Attend my people and give ear

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)



1. I am thy sovereign Lord and God, Which hath thee brought from careful thrall and eke reclaimed from Pharao's rod, Make thee no Gods on them to call.

2. Nor fashioned form of any thing, In heaven or earth to worship it: For I thy God by revenging, with grievious plagues this sin will smite.

3. Take not in vain his holy name, Abuse it not after thy will: For so thou might'st soon purchase blame And in his wrath he would thee spill.

4. The Lord from work the seventh day ceased, And brought all things to perfect end: So thou and thine that day take rest, That to Gods hests ye may attend.

5. Unto thy parents honor give, As Gods commandements do pretend, That thou long days and good may'st live In earth where God a place doth lend.

6. Beware of murther and cruel hate.

7.All filthy fornication fear.

8. See thou steal not in any rate:

9. False witness against no man bear.

10. Thy neighbour's house wish not to have His wife, or ought that he call'th mine: His field, his Ox, his Ass, his Slave, Or anything which is not thine.

A Prayer

The sp'rit of grace grant us O Lord To keep these laws our hearts restore: And cause us all with one accord, To magnify thy name therefore.

For of our selves no strength we have To keep these laws after thy will: Thy might therefore O Christ we crave That we in thee may them fulfill.

Lord for thy name's sake grant us this Thou art our strength O Saviour Christ Of thee to speed how should we miss In whom our treasure doth consist:

To thee for evermore be praise With the father in each respect: And with the holy spirit always, The comforter of thine elect.

Critical notes: text somewhat modernised.