

EPISODE 13

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

HISTORY OF THE HYMNS

The views and opinions expressed here are those of the guests, and are not the official position of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

[BACKGROUND PIANO MUSIC BEGINS]

SPEAKER

Kurt Bestor's solo piano performance underscores the story of the author of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives". Samuel Medley, who wrote the text of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" in 1775, was born in Chess Hunt, England just north of London, in 1738. His father was a schoolmaster but Samuel was instead educated privately in his grandfather's home. His grandfather educated him in Christian virtues but Samuel was unconvinced and associated with ungodly friends who encouraged sinful and profane ways. Later after three years of an apprenticeship, which Samuel detested, he took advantage of a loophole in the Law that allowed him to leave an apprentice to join the British navy. The military life only encouraged his profanity and sinful practices. In 1759, Samuel's ship engaged in a navel battle with a French ship, in which Samuel's leg was severely wounded. The wound grew daily worse until the ship's doctor told Samuel that the only way to save his life was to amputate his leg. The doctor declared that if the leg was not improved in the morning, it would come off. Samuel spent the night recalling his grandfather's teachings, and praying fervently that his life and leg would be spared. The next morning, the surgeon examined the leg and declared that miraculously the leg had improved so much that amputation was unnecessary. Samuel dug the bible his father had given him, out of his trunk and began to read. When Samuel's ship docked in England, Samuel was sent home to his grandfather's to recover, while there an Isaac Watt sermon, read to him by his grandfather, turned his heart fully to the Lord and a new direction to his life began.

Samuel married and opened a school in London, six years later; he was ordained to the ministry and became pastor of a Church in Watfordhurtfordshire, just fifteen miles from his birthplace. Four years later he became pastor of a Baptist church in Liverpool. His acquaintance with the life of seaman, gave him great empathy for them. So many were converted during his ministry in Liverpool that the Church building, twice had to be enlarged. Samuel's hymn texts were the natural outgrowth of his peace and joy in his newness of life.

Samuel's Medley's text of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" appeared in Emma Smith's 1835 hymnal, as seven short versus. When the short versus were combined to form four long ones, the last verse needed to be repeated in order to fit the new musical format. But, the repetition is strength not a weakness. Repeating the words in the last verse is like adding an additional witness, or an extra amen to the testimony expressed in the

hymn. Medley's hymn text is sung today in many different churches to several different hymn tunes.

[PIANO ENDS]

SPEAKER Todd McCabe and April Moriarty provide background for Louise D. Edwards story.

[PIANO WITH VIOLIN BACKGROUND MUSIC - I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES]

SPEAKER Two talented latter-day saints from among our early composers, George Careless and Edwin F. Perry wrote musical settings for "I Know That My Redeemer Lives", but a melody by another latter-day saint, Lewis D. Edwards published in 1901, has been the one to strike the right emotional cord among latter-day saints. Lewis D. Edwards was born in 1858, in South Wales, but immigrated to the United States and spent some time in Pennsylvania. At age 19, he traveled west, encountered the Mormon Church and was baptized March 31, 1878 in Ogden. He moved the next day to Willard, Utah, where he met fellow Welch man, Evan Stevens who would become director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and with whom he began studying harmony, composition and organ. Edwards went on to compose many songs for Latter-day Saint children. He became bandmasters and choirmasters in Willard and conducted singing classes in several nearby towns. He wrote and produced an opera called, "The Two Orphans" and taught music in Ogden, Preston, Idaho and Logan, Utah and was director of music in the Salt Lake City's schools. Edwards also composed many Sunday school songs and his anthem "Our Father in Heaven" was sung daily at the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple.

George D. Pyper commented, if Samuel Medley had been here to direct, he could not have suggested a tune more appropriate than this one. For Edwards caught Medley's style by giving accent to the key words which the hymnist loves to repeat in his refrains. As far as the latter-day saints are concerned, Edwards has linked his name with medleys for all time. Thanks to Karen Lynn Davidson for material from her book "Our Latter-day Hymns, the Stories and the Messages".

[END OF PIANO WITH VIOLIN BACKGROUND MUSIC]

SPEAKER The Gibbons family sings accapella, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives".

[BEGIN MUSIC]

[END MUSIC]

SPEAKER Michael Dowdle plays his arrangement of Lewis Edward's melody, "He Lives".

[BEGIN MUSIC - ACOUSTIC GUITAR]

[END MUSIC]

SPEAKER Accompanied by a piano brought across the plains in the late 1800, Jenny Frogley and David B. Tross sing a duet arrangement of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives".

[BEGIN PIANO WITH VOCAL DUET]

[END MUSIC]

SPEAKER Beverly Hansen plays a Greg Hansen, Michael Dowdle arrangement of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives".

[BEGIN MUSIC: PIANO, VIOLIN, AND GUITAR]

[END MUSIC]

SPEAKER The men of the Brigham Young University singers, sing "I Know That My Redeemer Lives".

[BEGIN MUSIC: ACAPELLA - MEN]

[END MUSIC]

[BEGIN MUSIC: I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES - VIOLIN & PIANO MEDLEY]

SPEAKER Variations on a theme by L.D. Edwards, by Lex DeAzevado and performed by Lex and Egor Grupman is an exploration of possibilities that Luis Edwards probably never dreamed could exist.

[END MUSIC]