Poems of Praise from the Middle Ages to Early Modern Times

Exploring Hymns through Cursive Copywork, Scripture, and Grammar with Art Study

Sample
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All Scripture verses are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Sources for historical information:

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Summary: Cursive copywork featuring hymns from the Middle Ages through early modern times with historical highlights, related scriptures, and art study with a gentle introduction/application of English grammar concepts.

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Look closely at this painting called *Conway Castle* by British painter J.M.W. Turner. What do you notice first? What else do you see? Can you describe what may be happening? Copy the words on the following page as you find the items in the painting.
A noun names a person, place, thing, activity, or idea. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by describing, qualifying, or limiting and indicates what kind, how many, which, or whose. Find each noun in the picture. Does the adjective describe that noun? Trace and copy the words below. Circle the nouns and underline the adjectives. On the last line, write two nouns with corresponding adjectives that are related to the picture.

stormy seas
cloudy skies
crooked tree
choppy waves
mighty fortress
jagged rocks
floating boats
distant mountains
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
by Martin Luther

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow’r are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God’s own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim —
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For, lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs,
No thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God’s truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

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Conway Castle by J.M.W. Turner [British Painter, 1775-1851]

Historical Highlight: Through his study of the Scriptures, German monk Martin Luther realized that sinners are saved by faith in Christ alone. Prompted by this newfound truth, he began the Protestant Reformation on October 31, 1517, when he nailed to the Wittenberg Castle church doors a list of ninety-five arguments against the sale of indulgences. Luther also translated the Bible into German, believing that the Bible should be translated into the common language of the people. He also wrote hymns, created new instrumental arrangements, and instituted congregational singing in the church.
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

by Martin Luther

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A Bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:

For still our ancient foe

Both seek to work us woe,

His craft and pow’r are great,

And, armed with cruel hate,
Trace and write Psalm 18:2-3. Memorize all or a portion of this passage.

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress,

and my deliverer; my God, my strength,

in whom I will trust. My buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord,
who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Psalm 18:2-3
Trace and write the following quote from Martin Luther

“I have held many things in my hands,
and I have lost them all; but whatever
I have placed in God’s hands it and I
still possess.” - Martin Luther
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

M. L., tr. F. H. Hedge.  
(En‘ Feste Burg. P. M.)  
Martin Luther.

Slowly.

1. A mighty Fortress is our God, A Buhl-wark never failing;
2. Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
3. And tho’ this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us;
4. That word above all earthly pow’rs, No thanks to them a-bideth;

Our Helper He amidst the flood Of mortal ills prevailing;
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God’s own choosing;
We will not fear, for He saith His truth shall triumph through us;
The Spirit and the power Thro’ whom we are with thee.

For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth
The prince of darkness grim.—We tremble not for him; His rage we
Let goods and kin-dred go, This mortal life also; The bod-y

pow’r are great, And armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
oth His name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle, can endure, For lo! His doom is sure, One lit-tle word shall fell him they may kill; God’s truth a-bideth still, His king-dom is for-ev-er.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Isaac Watts. (VARINA. C. M. D.) Arr. by F. Root.

1. I sing the mighty pow’r of God, That made the mountains rise,
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;
3. There’s not a plant or flow’r below But makes thy glories known;

That spread the flow’rs seas abroad, And built the lofty skies;
He formed the creatures with his word, And then pronounced them good.
And from the rising, and the setting sun, his or-der from thy throne.

I sing the wisdom that ordained The sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed Where’er I turn my eye!
Creatures that borrow life from thee Are subject to thy care;

The moon shines full at his command, And all the stars o-bey.
If I survey the ground I tread, Or gaze up-on the sky!
There’s not a place where we can flee But God is present there.