

BLESSED BE YOUR NAME

Sunday, May 14

*[1] Blessed be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your Name

Blessed be Your Name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your Name*

*[2] Blessed be Your Name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your Name

Blessed be Your Name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your Name*

*[PRE-CHORUS]
Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say*

*[CHORUS]
Blessed be the Name of the Lord
Blessed by Your Name
Blessed be the Name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious Name*

*[BRIDGE]
You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be Your Name*

Matt and Beth Redman flew into the L.A. airport on September 15, 2001. They were taking a sabbatical from their church in England where Matt served as worship leader. With the rest of the world, they had watched the devastating attacks of 9/11 on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. As they visited churches and neighborhoods in California, they experienced the brokenness and fear in the hearts of the American people. Many people were seeking answers and comfort in churches across the country.

The Redman's were impressed by the churches they visited who shared God's heart and sovereignty in the midst of tragedy and pain. But Matt noticed one thing was missing.

"Where were the songwriters at such a time as this? Where were the musical poets and prophets to help the people of God find a voice in worship at this tragic time? The truth was, in most places we visited (or led worship in), there was a distinct lack of songs appropriate for this time...when it came to expressions of pain and lament, we had very little vocabulary to give voice to our heart cries"¹

A few weeks later, Matt and his wife were inspired to write the worship song "Blessed Be Your Name." Though not consciously written about 9/11, those events helped to form the theme of the song. There is a strong connection to the Biblical book of Job in the lyrics. While many people see suffering as the theme of Job, Redman believes "it's really about something much grander – the sovereignty of God."² At the end of chapter 1 after Job has lost everything, he falls on the ground in worship and says, "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised" (Job 1:20-21).

The theme of the song is obvious. In the course of the song, we sing "Blessed be Your Name" over 20 times. Each verse is split into two parts. The first part talks about praising God in the good times. The second part talks about praising God in times of trouble. In abundance and plenty to wilderness, suffering, and pain, the song encourages us to bless the Lord. The words of the Apostle Paul command us to do the same.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, pray continually,
Give thanks in all circumstances;
For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

Listen to "Blessed Be Your Name" by Matt Redman on YouTube @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaLXQubmUmE>

¹ <http://brianmbailey.blogspot.com/2009/03/story-behind-blessed-be-your-name.html>

² <https://pastorpresnell.wordpress.com/2011/01/10/song-origin-blessed-be-your-name/>