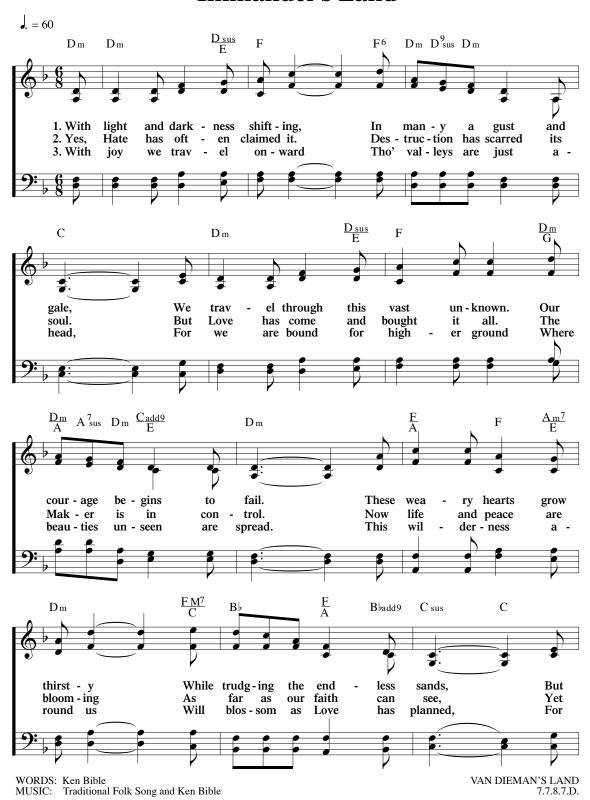
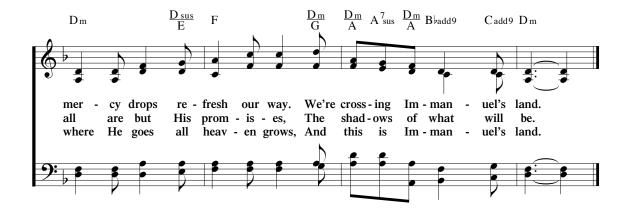
Immanuel's Land



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TOPICS: Assurance & Comfort; Eternal Life; Faith; God's Love; God's Presence;

Living in Christ; Suffering for Christ

LEAD-IN: The desert and the parched land will be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and blossom...

it will burst into bloom;

It will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

They will see the glory of the Lord,

the splendor of our God. (Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Not a Hair Will Perish

Do God's promises of care and protection sometimes ring hollow in this unjust, violent world where the innocent suffer and die?

In Luke 21:5-36, Jesus describes for His disciples what lies ahead of them. He says that a persecution is coming that will cause them to be betrayed, imprisoned, and even killed. Then in the very next breath He says, "But not a hair of your head will perish" (v. 18).

You'll be persecuted till you die, but not a hair of your head will perish? Think about that for a moment. What do you think Jesus meant? How did He see life and death?

Jesus had witnessed the entire sweep of life. He had spent an eternity with His Father in heaven before coming here. To Him, life was far more than the brief, relatively-troubled time we spend in this body. Life is our union with God that, far from ending, actually comes to fulfillment when this body dies.

No hardship, no suffering, no reverses or disappointments, not even death itself ever puts your life in jeopardy.

Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:3, NIV)

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18, NIV)

No matter what you're going through, rest assured: your life is safe, untouchable, eternal in Jesus Christ. Not a hair of your head will perish.

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