

Behind the Hymn: If God Is on Our Side

At our local church on Sunday morning, June 20, 2004, an ensemble sang a choral piece based on Romans 8:31 (see below). That sparked my interest in writing a hymn based on all four of Paul's great rhetorical questions in Romans 8:31-39:

If God is for us, who can be against us? (v.31)

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? (v.33)

Who is he that condemns? (v.34)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (v.35)

As I began to write, two things happened. First, questions 2 and 3 grew together into one hymn stanza, stanza 2. Second, the four questions above drew on the rest of Romans 8 for answers. Thus a number of wonderful truths from this chapter were woven into the hymn.

The hymn needed a familiar tune, and one with a strong, somewhat-militant character. Out of several possibilities, I was drawn to DARWALL, *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*, with LENOX, *Arise, My Soul, Arise*, being a strong alternative. The hymn was finished on June 30, 2004.

May you find assurance and joy as you realize what God has done for you in Christ.

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [If God Is on Our Side](#)