and do a careful reading/analysis of the words. Then read it slowly each day for a week. How does your understanding change over time?

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Read (either silently or out loud) this hymn. What lines stand out most to you? How does this hymn help you to think about Christ's return in new ways?
2. Think about the tune HELMSLEY that we sang with this text. How does the tune either amplify or detract from the impact of the words?
3. The season of Advent (four Sundays leading up to Christmas) is, in part, about anticipating the return of Christ. That is where this song is most often sung. What other songs can you think of that help us to anticipate the return of Christ? (a hymnal might be helpful in this exercise).

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

O that we could begin this day in devout meditations, in joy unspeakable, and in blessing and praising You, who have given us such good hope and everlasting consolation. Lift up our minds above all these little things below, which are apt to distract our thoughts; and keep them above till our hearts are fully bent to seek You every day, in the way wherein Jesus hath gone before us.

## **RESOURCES TO GO DEEPER**

If you would like to explore more of the thousands of hymns that Charles Wesley wrote, you can find them here: <https://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives/cswt/charles-published-verse>.