

Our God Saves, Our God Saves: Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown (2007)¹

Visualisation: Polydirectional

Analysis: Mt.28:19 has three persons, one name. Paul & Brenton have three persons, three names, in line with tritheism (three gods). Their meaning is nevertheless trinitarian (three persons, one name, one god). There is a certain amount of misvisualisation. Who is the *lord* to whom we sing, when we don't identify him with either our father, brother, or helper, merely singing to this lord about their names? This is a theological misvisualisation, yet within trinitarian borders: I have not downgraded. Likewise, if sing to *the* saviour, why switch to a third party reference—*our* saviour? This is prayer misvisualisation: I have downgraded.

Lift up, is somewhat anachronistic, and can misinterpret Jhn.12:32 as something we continue to do now, rather than something God and sinful people could only do once, in a millennium long gone. To sing clear away from those errors, an alternative should be used. *Fall on your grace* is baffling to the uninitiated, though many know what falling on one's sword means. *Grace* itself needs explanation, but as I'd leave it in translation, I'd leave it here. Ethnic Israel was lifted on Yahweh's wings from Slavery to Sinai (Ex.19:4), rather than an ongoing flight. In fulfilment, it might best fit conversion, rather than Christian life, and indeed as the immersion rite implies, conversion raises us from death unto true life, so we have risen, rather than we rise, in Christ.² A problem with themes. I assume the song's meaning is Christian life, a rising of worship following a bowing down. This could be changed to seeing God, linked to the world seeing this. Even with flight today, we would talk of flying *in* the plane, not *on* its wings: a confusion of imagery.

The chorus slips into polytheism—*our god*.³ It even tells *God* about *our god*—misvisualisation, since we're not looking at him to whom we sing. The tag on one site has morning turns (time of day) but on www.brentonbrown.com has mourning turns (time of sorrow). *Sorrows* might have been the clearer term.

Suggestions: Replace *in the name of the father, in the name of the son, in the name of the spirit, lord we come, by in your name precious father, unto you gracious lord, and to you Holy Spirit, we have come; lift up, by exalt; our saviour, by you saviour; fall on, by rely on; we will rise with you, lifted on your wings, by you will lift us high, you will show yourself.*

Chorus: Replace *our god saves*, by *God, you save.*

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	8	-	-	8	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	60	C

¹ www.praisecharts.com/songs/details/2916/our-god-saves-sheet-music

² Likewise Eph.5:14 as "the fundamental turnaround at conversion" (Peter O'Brien's *Letter to the Ephesians*, 1999:377).

³ <http://mdtc.eu/wgggodtype.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)