

"Zion, or the City of God"

John Newton, Olney Hymnal (London, 1779)

Newton's Original Version:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for his own abode:
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters
Springing from eternal love;
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?
Grace, which like the LORD, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring
See the cloud and fire appear!
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the LORD is near:
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day;
Safe they feed upon the Manna
Which he gives them when they pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion,
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to GOD:
'Tis his love his people raises
Over self to reign as kings
And as priests, his solemn praises
Each for a thank-offering brings.

Savior, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am;
Let the world deride or pity,

I will glory in thy name
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure,
None but Zion's children know.

adapted by William W. Phelps (LDS)
for the 1835 Kirtland Hymnal;
#3 in the 1840 Manchester Hymnal

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God!
He whose word cannot be broken,
Chose thee for his own abode:

On the rock of Enoch founded;
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's wall surrounded,
Thou may'st smile on all thy foes.

See the stream of living waters,
Springing from celestial love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of drough remove:

Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?
Grace which like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,
See the cloud and fire appear!
For a glory and a cov'ring,
Showing that the Lord is near:

Thus deriving from their banner,
Light by night and shade by day;
Sweetly they enjoy the Spirit,
Which he gives them when they pray.

Bless'd inhabitants of Zion,
Purchas'd with the Savior's blood!
Jesus whom their souls rely on,
Makes them kings and priests to God.

While in love his people raises,
While himself to reign as kings;
All, as priests, his solemn praises,
Each for a thank-offering brings.

Savior, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am;
Though the world despise and pity,
I will glory in thy name.

Fading are all worldly treasures,
With their boasted pomp and show!
Heav'nly joys and lasting pleasures
None but Zion's children know.