

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Hallelujah, What a Savior! was written by the same man who wrote the music (not lyrics) for the famous hymn, "It is Well With My Soul": Philip Bliss.

Bliss pursued music and faith early in life from the influence of his parents, who taught him the Bible and disciplined him in the gospel. He started out his adult life as an itinerant teacher who traveled on horseback with a portable organ called a melodeon. When his wife's grandmother donated money for him to attend a music academy in New York, he developed the skills to write and compose music. Then, after meeting famed evangelist D.L. Moody in Chicago, he gave up teaching and applied his skills to write hymns and gospel songs as a music evangelist.

Most of Bliss's compositions are "gospel songs," tunes written in the context of these evangelistic revivals. As a more traditional hymn, "Hallelujah, What a Savior" is unlike many of those gospel songs in tone and style. But even in its lyrics, you can hear the earnest faith that cries out in worship after seeing the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. "In my place, condemned he stood...Hallelujah, what a Savior!"

While traveling to another evangelistic revival, Bliss and his wife died tragically in one of the worst train wrecks in American history in Ashtabula. His sister, a fellow musician and believer, was greatly affected by the loss, saying: "I can never again sing merely to entertain people...but if the Lord will use my voice for the salvation of men, I will go on singing."

As Christ's own tragic death had compelled Philip Bliss to worship, so his own tragic death compelled her and many others to live sacrificially for the sake of others knowing Christ.

Scripture to consider:

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| Psalm 22 | Mark 15 | Romans 3:21-26 |
| Isaiah 53 | Luke 23 | Titus 3:3-7 |
| Matthew 27 | John 19 | 1 Peter 3:8-22 |

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 1. "Man of Sor - rows," what a name for the Son of 2. Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude, in my place con - 3. Guilt - y, vile, and help - less, we; spot - less Lamb of 4. Lift - ed up was He to die; "It is fin - ished!" 5. When He comes, our glo - rious King, all His ran - somed God, who came ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim! demned He stood; sealed my par - don with His blood: God was He; full a - tone - ment, can it be? was His cry; now in heav'n ex - alt - ed high: home to bring, then a - new this song we'll sing: Hal - le - lu - jah! What a Sav - ior!

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