

O Holy City, Seen of John 374

1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the
 2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and
 3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y
 4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y

Lamb, does reign, with - in whose four-square walls shall come no
 greed for gain in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring
 that has stood too long a dream; whose laws are love, whose
 ris - es fair. Lo, how its splen - dor chal - len - ges the

night, nor need, nor pain, and where the tears are
 gold from hu - man pain, and bit - ter lips in
 ways are ser - vant - hood, and where the sun that
 souls that great - ly dare, and bids us seize the

wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain!
 deep de - spair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"
 shines be - comes your grace for hu - man good.
 whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

Unlike texts that treat the heavenly Jerusalem as a goal for the life to come, this hymn regards John's vision as a challenge to work here and now for the accomplishment of God's purposes on earth. The shape note tune provides an effective setting for this stirring text.