

Shine, Jesus, Shine: Graham Kendrick (1987)¹

Visualisation: Theodirectional, possibly postmillennial. Implied worship with misdirected request.

Analysis: This has the complexity of a hymn: I shall attempt only broad analysis. Though badly *confusing the persons*, deity's awesome brightness—probably highlighted by Jesus—is sought for singer/society.

Set us free could deny that Jesus (or/by the spirit) has set us free at conversion.² If it's wrong to ask Jesus (who asked *us* to shine), then *Shine, Jesus, Shine* is fundamentally unbiblical: more so asking the spirit and the fourth member of the trinity, the River: abstract become agent!³ God might be implied by Lord...and let there be light and by the blood I may enter your brightness, but as the song turns back to Jesus that's unlikely. Indeed the Lord, whose light of...love is shining is Jesus, defining *lord* in this song, though he is asked to reveal the father's glory. The lyricist wrote as a muddled trinitarian, yet perhaps a prophet wedded to biblical ineptitude. Those who see the ineptitude cannot easily sing the vision; those who do not see the ineptitude can enjoy a vision of great power.

Suggestions: To make a silk purse from so much jumble requires a major overhaul, which unless advocated by the lyricist would be to little purpose. Minimum changes would re-assign request to the father: let the light of your son shine upon us, set folk free by the truth you now give us / Shine, father, shine / fill this world with your awesome glory / blaze, father, blaze / set our hearts on fire / flow, father, flow / flood the nations with grace and mercy / send forth your word, God, and let there be light.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	8	-	68	C+

¹ Lord, the light of your love is shining / In the midst of the darkness, shining / Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us / Set us free by the truth you now bring us / Shine on me // Shine, Jesus, shine / Fill this land with the Father's glory / Blaze, Spirit... / Set our hearts on fire / Flow, River... / Flood the nations with grace and mercy / Send forth your word / Lord, and let there be light // Lord, I come to your awesome presence / From the shadows into your radiance / By the blood I may enter your brightness / Search me, try me, consume all my darkness // As we gaze on your kingly brightness / So our faces display your likeness / Ever changing from glory to glory / Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.

² Jhn.8:36. This said, some Christians reverted to bondage (Gal.5:1), of which several kinds exist. The concern is over songs that speak truth at the expense of decontextualising biblical expressions.

³ Bob Brogan's *O Jesus My King* (1983) had us singing to Blood. Whatever next?

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-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)