

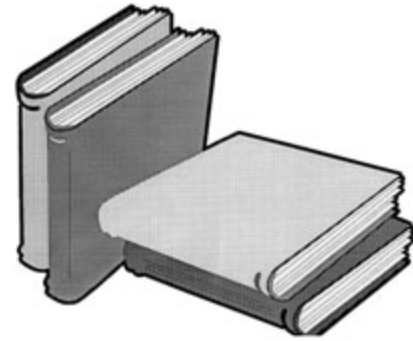
# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1024

## **I shall to heaven ascend.**

He, by himself, hath sworn,  
I, on his oath, depend.  
I shall, on eagles wings upborne,  
to heaven ascend.  
I shall behold his face,  
I shall his power adore,  
and sing the wonders of his grace  
forever more.  
The goodly land I see,  
with peace and plenty blest,  
a land of sacred liberty  
and endless rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow,  
with mercy crowned.

Thomas Olivers, 1770.  
Trinity hymnal 34, verses 3 and 4 of 6. Punct. alt.

**Thomas Olivers** was born in Tregynon in Wales in 1725. Both his parents died before he was five years old, and he was brought up "in a careless manner". As he grew up he moved from place to place in Wales and nearby England. When he was in Bristol "he happened to hear Whitefield preach and was converted." He worked most of his life as an assistant preacher to John Wesley. Olivers died at age 74 and was "buried in Wesley's grave in City Road", London. **The hymn** originated as a 12<sup>th</sup> century Jewish doxology. Olivers "transposed it in terms of the Christian faith, in twelve verses."

Cliff Kinight, *A Companion to "Christian Hymns"*, 1993.