

HYMNS, OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LESSON 18 Upper Level – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

PACING: 1 day

ESSENTIAL QUESTION, BIG IDEA, and STANDARDS: See Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.

CONCEPT: Christian hymns are a cherished and valuable legacy, expressing the emotions and experiences of God's people through many centuries.

OBJECTIVES: Learn the text and tune of an important hymn of faith. Interpret the spiritual meaning of the hymn. Understand and communicate important facts about the life of the author of the words and/or the composer of the music.

VOCABULARY: hymn, hymn writer, hymnal, text, tune, composer, verse, stanza

RESOURCES: Performances of "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (or "Redeemer")

- ✓ Concert hall, choir and then entire audience (2:57), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgGXfdKK95o>
 - ✓ Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, organ with royalty and audience singing (3:01), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwvpTI88jwI>
 - ✓ Diamond Jubilee Celebration for Queen Elizabeth, orchestra, organ, and entire audience (3:19), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=226d7rMiZ2M>
 - ✓ Male chorus, organ accompaniment, with lyrics and nature PowerPoint (2:19), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3NmfmVGblw>
 - ✓ "Only Men Aloud!" young men singing modern arrangement in *Last Choir Standing* competition (2:11), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4xYIGH-pl8>
 - ✓ Princess Diana's funeral, organ accompaniment, entire audience singing (begin at 3:49), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2qvoWmX6E>
 - ✓ Mixed group, modern arrangement, guitar, saxophone, etc. accompaniment, lyrics (3:49), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFqX9J7HNdM>
 - ✓ Sweet Honey in The Rock, spiritual style, *a cappella* (4:24), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR2h4dl7x4s>
 - ✓ Part of song sung by fans at rugby match (:56), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0g3a8npAVBM>
 - ✓ Parody sung by fans at sporting event (:15), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Cc7U_D9-m0
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ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Either give each student a printed copy of the hymn, display the hymn for the class electronically or have the students find the hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (#538) in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.
- ✓ Read the words through together. Discuss what the words mean. What biblical event do they remind us of? Review the meaning of specific words and phrases to clarify the students' understanding: *Jehovah, pilgrim, barren, Bread of Heaven, crystal fountain, healing stream, fire and cloudy pillar, tread, verge of Jordan, death of death, hell's destruction, Canaan's side*.
- ✓ Play a recording of the hymn for the students. (See links above)
- ✓ Use discussion questions found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Sing the hymn together. Discuss its form, melody and rhythm. Note how many *verses* or *stanzas* it has. Does it have a Refrain?
- ✓ Read or tell the story of William Williams and Peter Williams who wrote the words of this hymn, using the biographical sketch found in this lesson. Can you tell the story of which Williams did what?
- ✓ Find Wales on a globe.

- ✓ Imagine being an itinerant preacher, to ride your horse over 100,000 miles to preach the gospel to people in your own country. What would some of the challenges be in this lifestyle? What would be some of the advantages? (Weather, lodging, meals, loneliness, exhaustion, etc.)
- ✓ Why do you think this hymn was used in the funeral of Princess Diana? Why was it used in the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton?
- ✓ What do you think about singing this beloved hymn in a secular competition such as *Last Choir Standing*?
- ✓ Have you ever heard a parody of a well-known song? How do you feel about this hymn's parody, "You're Not Singing Anymore"? How do you think it got started?
- ✓ Review the story by completing the Lesson 18 Review.
- ✓ Sing the hymn, focusing on its expressive qualities and memorization of at least the first stanza.
- ✓ Choose a venue to perform the hymn. If no opportunity is found for a performance at the school, church or other community event, consider videotaping a performance for future use.
- ✓ Create posters for a bulletin board display featuring aspects of the hymn story or the words of the hymn in a calligraphic style with hand-drawn illustrations.
- ✓ Use activities found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
 - Create a choral reading of the hymn.
 - Create a special arrangement of the hymn, utilizing vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles, etc.
 - Create a skit telling the story of the hymn writer or the circumstances under which the hymn was written. This may be presented to the younger students in a worship or at Sabbath School or church.

ASSESSMENT:

There is a Lesson 18 UL Review included. Also, any of the following assessments may be used: teacher observation, discussion, performance, teacher-created worksheets.

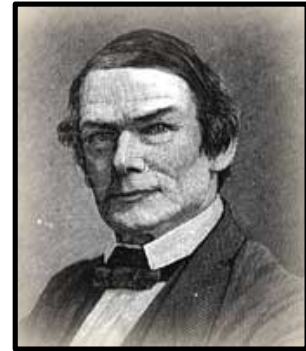
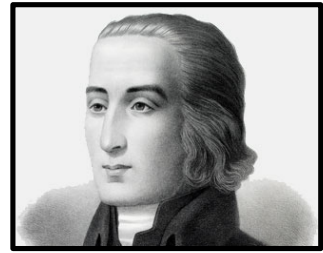
ANSWER KEY: (10 points) "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. False
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. False
10. B

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams (1717-1791)

Translated by Peter Williams (1723-1796)



William as a young man
and later in life.

William Williams of Pantycelyn was one of three sons of a wealthy Welsh farmer. He also had three sisters. Of the six children, William and his sister Mary were the only ones to survive to adulthood. William intended to study medicine and become a doctor. But after he heard the famous preacher George Whitefield in an open-air meeting, he changed his mind and decided to become a preacher. Williams wanted to preach for the Anglican Church, but when he requested ordination, he was turned down because of his connection with the new Methodist movement.

He chose to continue his work for the Methodist movement and became an itinerant preacher for the whole country of Wales, traveling 2,000-3,000 miles a year—about 100,000 miles in his lifetime.

Williams was concerned that there were not many good Welsh hymns. He tackled this challenge enthusiastically and successfully, writing more than 800 Welsh hymns and 100 English hymns. Williams is known as the “Welsh Watts” (after Isaac Watts), the “sweet singer of Wales” and “The Father of Welsh Hymnody.”

Our featured hymn was originally written in Welsh and entitled “Strength to Pass Through the Wilderness.” It is also sung as “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer.” It reminds us of the forty years the Israelites spent in the wilderness.

Another itinerant preacher, his friend Peter Williams (no relation) translated the Welsh hymn into English. William Williams made his own translation as well. In our *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, the hymn text is made up of Peter’s stanza one and William’s stanzas two and three.

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” is an unofficial national anthem of Wales and is sung in church as well as in sporting matches. It was sung by the Welsh soldiers in the trenches in World War I in the hearing of the German soldiers who then took it up and sang along.

This hymn was sung at Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration, Princess Diana’s funeral and the wedding of Prince William to Katherine Middleton. It is sung to the tune of CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes.

Student Name:

Hymns, Our Christian Heritage Lesson 18 UL - Review

Score:

10

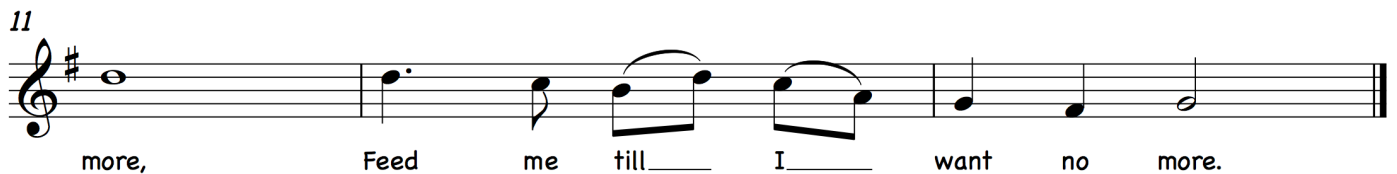
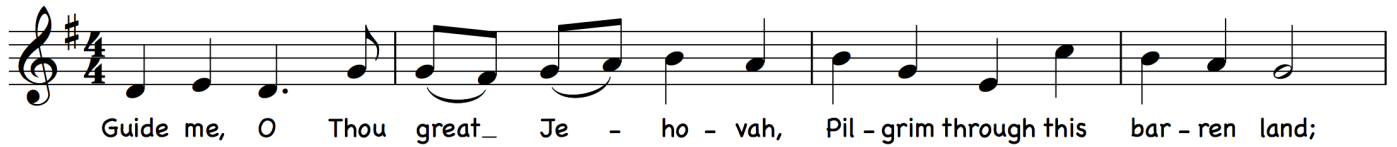
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” Text by William Williams, Peter Williams

1. Of the six children of the wealthy Welsh farmer, how many survived to adulthood?
 - a. Only William
 - b. Only William and his sister Mary
 - c. All the children survived to adulthood
2. What type of career did William Williams of Pantycelyn have in mind for himself?
 - a. Preacher
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Doctor
3. Why was William Williams not ordained into the Anglican Church?
 - a. Because he had been associating with those in the Methodist movement
 - b. Because he didn't want to be
 - c. Because he felt it more important to write hymns for the church
4. As an itinerant preacher in Wales, Williams traveled how many miles?
 - a. 2,000-3,000 each year
 - b. About 100,000 miles in his lifetime
 - c. Both A & B
5. True or False. Williams was glad that there were so many excellent Welsh hymns.
6. True or False. Williams is known as the “Father of English Hymnody.”
7. True or False. Williams' brother Peter first translated the hymn into English.
8. True or False. The hymn is usually sung to the tune CWM RHONDDA.
9. True or False. The hymn is sung in churches all over Wales, but never at sporting events.
10. “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” was *not* sung
 - a. At Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Celebration
 - b. For the wedding of Princess Dianna to Prince Charles
 - c. In the trenches of World War I by Welsh soldiers

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1745
Tr. Peter Williams

John Hughes
CWM RHONDDA



2. Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.