

HEBREWS

LYRICS

All words by Cody Curtis
(“Death and Melchizedek” co-written by Melody Curtis)

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I. Heaven and Earth (I:I-4)

Long ago, long ago,
At many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets—
Long ago, long ago.

But in these last days, but in these last days,
God has spoken to us by His Son!

The Son!

The Son, He appointed the heir of all things!
The Son is the one who created the world!
The Son, the Sustainer of the universe!

The Son, He has cleansed us from all our sins!
The Son, He is seated at the right hand of God!

If you want to know what God is like, then look at the Son!
If you want to see what God has done, then look at the Son!

The Son is the imprint,
The Son is the likeness,
The Son is the radiance of God's glory!

He is better, Christ is better,
He is better, Christ is better
He is better, Christ is better than the...

2. Listen!

Listen up, everyone! We have a great show for you tonight that the folks of the community have worked real hard to put together.

In your program you'll find information about the cast. I'd like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Piper's third grade class for playing the wandering Israelites and to Mr. Paul Tarsus for performing our dramatic monologues.

Accompanying tonight's play is a local bluegrass group called Smokey Mountain and the Shadows, along with the Apollos Chamber Group.

And now, without further ado, take it away!

3. The Angels' Moment in the Sun (I:5-I4)

Heav'nly beings, angels are gleaming glory,
Stories are told of golden deeds they've done.
But to which of the angels did he ever call a son?

Christ ranks higher!
Winds, flames of fire, choirs singing
And bringing praise, they serve the Son.
You can add 'em all together,
He is better than the sum.

Jesus Christ is better than the angels,
He is better than best of the heavenly hosts.
At the most they are lesser than the greater;
He is better than the angels, and it's not even close.

Ever living, ever existing, King of history,
The Maker and the Final Word
Step aside all you angels, let your anthems be heard!

Jesus Christ is better than the angels,
He is better than best of the heavenly hosts.
At the most they are lesser than the greater;
He is better than the angels, and it's not even close.

Angels, they may be on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
But the songs they sing are songs of Christ,
Praising Him who reigns supreme.

"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

Jesus Christ is better than the angels,
He is better than best of the heavenly hosts.
At the most they are lesser than the greater;
He is better than the angels.

Jesus Christ is better than the angels,
Go ahead and compare them –
 you'll see what I mean.
Not the least but so much lesser than the Savior.

For to which of the angels did the Lord ever say,
"Sit at my right hand" – the best seat –
"Till I place your foes beneath your feet."
He is better than the best of the heavenly hosts.
And it's not even close.

4. Law: A First Warning (2:I-4)

Be warned, be warned,
Pay attention to what you've heard.
Don't drift away from the Word.

Be warned, be warned,
Pay attention to what you've heard.
Don't drift away from the Word of God.

For if the message declared by the angels was true,
And every sin received a just retribution,
If every time the law that was spoken
By the angels, the Lord burned with wrath when it was broken,

Do you think that His grace you'll have won
If you reject what was said by His Son?

5. Ex Paradiso (2:5-18)

Why did Jesus come to earth
When heaven was His home?
Though higher than the angels,
Why'd He stoop down below?

O what on earth compelled him?
What could draw him nigh?
What could tempt the Son of God
To give up Paradise and die?

Why did Jesus come to earth?
I'll tell you why He came:
To suffer as the founder
And perfecter of the faith;

O many are the sons
To glory He will bring.
Sing your praises to the King,
Sing the songs of the redeemed.

Why did Jesus come to earth?
Pay attention and you'll see:
When he became a man,
We gained solidarity.

O Jesus calls us brothers:
We're flesh and blood the same.
Stand amazed he's not ashamed
To call us by the family name.
Why did Jesus come to earth?
To strike and kill the devil,
To ransom men from slavery,
To seek and save the rebel.

O death, you are defeated!
And man is raised to life!
And that is why the glorious Christ,
He gave up Paradise and died.

Et perducant te angeli ex paradiso.

Emmanuel.

Why did Jesus come to earth?
I'll tell you two more things:
To be appointed as a high priest
And to die as an offering.

And so, the Son of God became a man to save mankind. And as he left his home in Paradise, he exclaimed, "Goodbye, heaven. Hello, earth."

6. The Maker of the Stories (3:I-6)

Consider Moses:

The father and the leader of a people;
In faithfulness to God, without an equal.
He was faithful as a servant.

Consider Jesus:

The author and high priest of our confession,
Who was faithful to the Lord without exception.
He was faithful as a son.

The first one led a nation
(Of many generations)
To promise they were bound.

But the one who gets more glory
Is the maker of the stories,
The builder of the house.

Consider yourself:

Do you know you're a part of this household
If you hold fast to the faith and don't lose hope.
Will you be faithful till the end?

Be faithful till the end.

7. Wandered (3:7-11)

Today if you his voice do hear,
Let not your hearts be hardened,
As in the wand'ring forty years
 When Israel roamed the wilderness
 And put the Lord God to the test.
Their sins unpardoned.

The anger of the Lord provoked
Against that generation,
He justly said and rightly spoke,
 “In heart they always go astray;
 They have not known my gracious ways.”
Their condemnation.

They wandered on and wandered more
No peace but only warring;
In wrath, the Holy Father swore,
 “Because of their unfaithfulness,
 They'll enter not my promised rest.”
O heed the warning.

8. Take Care, Pt. I (3:12-4:10)

Take care how you live your life,
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin,
Deep within you.

So take care how you live your life,
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin,

Leading you to fall away,
fall away from the living God.

O what a frightful thought!

As Israel wandered through the wilderness,
You might wander through the wilderness of life,
If you do not take care.

There still stands a promise for us
To enter that rest (much better than land).
And there still stands a promise for us
To enter that blessed rest.

Take care how you live your life
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin
That's deep within your soul,
So you better be careful.

Don't fall away, fall away!

9. Sword: A Second Warning (4:11-13)

Be warned, be warned,
Pay attention to what you've heard.
Don't drift away from the Word.

Be warned, be warned,
Pay attention to what's been said.
Strive to enter that rest.

For the Word of God is alive and kicking,
Like a sword, it cuts with sharp precision

To the joints and the bones,
To the spirit and soul,
And it knows all your thoughts,
Even more than you know.

Do you think you can hide
From His all-seeing eyes?
Or will your vices and sins
Be exposed in the light?

Be warned.

10. Peace on Earth... / A Conversation (4:14-5:10)

Since we have a great high priest,
A great high priest,
Our Jesus

Who has passed through heavenlies
To intercede for us.

Let us hold fast our confession,
For the Lord has been there too;

And let us draw near to heaven
He will help you through.

Let me tell you 'bout the high priests,
Chosen from among men, sent to represent them,
And to act on behalf of a people that have a sin
problem.

//

Let me tell you 'bout the high priest,
Once every year, there's a day where they,
Well he enters in the holiest place,
To ask grace to be saved from the sin problem.

*Let me ask you 'bout this high priest:
Sounds like a righteous guy.
Is his life spotless and sanctified?
Nothin' condemnin' him like a sin problem?*

Let me tell you the sin problem,
The funny thing is, as you'll see,
He has the same disease.
So he must atone for his own sins first.

*What on earth?
It's like he's not a very good high priest.
How's he gonna intercede when he's got the same
infirmity?*

*Wouldn't the Lord show anger
towards him as well
Cause just as sinful as the rest of Israel?*

I see your point but you've gotta see mine:
These men were appointed by God's design,

*Designed to die? No designed to sympathize
With the lives of the Israelites.*

*I think you might be losing your mind,
there, Thom!
Sympathy's not going to save.
I know but listen to what I'm saying, Kelsie.*

These guys are like shadows and types.
Yeah, ineffectual types.
Your guitar's an ineffectual type.

But what we can agree on is this:
Jesus, He is better, He is infinitely better.
Blameless, spotless, sinless, righteous.
Able to fight this sinful-itis,

Able to right these wrongs that plague us,
Able to justify and save us,
Able to sympathize with our weakness
Cause He has taken on flesh to seek us.

He is better in every way
Than the Levite priests of the olden days,
For His priestly reign will never ever cease,
And he is of the order of an ancient priest.

As said by the Lord who declared it so
And appointed Him a priest
by the word of an oath.

Let us tell you 'bout this great high priest.

In the days of His flesh, He prayed
(With cries and tears, with righteous fear)
To the one who was able
to save Him from death.

Though a son, He learned to obey
By bearing weight and suffering pain,
And a perfect priest he became.

And now He is able to save us from death.

For He is of the order of Melchizedek.

II. The ABC's of Theology (5:11-6:3)

There is more I'd like to say
Of how Jesus is the great high priest,
But I find it's hard to explain
To ones of such immaturity.

You're like little kids who eat
Only milk—can't handle meat.

The ABCs of theology
Are all that you can grasp, it seems.

Your hearing, it is really bad.
On a scale of one to ten
It's like a four (that's really sad).
I have to tell you things again.

You're like little kids who listen
To just enough, so much they're missin'!

The ABCs of theology:
Say it once and then repeat.

You're like little kids who think
That bad is good, and goodness stinks.

The ABCs of theology,
Come with me, there's more to see.

But, be warned, the road is steep.

12. Wilderness: A Third Warning (6:4-8)

As Israel wandered through the wilderness,
You might wander through the wilderness.

As Israel wandered through the wilderness,
You might wander through the wilderness of life.

In the case of those whose minds have been lit,
Who have tasted and wasted the heavenly gift,

Who have shared in the Spirit,
Who have shaken and stirred,
Who have savored the flavors
Of the goodness of the Word of God

And the powers that come one day,
Yet from grace they have fallen away,

You cannot restore them, they will not repent,
They will not cry mercy, they will not relent
For the Son they have placed on the cross again,
And are holding the Christ in contempt.

Like the land that has drunk
of the rain from the Lord
And is blessed for the crop
that the earth brings forth,
Are the ones who endure, are the ones who persist,
Are the ones who remain in the faith.

But if you neglect what you've heard
And the truth you've confessed,
And abandon the faith
And you live for the flesh,

You cannot expect that the Father will bless you
For your thistles and thorns.

Be warned, be warned!
Pay attention to what you've heard,
Don't drift away from the Word.

13. In the Past, Pts. 1 and 2 (6:9-20)

Though we speak in this way,
I believe that better things will come,
If you hold on.

For you have shown yourself faithful in the past,
And I know that faith will last.

O, don't you let go of the promise of God,
He's never going to let you down,
He's never going to let you down.

O, if you just hold on to His word,
If you hold on and endure,

There's hope.

\\

When God made a promise to Abraham,
He couldn't swear by anyone less than Him,
So he swore by himself, what else could He do
To show that His promises would come true?

And the same applies to the present time,
His word's still true, for He cannot lie;
So he sealed His oath with two unmovable lines
From a distant Psalm from a distant time.

We have a sure anchor of the soul,
A sure anchor of the soul,
A hope that goes into the inner place,
Behind the curtain that separates.

We have a sure anchor of the soul,
And a steadfast hope that holds,
And there's no more fear:
Draw near to God through Christ.

We have a sure
and a steadfast anchor of the soul,
A steadfast anchor of the soul:
A priest not vexed by death,
not appointed by sex,
But according to the order of Melchizedek.

I4. Death and Melchizedek (7:1-28)

The story's told:

There was a man in days of old,
A king and priest of Salem's fold
Of righteousness and peace.

A mystery:

His life and how he came to be,
His days went on unendingly.
Much like Christ foretold.

O come and see

How great a man, this ancient priest,
Whose line we find has never ceased
It waits in sleep.

One day this king

Was met by Abram's company,
Who gave a tenth of everything.
A blessing he presents.

And, in one sense,

The sons of Levi future tense,
They also gave up ten percent
To bless the greater priest.

O come and see

How great a man, this wand'ring King,
Who from the Father's gifts received.

A better priest

Than Levi's dying dynasty:
When met with death, the next succeeds
To intercede.

O come! Behold!

The King and Priest of Salem's fold
Who came and went and yet we're told
A priest like him would rise.

Behold, the Christ.

Appointed as a priest on high,
To intercede both day and night,
He never dies.

\\

You are a priest forever,
A priest who will never die,
According to the ancient order
Of a newly awakened line!

Hail to the Son!

Hail to the King of Peace,
The Righteous One:
Our great high priest!

You are a priest,

You are a priest forever.

Goodbye, earth...

15. Shadows (8:1-7)

Hello, heaven!

Now the point in what we're saying,
The point in what we've said
Is that we have a priest who's seated in heav'n.

He's gone in to present,
He's gone into the tent
But a place not made by men.

There are shadows on the ground,
And it makes you think
There's a light up above in the sky.

The light shines down,
And the darkness speaks
Of a true and heavenly height.

So what's he gonna give?
And what's it gonna take
To have peace on earth for heaven's sake?

The promises of old,
Will these promises unfold?
Have the new ones been foretold?

There are shadows on the ground,
And it makes you think
There's a light up above in the sky.

The earth spins 'round,
The shadows speak
Of a true and heavenly sight.

There are shadows on the ground,
And it makes you think
There is something so much better up above.

The light shines down,
And the darkness shrinks
From a true and heavenly light.

16. Wondered (8:8-13)

“Behold the days are coming soon,”
Declares the Lord of all,
“When I will covenant anew
 With Israel and Judah, both,
 A better one than long ago:
A better law.”

“I’ll put this Law onto their minds,
And write it on their hearts,
From everlasting, I’ve designed
 That I will be their God above
 And they shall be my people, loved
And set apart.”

“Behold the days are coming soon,”
Declares the Lord,
“When I will make all things new.”
 And you’ll no longer need to teach
 Your neighbor, Joe, your best friend, Pete,
 For everyone, from big to small,
 Will know me well, and I’ll recall
Their sins no more.”

If you endure.

A new and better way,
The old has come and gone;
The shadows fade away,
The light of heaven dawns.

A new and better way,
A new and better way,
The earthly shadows fade,
The light of heaven breaks.

A new and better way...

17. The Old (9:1-10)

Now gather 'round all you ladies and gents:
Let me tell you about this earthly tent
To where the Lord descended
And people were told to repent.

What you may not know, there Jane and Joe,
Is that long ago they'd take bulls and goats
And they'd cut their throats
And hope the blood would save-a their souls.

If you look back, Jack, to the Tabernacle
With a deep respect, I think you'll be thankful
That the old is gone,
And the new has taken its place.

It was glorious space, that holy tent,
For that come-but-stay-away covenant,
But the new's been sent,
And the old has passed away.

Now don't mishear me, don't get me wrong,
It was splendid tent forty-five feet long
And fifteen high and fifteen wide,
With beautiful walls on the side
And it was divided in two big parts.

The priest would start in the holy place
Where he would go in each day to offer things
So that the Lord would change his mind
And not destroy everyone in line.

The next part was the Most Holy Place
And every year there was just one day,
Where the high priest would go
 behind the curtain

Determined to avert the certain wrath of God
That would destroy the vermin of the land.

And in the grand plan of wisdom divine,
The inside was like a Garden, ripe
With relics prized which symbolized
That Paradise you might could find.

If you look back, Jack, to the Tabernacle
With a deep respect, I think you'll be thankful
That the old is gone,
And the new has taken its place.

It was glorious space, that holy tent,
For that come-but-stay-away covenant,
But the new's been sent,
And the old has passed away.

\\

Kill the bull, offer the grain,
Make a sacrifice to God and then do it again.

\\

What can wash away my sin?
 Not the blood of animals.
What can make me whole again?
 Not the blood of animals.

O feeble is the stream
That leaves my soul unclean!
No creature can redeem.
Not the blood of animals.

18. The New (9:11-10:18)

When Christ appeared as a high priest
Of the good things that have come,
Then through the new, the greater,
 more perfect plea,
Through the blood of the Son,

The Father's wrath was quenched at last.
Forgiveness was won!

Once for all the Son of God
Has offered up His life.
Once for all, the Lamb was slain,
The Final Sacrifice.

And once for all, for all who once were dead,
But are now alive.

Once for all.

Once for all the Son of God
Has offered up His life.
Once for all, the Lamb was slain,
The Final Sacrifice.

And once for all, for all who once were dead,
But are now alive.

Once for all, for all who walk by faith
And stand in Christ.

Once for all.

What can wash away my sins?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know!
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

And if you look back, Jack, to the tabernacle
With a deep respect, I think you'll be thankful
That the old is gone and the new has taken its place.

It was a glorious space that holy tent
For that come-but-stay-away covenant,
But the new's been sent and the old has passed away.

But the new's been sent and the old has passed away.

19. ...For Heaven's Sake (10:19-25)

Since we have such confidence
To make an entrance
Into the presence of the Lord,

Through our great high priest
Who stands between
The saints and the presence of the Lord.

Let us draw near to heaven,
With a heart that's clean and true.

And let us hold fast our confession
For the Lord will never leave you.

Let us stir each other up
To love and good deeds
So that in time it may not be
That we neglect to meet.

But as the Day draws near,
Encourage each one here.

20. Fury: A Fourth Warning (10:26-31)

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

21. In the Past, Pt. 3 (10:32-39)

But I'll speak in this way:
I believe that better things will come,
But you need to hold on!

For you have shown yourself faithful in the past,
Now let that faith last!

O don't let go of the promise of God!
He's never going to let you down,
He's never going to let you down.

O come on, just hold on to His word,
You need to hold on and endure

And see you're not alone.

22. By Faith (II:I-40)

By faith the son of Adam gave
From his earthen table
A better gift than Cain,
Who was, it seems, not Able.
Then came the Enoch lad.
He lived his life for God,
And God said, "Pack your bags":
He was there, then he was not.

When Noah built the boat,
He hoped that it would float.
God had told him so,
Man and beast to save.
Water drawing nigh,
He built the vessel high
To keep his family dry—
He lived and loved the Lord by faith.

One, two, three, four, five.
All of these believed by faith and then they died,
Before they did receive the promises of God.

By faith when Abe was called
To voyage far away
He tarried not nor dawdled,
Instead he did obey.
And traveled to a land,
Where foreign men did roam
And thus said Abraham:
"This place will be my home."

Though she was too old,
Sarah, she was told,
"A baby you will hold,
A child you will embrace."
Sarah laughed at first,
But God he kept his word,
At the joyous birth,
Sarah loved the Lord by faith.

One, two, three, four, five.
All of these believed by faith and then they died,
Before they did receive the promises of God.

By faith then Abraham
Offered up his son,
But God gave him a ram
And a hearty job-well-done.
So the son lived on.
When he wasn't wrestling
He raised his own two sons,
He gave them both a blessing.

Jacob gray and old,
A blessing of his own
He graciously bestowed
On Joseph's sons one day.
Joseph thusly spoke,
"When Israel goes home
Take along my bones"—
They lived and loved the Lord by faith.

One, two, three, four, five.
All of these believed by faith and then they died,
Before they did receive the promises of God.

By faith when Moses led
The Jews from slavery,
They bravely pushed ahead
And entered through the Sea.
Marched around the town
Of Jericho one week
The walls came tumblin' down,
O what a sight to see!

Despite her occupation
And her reputation,
Rahab gave salvation—
The Israelites were safe.

When the Jewish spies
 Needed a place hide,
She hid them way up high—
 We're told she served the Lord by faith.

One, two, three, four, five.
All of these believed by faith and then they died,
Before they did receive the promises of God.

And so much more to say,
 But time would not allow
To sing the list of saints
 From Gideon till now:
Folks who risked their lives
 And suffered in their days
Enduring for the prize—
 The promise never came.

They saw them from afar,
 Greeted them like stars,
Tasted them in part
 But never known in whole.
Yet they did embrace
 The call to live by faith,
Strangers in this place—
 A better land will be their home.

One, two, three, four, five.
All of these believed by faith and then they died.
Before they did receive the promises of God.

But you who have believed in Christ
By faith you have received in life
The promises of God.

So run, run!

23. Run Like Heaven (12:1-17)

Surrounded by this cloud of saints
Who lived their lives and died by faith,
Keep running for the prize that's sure to come.

And when the run is all but done,
With your weary feet becoming numb,
Look to the ones
 who have walked the road before.

The saints of old
 whose lives have called you to endure.
And here's one more:

Consider Him, the Christ,
The founder and perfecter of our faith,
Who in spite of the shame and disgrace,
Endured the cross, and he did it for the joy!

Consider Him, the Son,
Our example of what it means
To race and run by faith.
He endured the cross, and he did for the joy!

So lay aside every weight
And rid yourself of all your sin.
Before you lies a lengthy race,
Endure for the win!

And when you find you're growing tired
Of all the trials, pain, and scorn,
Look to Christ and feel inspired—
He has been there before.

So lay aside every weight
And rid yourself of all your sin.
Before you lies a lengthy race,
Endure for the win!

And when your Father sends the rod
And life seems to come undone

Remember it's the love of God,
It's the love of God
It's His love for his daughters and sons.

So keep running, running, running!
Keep running all your days!
Keep running, running, running.
There is glory that awaits.

Keep running, running, running!
Keep running till it hurts.
Keep running, running, running.
Till you leave this earth.

24. Two Mountains (12:18-24)

There was a mountain filled with fear,
Not a soul would dare draw near
Fire and darkness took the air
Of Sinai's height.

A tempest swirled and shook with haste,
Gloom and terror joy replaced,
A trumpet struck the mountain face
Of Sinai's height.

Then a voice from heav'n was heard,
None of Israel could endure
The frightening words.
O speak no more! Speak no more!

But you have not come to this mountain,

You have come to Zion!

You have come to the city of the living God:
To Jerusalem in heaven way beyond
What you have seen and heard,
What we have known down here on earth.

And you have come to the sound of angels singing
Anthems praising the King.
And you have come the church in heaven believing:
Listen to the song they sing.

And you have come to God, the Judge of all
To the One who is seated on high,
And you have come to the saints, the loved, the called,
To the host of the spirits made right.

And you have come to Jesus,
You have come to the Son
To the blood that leads us
To our eternal home.

25. Kingdom: A Fifth Warning (12:25-29)

Be warned, be warned!
Pay attention to what you've heard!
Don't drift away from the word!

For if those of old didn't escape when told
From earth of the things that were threatened,
O how much worse the curse
If you reject the words from heaven?

Long ago He spoke and the ground did shake
And the earth it quaked, But now he states,
"Yet once more I'll shake not only the earth
But also the heavenly place."

And this phrase indicates the removal of things
That have been made, So that nothing remains,
Nothing is safe, nothing is hidden from his fiery reign,

Not on the earthly terrain, in the heavenly domain,
But the kingdom of God alone will sustain.

And do you think that you will be excused on that Day
If you refuse and reject the news that was stated
By the Son? Or have you come to an all-consuming flame?
Which mountain is yours? Is it fire and scorn?

Be warned, be warned!
Pay attention to what you've heard!
Don't drift away from the word!

26. Take Care, Pt. 2 (I3:I-19)

Let brotherly love continue,
Let the church be marked by grace.
If a stranger comes to see you,
Be hospitable in ev'ry way.

And remember the folks in prison
(As if you were with 'em in jail)
And those in harsh conditions
(For they're a part of you as well).

And take care how you live your life:
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin
That's deep within your soul,
So you better be careful.

And take care how you live your life:
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin
That's deep within your soul,
So you better be careful.

Let marriage be held in honor,
For the Lord will judge your beds.
And keep away from the love of dollars—
Be content with daily bread.

Remember the folks who lead you,
For they will give an account of your soul
And flee from those who'll deceive you.
And just listen to what you've been told.

Take care how you live your life:
There may be a heart that's deceived by sin
That's deep within your soul,
So you better be careful.

27. Further Up, Further In (13:20-25)

Now may the God of peace who raised from the dead
The great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of a covenant
That'll never stop, that will not cease, that endures to eternity.
Glory to the living priest who ever lives to intercede.

May this God give you everything you need
To endure to the end and His promises receive.
May he grant you the faith to believe
What the Son has said to us.

And when the road's grown especially hard
And you feel like your soul and your body are scarred
By the aches and pains of faith,
May the Lord give you strength
To endure, to endure!

Jesus is the center of the story of the days,
He's the true light of the glory,
Not the shadow or the shade,
Seated with the Father, honored,
Offered up to save.
He is worthy and deserving of praise.

He is better, Christ is better,
He is better, Christ is better,
He is better, Christ is better than the...

...angels,
He is better than the prophets,
He is better than Moses,
He is better than them all.

He is better than the Levites,
He is better than the offerings they make
And they prayers that they pray.

He is the new and better way!

Amen.

The Word (and Afterword)

So why did Jesus come to earth?
I hope it's clearly seen.
To be appointed as a high priest
And to die as an offering.

O come on all you saints
And give the Savior love,
Born a babe and now he reigns
Before the throne of God above.

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea;
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there! the risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable "I AM,"
The King of glory and of grace!

One with himself, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God.
One with himself, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ my Savior and my God.