

#1181 The Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven – The tune of “The Star-Spangled Banner” was taken from the tune of the English drinking song “To Anacreon in Heaven,” part 1, The inhabitants of the earth are made drunk with the wine of America

The tune of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The tune of “The Star-Spangled Banner” came from the tune of the English drinking song, “To Anacreon in Heaven.”

“To Anacreon in Heaven.” Anacreon was a celebrated Greek poet of the 6th century B.C. (563-478 B.C.). He was noted for his poems praising love, wine, and revelry. The Anacreontic Society was a popular gentlemen’s club in London, named in honor of Anacreon. The society’s patron saint was Anacreon, often referred to as “the convivial bard of Greece.” The society’s membership was dedicated to “wit, harmony, and the god of wine.”



The lyrics of “To Anacreon in Heaven.” Apparently, extensive lyrics to the song were written by Mr. Ralph Tomlinson, who had been president of the society. There are many stanzas. The chorus honors **Bacchus, the god of the grapevine and wine** in Greek mythology.



*And besides I'll instruct you
Like me, to entwine
The Myrtle of Venus
With **Bacchus's Vine.***

The tune to “To Anacreon in Heaven.” Members of the Anacreontic Society, including John Stafford Smith, a court musician and member of the society, worked in a collective effort for the society on the tune to the song, “To Anacreon in Heaven.” As early as 1798 the tune of “To Anacreon in Heaven,” also called “The Anacreontic Song,” appeared in American papers with various lyrics.

As early as 1806 Francis Scott Key adapted the tune to an earlier poem that he wrote entitled “When the Warrior Returns,” in honor of the American naval victory over the Barbary pirates [in tribute to Stephen Decatur]. Hence, there is no doubt that Key was acquainted with the tune when, in September 1814, he saw the flag flying over Fort McHenry “by the dawn’s early light.” Soon after the battle, the poem and tune were published.

Key Understanding: *The whole earth drunken.* The Lord ordained the tune of “To Anacreon in Heaven” to become the tune of “The Star-Spangled Banner” because America-Babylon the Great – established as a nation through its victories in the 1st and 2nd

American Wars for Independence – makes “the whole earth drunken” with her wine of democracy and the rights of man.

Jeremiah 51:7 (KJV) *Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD’S hand, THAT MADE ALL THE EARTH DRUNKEN: THE NATIONS HAVE DRUNKEN OF HER WINE;* therefore the nations are mad.



Revelation 17:2 (KJV) *With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH HAVE BEEN MADE DRUNK WITH THE WINE OF HER FORNICATION.*

Revelation 18:3 (KJV) *FOR ALL NATIONS HAVE DRUNK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF HER FORNICATION,* and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

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