

# JESUS SHALL REIGN

We are grateful to the people of England, past and present,  
for many things in our way of life.

The language we speak and write,  
some of our ideas of government,  
our feeling for human rights,  
for many great poems, plays, and hymns  
we sing in church.

This hymn came from an English writer who lived  
250 years ago.

*“Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does his successive journeys run;  
His Kingdom spread from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”*



The idea of this hymn – written by Isaac Watts in 1719 – is that someday the whole world will be united in love through Christ. He probably got his ideas for some lines of this hymn from Psalm 72. Can you find where Paul says the same thing in Ephesians 1:9-10 in the New Testament?

The **BIG REASON** our churches support **MISSION** work is to teach people all over the world about God's plan of love. Can you find on the map parts of the world where missionaries are working for your church? Perhaps you will want to write a letter to a missionary to see if you and your choir friends can help the children in that country.

This hymn tune is in Long Meter (L.M.) which means that each musical phrase has 8 word syllables with 4 musical phrases in the full tune. Let's count and see how it works:

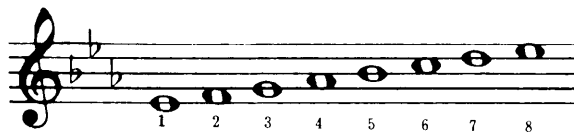
“Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Does his successive journeys run;”  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Can you finish counting the syllables?

Now you're ready for the real fun of making up your own poems with 8 syllables in each of 4 lines and singing your poem to any TUNE written in Long Meter. Maybe you can write a poem using the part of Ephesians you read in the Bible: “God's purpose now is known to men, that love shall fill the earth and then . . .”  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Here are the scale steps for the key our hymn is written in (E♭ Major):



See if you can sing “Jesus Shall Reign” by scale steps. (Some of you piano players might try **TRANSPOSING** the hymn to C Major by writing out the scale steps of C Major and using the scale step numbers you sang to figure out the new notes.)

