

Song Story: Messiah King

By Amber Bowen and Kimberly Merida

In a passing conversation one day, Amber mentioned the idea of writing a song about “Messiah King.” She had been thinking deeply about the comprehensive work of Christ—namely, his humility, his earthly ministry, his death, and resurrection.

Kimberly began reading, thinking, and praying through various Scripture passages to inspire her heart and mind toward joining in on writing about the Messiah King. Part of that time was spent capturing words and writing phrases along the way.

A little later, the two came together to begin wrestling through telling the Story—both lyrically and melodically. Verse one came together rather quickly in telling the story of the coming of the Messiah:

(Verse One)

***Son of David, Bright and Morning Star
Prince of Peace, the Long-awaited One
God Eternal, Like us you became.
Manger for a throne, Humbly you laid.***

A pre-chorus seemed a necessary movement as a call to worship with echoes from the angel's announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:10–14:

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

(Pre-Chorus)

Hosanna! God be praised!

(Chorus)

**Weary souls rejoice
Heavy laden come find rest
With creation sing
All hail! Messiah King
By his victory the curse is in retreat
And Death has lost its sting
All hail! Messiah King**

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Amber and Kimberly spent time reflecting on some of the beautiful realities of the Messiah King that line the pages of Scripture. For example, that:

- As a suffering servant, Jesus stands ready to bear our burdens.
- The cosmic scope of redemption includes death being conquered, the curse being removed, and all of creation singing the song of the Savior.
- Salvation can be seen as allegiance of our whole lives to the long awaited Redeemer King (hence “hail”). The idea of creation as a whole being caught up in the wonder of the arrival of the Redeemer was a beautiful picture of expectation. All of creation expresses allegiance to its Creator and joy over the arrival of its Creator who is now also its Redeemer.

The second verse continues these themes:

(Verse Two)

Heaven opened

Light shines through the dark

Dwelt among us

The weak, the lame, the lost

Suffering servant

To you our burdens bring

Body broken, Risen Lord, you reign

The initial version of the bridge changed from triumphalistic to a longing for the second coming. The objective was to express the tension of the “already not yet” of the redemption story. It is true to where we are now as the church: the Messiah has come, death has lost its sting, and the curse is in retreat. But we long and groan with creation for the final coming of Christ. It’s honest about where we are experientially: suffering but not without hope and in continual need of Jesus to walk faithfully.

(Bridge)

We pray, Lord Jesus, come

We need you, Jesus, come

Once expressing our longing for Christ’s return, believers can sing the final chorus as an imaginative anticipation of the “all hail” we will proclaim to Christ at his final coming. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!