

MATT REDMAN

UNBROKEN PRAISE

[THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG]

AT ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS



SONGS IN THE NIGHT

The theme of 'songs in the night' was one I kept coming across in scripture, and I knew there was a song to be found there.

I saw it in the book of Job where it describes 'God who gives songs in the night' (Job 35:10). David writes 'I remember my song in the night' (Psalm 77:6), and there are other examples too, like when Paul and Silas were singing at midnight in the jail just before God intervened.

The theme is also there when Jesus, at the end of Last Supper - which would have been based on the traditional Passover meal - sings a hymn with His disciples. It very likely would have been Psalm 136, known as The Great Hallel.

That song repeats the line 'His love endures forever' over and over. What a powerful picture it creates: here is Jesus, knowing what lies ahead, knowing He's been betrayed already, and knowing that there's so much darkness - figurative and literal - surrounding Him. And yet he sings this song out - a song of trust and devotion to His Father.

What do you sing about in the night? We need to move on from singing about the darkness itself, and choose instead to focus on the mercies of yesterday, that God is with us here today and the hope of all that's to come.

Wholesome worship allows for all of the above. It has room for songs of turbulence yet trust, songs of hardship yet hope. Songs of pain and yet praise.

Like Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:10: our heart can be sorrowful yet always rejoicing.

Recently I came across a quote from Charles Spurgeon: 'he who sings a song to Jesus Christ in the night sings the best song in the world, for he sings from the heart.'

In the natural world the nightingale is one of the only birds that still sings after dark. Can that be true of us as worshippers? When it's all going great and basking in the noontime sunshine life feels great, and it's easy to worship. But when the dark closes in, can we be the ones who, despite all the fear and threats and unknowns, will still sing a song to God in the night?