

# ALLELUIA

*By Andrew Horwood*

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## THE BEAUTIFUL

God's garden of beauty is graced by a flower  
Of sweetest perfume, bright and fairer than morn  
In him He delighted o'er Earth had a bower  
Or ocean or depth or a fountain was born  
His fragrance was life and his riches abounding  
He topped all creation in wisdom and love  
The Logos of God to whom favour redounding  
God blessed him for ever His Heavenly dove.  
Transplanted to Earth mid the thorn and the nettle  
Of sorrow and suffering of pain and of woe  
The odour of life unto life from each petal  
He diffused through the world for his people to know  
Our garments are scented with attar of Heaven  
The knowledge of God and the gift of His grace  
Thanks be to the Fathre to us He has given  
The incense of triumph, the sweets of His peace.  
Transplanted again by the side of the river  
That flower and multiplied seed shall then show  
The odour of life unto life to whomever  
Shall come to the waters his savour to know  
They sing every nation and shout all creation  
The bride and the Bridegroom their gifts do bestow  
Release from oppression and free full salvation  
The blessings of God from His garden do flow

## JOSEPH

The Eternal God did speak in dreams  
To men in olden times  
To prophets, kings and patriarchs  
His purpose to reveal  
And to make known whom he did choose  
To execute his plans  
And bear his name to all mankind  
His power and majesty.  
Once God would set a mighty prince  
Among the sons of men  
And he was reaping in the field  
And binding precious sheaves  
When overcome by sleep he lay  
Among the golden grain  
Not knowing that an angel stood  
Beside his harvest bed.  
The vision broke upon his mind  
He saw himself a sheaf.  
His brethren too;  
Eleven sheaves all bowing down to him.  
And God most willing to affirm  
His own unchanging will  
Sent angel with another dream  
In truth the dreams are one.  
The sun and moon eleven stars  
Did veil their shining faces  
Came down to earth and at his feet  
Made pledge of loyalty  
And Jacob who himself had dreamed  
When in that house of God  
Showed well that God had laid his hand  
On his beloved Son.  
His father's children hated him  
Without a cause 'tis true  
Said Levi unto Dan, but why  
Should God exalt this brat?  
Come let us see what God can do  
When we shall take his life  
They stripped him of his goodly robe  
And cast him in the pit.  
Sold as a slave, falsely accused  
His feet they hurt with fetters  
This was the way that must be trod  
To bring him to the throne  
No prison walls can hold this man  
Whom God would raise on high  
Today a dungeon dark and drear  
Tomorrow decked with gold.  
When riding forth on his white horse

The nations bow the kne  
He rules to give the bread of life  
To save their souls from death.  
Exalted to the king's right hand  
All power to him is given  
He sees the travail of his soul  
And glorifies his God.  
His brethren who had hated him  
Came bowing down with shame  
Repenting sore their wrongs and sins  
Oh could they be forgiven?  
They looked upon his face and mourned  
How foolish they had been!  
Forgiven? Yes it was for them  
That he had suffered pain.

## OUR ACCEPTABLE PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven Who dwells in the light  
Whose name is Eternal, Whose limitless might  
Did spread out the Heavens a kingdom to own  
To all Thy creation Thy glory make known.  
Thou sendest the rain and the snow from the sky  
To water the earth and give men their supply  
Of grain and of bread and of clothing to wear  
Oh send out Thy Truth that the people might hear.  
On Earth is rebellion: in Heaven  
Thy law Where angels attend  
Thee in Reverence and awe  
Oh crush the rebellion, Thy kingdom restore  
Fill the Earth with Thy glory  
Thy face hide no more. Thy saints in humility here upon Earth  
Seek not for their own what others call worth  
But raiment and food from Thy bountiful hand  
With forgiveness of sins that in Christ they might stand.  
The world and her prince would from Thee turn our hearts  
Oh lead us away from his snares and his darts  
The time it is evil for deliverance we pray  
Thy power and glory for ever and aye.  
AMEN.

## **SHEDRACH ANSWERS**

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Be it known to the King that the God whom we serve  
Is One who is mighty to save  
We bow to no idol of wood, stone or gold  
Nor mind we the furnace of fire  
For we are His people, the sheep of His fold  
And we fear not the wrath of the King  
Though he rule all the world from Great Babylon's throne.  
And the nations wait for his word.  
Once Pharoah defied Him in pride of his heart  
And sent forth his armies in haste  
With chariots and horsemen with swords and with spears.  
He sat in the Heavens and laughed  
He spake to the sea and the waters returned  
Oh Egypt! Where now is thy King?  
Like Locust, Great Midian once covered the land  
All armed with the weapons of war  
The sword of the Lord and of Gideon were there  
In torches and pitchers of clay  
Three hundred torches 'gainst thousands of spears  
But none of His people were harmed.  
In armour of mail and a helmet of brass  
A spear like a weaver's beam  
Goliath of Gath would fight with the Lord  
Or any brave man He could send...  
Or a YOUTH armed alone with the Name of the Lord  
A sling and a stone in his hand.  
But kings do forget how the Lord saves His own  
And their pride must be thrown to the ground  
For Sennacherib too, and Where is the God  
Who is able to save from my hand?  
He sent forth His angel and there on the ground  
Lay the breathless Assyrian host.  
Be it known to the King we have taken our stand  
And trust in our God for His care  
For we are His witnesses bearing His name  
And regard not our lives to the death  
Our God will deliver from furnace, from sword,  
From the depths of the sea, from the grave.

## INHERITANCE LOST AND RESTITUTION

### *Thoughts on the Book of Ruth*

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*Elimelech:* **DISOBEDIENCE**

Ho, this is the land of promise  
Of milk and honey and wine  
The land of the Lord where  
His people shall dwell  
In safety with plenty and peace  
But where is the latter rain?  
The former rain did not fall  
The ground it is fallow, the cattle are dry  
We shall sell our inheritance here  
And enter the land of a Moab  
The forbidden land of His curse  
For God doth know where the famine is  
And that we and our children need bread.

*Comment:* **RESULT**

So into the land they go  
The land that was cursed by the Lord  
Barley and wheat, milk and honey were there  
But death reigned supreme on the throne.  
Only the woman was left  
The seed it had gone to corruption  
The woman, the Covenant the Promise of God  
Old and alone now barren and dried  
Oh where is the hope of the Lord?

*Naomi:* **THE TEST**

Go back to your mothers, your friends and your gods  
Ye women my daughters in law  
What is there in Jacob for people like you  
What husband, what hope, what reward?

::PAGE 6:: *Ruth:* **THE DECISION**

Thy God is the Lord of the Covenant  
My mother my hope and my trust  
Thy people the children of Jacob  
Thy land is the holy and blest.  
Surely I will go with thee  
Thy God my salvation shall be  
My life shall be spent in thy service  
My death shall be joined close to thee.

*Comment:* **COMING HOME**

Back to the land of Promise  
The inheritance forfeited, gone.  
She who has been full now was empty  
Oh bitter the wrath of the Lord.  
But His mercy endureth forever  
For the poor of the land there's a law  
Go then and glean after the reapers  
And verily thou shalt be fed.  
Into the field of the kinsman  
Gleaning among the sheaves  
Under the sun of Israel  
Far from the fields of Moab  
The Lord of the harvest beheld her  
Spread wide his protection and care  
In his tent and there at his table  
There is bread and water to spare.

**THE CALL OF THE BRIDE**

He knew of her lost possession  
The inheritance forfeited, gone  
There was none beside him to redeem it  
To raise up the name of the dead  
If only she would be faithful  
True till the harvest—home  
He would do the part of a kinsman  
And make her his bride his own.

::PAGE 7:: *Boaz*:

Only stay close by the reapers  
Glean not in another's field  
Work till the day is over  
Toil till the harvest's done.

*Comment:* **RESTITUTION**

Now Ruth the humble Moabitess  
Under the wings of the Lord  
Is Bride and Joint-heir of the riches  
Of him who had price to redeem  
And so for their little son Obed  
The inheritance is made sure  
Purchased, redeemed,

## RESTITUTION

Raised up in the name of the dead.  
Rejoice oh Naomi with laughter  
Thou Covenant, barren, bereft  
For more are the children of Promise  
Than Hagar was husband did set.