

201.A Vindication of God's Ways

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and common time (C). It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a corresponding line of lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in four columns, with each column corresponding to one of the four vocal parts. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics, the second system contains the next four lines, and the third system contains the final four lines. The fourth, fifth, and sixth systems contain the lyrics for the three stanzas of the hymn, which are repeated for each of the four parts.

1. God lov - eth the right - eous, His good - ness is sure, He ne - ver for -
2. The wick - ed are pros - pered and firm in their strength, No pangs do they
3. In gar - ments of boas - ting and vi - o - lence decked, With wealth more a -
4. Des - pi - sing God's peo - ple they cause them to drain The cup of op -

sak - eth the good and the pure; Yet once my faith fal - tered, I
suf - fer, though death come at length; They are not in trou - ble as
bun - dant than heart could ex - pect, They scoff, and the help - less they
pres - sion, in - jus - tice, and pain; They ques - tion God's know - ledge and

en - vied the proud, In doubt and dis - qui - et my spi - rit was bowed.
o - ther men are, The plagues of their fel - lows they view from a - far.
proud - ly op - press, The heav'n's and the earth they as - sume to pos - sess.
bold - ly de - fy The might and the jus - tice of God the Most High.

5. The wicked, grown wealthy, have comfort and peace,
While I, daily chastened, see troubles increase,
And, wronging God's children, I cried in my pain,
That clean hearts are worthless and pure hearts are vain.

6. I went to God's temple: my doubts were dispelled,
The end of life's journey I clearly beheld;
I saw in what peril ungodly men stand
With sudden destruction and ruin at hand.

7. As when one awaking forgetteth his dream,
So God will despise them, though great they may seem;
My envy was senseless, my grief was for nought,
Because I was faithless, and foolish my thought.