

I Will Rise: Chris Tomlin, *et al* (2008)¹

Visualisation: Anthrodirectional, probably egodirectional

Analysis: The basic message is individual Christian victory over death based on Christus victor. I think that it is clear enough, and biblical enough, to assume that *he calls*, means Jesus, and that our rising is resurrection, whether or not we have died. I am less clear about rising *on eagle's wings*. Does this mean not on *an eagle* (its body) but on its *left & right wings* (flapped up & down)? Is it supposed to mean we will rise *like eagles* (with eagle's wings)?² Possibly a mixed image, I'd like the expression a little more down to earth. Or maybe not. Since it's a song beyond the grave, why not beyond the skies? And since not all pain is an evil, I doubt that we will immediately live with no more pain (or sorrow). Even our sorrows now can heighten our appreciation of God: weeping & wonder.

While it is clear who has risen, it is unclear who Chris' *god* is. I mark down not for unitarianism, but for polytheism.

I commend stanza 2 in particular. But, when Chris entered *Revelation*, he dumbed down the angels, who always give a combination of reason/deserts. *Revelation* always completes its *worthy* sentences: *worthy to* walk in white (3:4); *worthy...to* receive...because (4:11); *worthy to* open the scroll (5:2); no one was found *worthy to...* (4); you are *worthy to...because* (9); *worthy...to* (12). Incompletism.

I'd guess that as a triumph over the grave, Chris turned to Rv.5's eschatological lamb. The lamb motif doubles for redemption and for victory. It is an inhouse term, for which nonbelievers might think us mad. So, it remains valid, even if only for cautionary use. I think that within a believer song downplaying death, it is justified, though could be reworded. From background reading, it seems to me that Chris wished another personal resurrection song on the market, and was rightly attracted to the idea of the grave being overwhelmed, rather than overwhelming. Although I take the point of C S Lewis that it was a year into his Christian life that he seems to have been given an interest in resurrection, and that Thessalonians sought such hope for those they had lost, not for they themselves, I think that singing of personal assurance is fine—it is a truism, and hopefully is based on the hope to continue relationship with God.

Suggestions: Replace *on eagles' wings*; **by** *beyond the skies*; *no more*, **by** *no wrong*; *worthy is the lamb*, **by** *praise and honour to the lamb/lord*.

Chorus: Replace *my god*, **by** *God's throne* [or *my lord*];

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	4	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	88	B+

¹ www.weareworship.com/uk/songs/song-library/showsong/1173

² I'd short list verses with eagle's wings, to Ex.19:4; Dt.32:11; Is.40:31, & Rv.12:14. But are any of these relevant? There appears to me to be some evidence that eagles (or griffon vultures) might provide a safety net for early flight learning, but the expression 'on' would perhaps more literally apply to the back *between* the wings. At the end of the day, I do not see a biblical base for resurrection pictured this way of delivering young, though the ultimate exodus could be claimed from Ex.19:4: a complex metaphor? <http://zootorah.blogspot.co.uk/2009/05/on-eagles-wings.html>.

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompletism (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)