

There Is A River

Reflections about the song and songwriting process.

I wrote this song back in '95 when I was collaborating with Bryn Hovde as "Sons and Warriors." We experimented with incorporating story and improvisation into our music with some interesting results. There is a river that went through a number of different versions. Starting with the one with a long section based on the vision of the Jewish prophet Ezekiel. I later wrote a shorter version (alternate verses) that I played in churches a lot. People were able to follow and sing that version much more easily. Still, a lot of people connect with the imagery in the original version, one I included. I think this such a powerful image of the life and love of God -- this river that starts small in the temple and flows out of the temple, through the city and out into the dry land, making everything alive. Love does that. The reality and presence of God does that.

The version I included here was recorded in a basement studio in Nashville and the second part of the song is improvised prayer.

Jonathan
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