

Zion Mourns in Fear and Anguish

Zion klagt mit Angst und Schmerzen
 Johann Heermann, 1636
 Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1869, alt.

8.7. 8.7. 7.7. 8.8.

Zion klagt
 Johann Hermann Schein, 1623, adapt.
 Arr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

Zi - on mourns in fear and an - guish,
 She for whom His heart did lan - guish,

Zi - on, ci - ty of our God.
 Whom He chose for His a - bode.

"Ah," she says, "God hath in - deed

Cast me off in time of need,

Left me by my griefs o'er - tak - en,

Ut - ter - ly by Him for - sak - en.

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|---|--|
| <p>2 "Once," she mourns, "He promised plainly
 That His help should e'er be near;
 Yet I now must seek Him vainly
 In my days of woe and fear.
 Will His anger never cease?
 Will He not renew His peace?
 Will He not show forth compassion
 And again forgive transgression?"</p> | <p>4 "And if thou couldst find a mother
 Who forgot her infant's claim
 Or whose wrath her love could smother,
 Yet would I be still the same;
 For My troth is pledged to thee;
 Zion, thou art dear to Me.
 Deep within My heart I've set thee,
 That I never can forget thee.</p> |
| <p>3 "Zion, surely I do love thee,"
 Thus to her the Savior saith,
 "Though with many woes I prove thee
 And thy soul is sad to death.
 Yet now cast thy griefs behind;
 Where wilt thou a mother find
 For who own child not providing
 Or in hatred with it chiding?"</p> | <p>5 "Let not Satan make thee craven;
 He can threaten but not harm.
 On My hands thy name is graven,
 And thy shield is My strong arm.
 How, then, could it ever be
 I should not remember thee,
 Fail to build thy walls, My city,
 And look down on thee with pity?</p> |
- 6 "Ever shall Mine eyes behold thee;
 On My bosom thou art laid.
 Ever shall My love enfold thee;
 Never shalt thou lack Mine aid.
 Neither Satan, war, nor stress
 Then shall mar thy happiness:
 With this blessed consolation
 Be thou firm in tribulation.

Johann Heermann's "Zion Mourns in Fear and Anguish" ("*Zion klagt mit Angst und Schmerzen*") first appeared in his *Devoti Musica Cordis*, 2nd ed., 1636, p. 172. It was during this time, at the height of the Thirty Years' War, that Roman Catholic troops were continually plundering the town of Köben, where Heermann was serving as pastor. Heermann was surely a man to whom the "fear and anguish" of Zion was by no means foreign.

The hymn is founded upon what Heermann calls the "lovely core saying" of Isaiah 49: "But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me."

The tune is Johann Crüger's adaptation, specifically for this text, of a melody that originated in 1623 as a composition by Johann Hermann Schein, "Blessedness, Peace, Joy, and Rest" ("*Seligkeit, Fried, Freud, und Ruh*"), written for his daughter upon her death and included in a booklet with the heading, "A child's farewell kiss, with which she made her blessed departure from this vale of tears to her heavenly Bridegroom and Redeemer Jesus Christ, on August 21, 1623, Susanna Sidonia Schein, when she was 8 weeks and 6 days old, from her dearly beloved father Johann Hermann Schein ... and from her dearly beloved mother Sidonia Schein." The Scheins' grief at the death of their infant daughter is movingly expressed in this plaintive melody, which is fitting for the subject matter of Heermann's text.

The text is the translation of Catherine Winkworth, 1869, as altered for the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*, 1927, No. 505, which includes all six stanzas, and *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, No. 268, which omits portions of stanzas 3 and 4. The first stanza has been altered further, the more closely to reflect Heermann's German text. The music, with the exception of a few changes to the meter to bring it into closer conformity with the earliest sources, is that found in *The Lutheran Hymnal*. Both text and music are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever. They are offered with the hope that they may serve for the edification and consolation of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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Zion Mourns in Fear and Anguish

by

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and translated by

Catherine Winkworth

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