

Esther as Foreigner

HALLELUJAH

Palestine

traditional, arr. copyright

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Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.

Harmony
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Esther 1: 1-2, 2: 5-8 & 10

¹ The events here related happened in the days of Ahasuerus, that Ahasuerus who ruled from India to Ethiopia, a hundred and twenty-seven provinces, ² at the time when he was settled on the royal throne in Susa, the capital city.

⁵ In Susa the capital there lived a Jew named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjamite; ⁶ he had been taken into exile from Jerusalem among those whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah.

⁷ He had a foster-child Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, who had neither father nor mother. She was a beautiful and charming girl, and after the death of her parents, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter. ⁸ When the king's order and decree were proclaimed and many girls were brought to Susa the capital to be committed to the care of Hegai, who had charge of the women, Esther too was taken to the palace to be entrusted to him.

¹⁰ Esther had not disclosed her race or family, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Genesis 12: 1

¹ The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your own country, your kin, and your father's house, and go to a country that I will show you.'

LET MY PEOPLE GO *African American arr. ©2012 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland*

Cantor: When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land;

GO DOWN, MO - SES, WAY DOWN IN

go, go down, Mo - ses,

LET MY PEO-PLE GO! Op - pressed so hard they

E - GYPT'S LA - ND. TE - LL OL'

Oh, let them go. Op-pressed

Te - ll ol'

could - n't stand; LET MY PEO-PLE GO!

PHA - RAOH TO LET MY PEO-PLE GO.

Oh, let my peo - ple

Psalms 137: 1-4

¹ By the rivers of Babylon, we sat down and wept as we remembered Zion. ² On the willow trees there we hung up our lyres, ³ for there those who had carried us captive asked us to sing them a song, our captors called on us to be joyful: 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.' ⁴ How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

O GREAT GOD AND LORD OF THE EARTH *Psalm 94* paraphrase copyright © 2002 WGRG, c/o Iona Community, Glasgow

1. O great God and Lord of the earth,
rouse yourself and demonstrate justice;
give the arrogant what they deserve,
silence all malevolent boasting.
See how some you love are broken,
for they know the weight of oppression;
even widows and orphans are murdered,
and poor strangers are innocent victims.
2. Those who crush your people delight,
claiming God above takes no notice;
they proclaim that heaven is blind,
that the God of Jacob is silent.
Stupid fools, when will you listen?
Now take heed, you ignorant people.
God who gave us sight and hearing
has observed and noted what happened.
3. God the Lord will not stay away
nor forsake his well-beloved people;
heaven's justice soon will appear
and the pure in heart will embrace it.
Yes, the ones whom God instructed,
who revere and study God's word
will be saved from all that harms them
while a pit is dug for the wicked.
4. Should the wrong change places with right
and the courts play host to corruption;
should the innocent fear for their lives
while the guilty smile at their scheming;
still the Lord will be your refuge,
be your strength and courage and tower.
Though your foot should verge on slipping,
God will cherish, keep and protect you.

Isaiah 49: 6

⁶ And now the Lord has said to me: 'It is too slight a task for you, as my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob, to bring back the survivors of Israel: I shall appoint you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach earth's farthest bounds.'

Matthew 2: 13-15

¹³ After they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and escape with them to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

¹⁴ So Joseph got up, took mother and child by night, and sought refuge with them in Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed till Herod's death. This was to fulfill what the Lord had declared through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

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Tenderly $\text{♩} = 56$

7
If my name was Ma - ry (just six - teen, with a child),

13
forced to flee my coun - try (fail - ing state, turn - ing wild),

17
would you find a place for me?

dal

1. If my name was Mary
(just sixteen with a child)
forced to flee my country
(failing state turning wild),
would you find a place for me?
2. If the town I came from
once had been occupied
by your nation's soldiers
at whose hands my dad died,
would you find a place for me?
3. If your nation's air force
dropped their bombs on my street
on the wrong presumption
that was where rebels meet,
would you find a place for me?
4. If I'd learned your country
saw and heard of our plight
but remained persuaded
we were wrong, you were right,
would you find a place for me?
5. If the boat I paid for
was unfit to set sail,
and if seeking refuge
was now certain to fail,
would you find a place for me?
6. If my name was Mary
(just sixteen with a child);
if his name was Jesus...

Isaiah 45: 1-6

¹ Thus says the Lord to Cyrus his anointed, whom he has taken by the right hand, subduing nations before him and stripping kings of their strength; before whom doors will be opened and no gates barred: ² I myself shall go before you and level the swelling hills; I shall break through bronze gates and cut through iron bars. ³ I shall give you treasures from dark vaults, and hoards from secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, Israel's God, who calls you by name. ⁴ For the sake of Jacob my servant and Israel my chosen one I have called you by name and given you a title, though you have not known me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is none other; apart from me there is no god. Though you have not known me, I shall strengthen you, ⁶ so that from east to west all may know there is none besides me: I am the Lord, and there is none other.