

# FAIREST LORD JESUS

*Making Comparisons* is one way to interpret the meaning of something not too familiar.

In each generation, individuals attempt to compare Jesus to the symbols that are meaningful to their times and in their thinking. Can you match these hymns and the symbolic comparisons to Jesus made in them? Draw an arrow from the left hand phrase to its symbol:

“Thine Is The Glory”	Symbols of Nature
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	Symbols of Royalty
“Fairest Lord Jesus”	Symbols within persons
“Be Thou My Vision”	Old Testament Symbols

Comparisons exist in studying our hymns, too! Compare two or three versions of how, by whom, and when the hymn “Fairest Lord Jesus” was written. You may find controversies, such as:

- “When in 1677 the air and hymn were undoubtedly sung by the German pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem.” (from *Lyric Religion*, H. Augustine Smith, 1931; p. 84)
- “The air referred to has not been traced earlier than 1842, nor the words, earlier than 1677.” (from *The Story of Christian Hymnody*, E. E. Ryden, 1959; p. 144)

According to recent historical studies it is very doubtful that Crusaders ever sang this song that was once called the *Crusaders Hymn*.

*Music notation* is full of comparisons too but changes in the use of musical symbols are used. Can you match these sequences of word comparisons with the correct musical symbol sequences?

- Long, Longer, Longest
- High, Higher, Highest
- Fast, Faster, Fastest
- Wide, Wider, Widest



Can you name all the different things in Nature to which Jesus is compared? List five of them here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

In the melody there are two different musical sequences. Can you find them? Write the words of the first stanza here where you think those sequences are:

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