

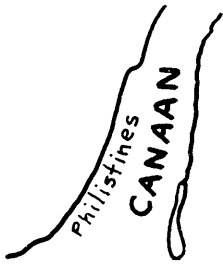
ONCE TO EVERY MAN AND NATION

The most exciting make-believe television stories are dull compared to the real adventures of the Hebrews after leaving Egypt!

For 40 years, they wandered in the wilderness – sometimes with little to eat and drink – other times, with vicious attacks from enemy forces! Finally, they entered the promised land of Canaan where a strange god-Baal – and his goddess-Asherah – were worshipped by the inhabitants of Canaan to make the crops grow. The Hebrews had to decide whether they would worship the true God – whom they could not see – or Baal – whose statue was everywhere! The Hebrews had many times of temptation but finally realized that the leaders called Prophets really knew the true God.



What really made the Hebrews choose the true God was remembering how grateful they were to Him for bringing them out of Egypt and for being with them in the wilderness all those years. Have you ever been initiated into a club or made a promise to a special friend??? Then you understand why the Hebrews could not break their covenant promise with God!



But then the Hebrews met an even more dangerous enemy near the coast of Canaan – the Philistines! Archaeologists digging today tell us that the Philistines, after whom the name of Canaan was changed to Palestine, were among the first to use iron weapons. The only way for the twelve tribes of Hebrews to defeat them was to join together with Saul as their first King, followed by David and Solomon. The Philistines were defeated but once again, the Hebrews had to make a choice between serving God first or being a political nation.

People today and also Nations are still faced with choosing whether or not they'll serve God FIRST in their lives. This makes this hymn so important and meaningful.

“ONCE TO EVERY MAN AND NATION COMES THE MOMENT TO DECIDE.”

How many opposites do you find in the first verse:

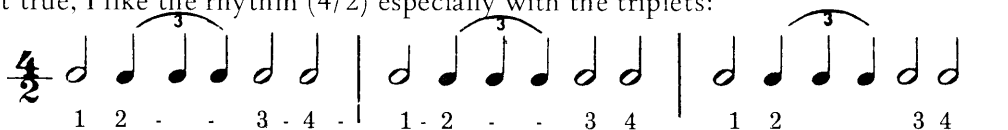
truth_____ good_____ bloom_____ darkness_____

Does choosing TRUTH AND GOD FIRST guarantee fame and fortune? _____

The words were written by one of America's great poets, James Russell Lowell.

We drew a picture to show how “TIME MAKES ANCIENT GOOD UNCOUTH.” My picture compared the old and the new way of healing people. Whew! I'm glad things DO CHANGE even though it means I have to keep making NEW CHOICES and DECIDING what is right for God's purposes all my life!

There's a legend that this tune “TON-Y-BOTEL” was found floating in a bottle. This may be so but even if that story isn't true, I like the rhythm (4/2) especially with the triplets:



When we first sang it, we made the triplets staccato to be sure each of the three notes was clear and distinct. Mary had so much trouble that the teacher had her pronounce the notes as “Pie Choc-o-late-Pie Pie” on the first measure.

How many different pattern pieces are there to the tune? Did you say two? Correct! The form is A-A-B-A. Is the music major or minor? _____