

## TIME AND THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS

FROM "O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

BY ISAAC WATTS

1. *Thy Word commands our flesh to dust,  
"Return, ye sons of men":  
All nations rose from earth at first,  
And turn to earth again.*

2. *A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.*

3. *The busy tribes of flesh and blood,  
With all their lives and cares,  
Are carried downwards by the flood,  
And lost in foll'wing years.*

4. *Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.*

5. *Like flow'ry fields the nations stand  
Pleased with the morning light;  
The flow'rs beneath the mower's hand  
Lie with'ring ere 'tis night.*

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