

# Thou, Earth, Wast Once a Glorious Sphere

Eliza R. Snow

A valued reader wrote and asked me about this text, which I'd never heard of. According to what I've learned on the internet, this text was in LDS hymnals from 1856-1912. According to what I've read in connection with it, Sister Snow based it on Joseph Smith's belief that pieces of the earth have been torn off and made into their own sphere when different peoples have been "hidden away" by the Lord. I must note that this is nothing Joseph ever taught publicly and cannot be taken as "official" church doctrine. This was in LDS hymnals *before* the policy of making sure everything in the hymnal was according to established church doctrine. In that view, here is the text:

"Thou, earth, wast once a glorious sphere  
of noble magnitude,  
And didst with majesty appear,  
among the worlds of God.

"But thy dimensions have been torn  
asunder, piece by piece,  
And each dismembered fragment borne  
abroad to distant space.

"When Enoch could no longer stay  
amid corruption here,  
Part of thyself was borne away  
to form another sphere.

"That portion where his city stood  
he gained by right approved;  
And nearer to the throne of God  
his planet upward moved.

"And when the Lord saw fit to hide  
the "ten lost tribes" away,  
Thou, earth, was severed to provide  
the orb on which they stay.

"And thus, from time to time thy size  
has been diminished, till  
Thou seemest the law of sacrifice  
created to fulfil....

"When Satan's hosts are overcome,  
the martyred, princely race  
Will claim thee, their celestial home  
—their royal dwelling-place.

"A 'restitution' yet must come,  
that will to thee restore,  
By that grand law of worlds,  
thy sum of matter heretofore.

"And thou, O earth, will leave the track  
Thou hast been doomed to trace;  
The Gods with shouts will bring thee back  
To fill thy native place."

(Eliza R. Snow, Sacred Hymns and Spiritual Songs for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, SLC, Utah, 1891, 322; first published in Millennial Star, 13:17.)