

Selected Lyrics of Slave Spirituals

“Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho”

Refrain:

Joshua fit de battle of Jericho
Jericho, Jericho,
Joshua fit de battle of Jericho,
And de walls come tumbling down.

Stanzas:

You may talk about yo' king ob Gideon;
You may talk about yo' man ob Saul;
Dere's none like good ole Joshua
At de battle of Jericho.

Up to de walls ob Jericho
He marched with sper in han'.
“Go blow dem ram horns,” Joshua cried,
Kase de battle am in my han' .”

Den de ram sheep horns being to blow:
Trupets begin to sound.
Joshua commanded de chillen to shout,
An' the walls come tumblin' down.

“ Steal Away”

Refrain:

Steal Away, steal away,
Steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home.
I ain't got long to stay here.

Stanza:

My Lord calls me,
He calls me by the thunder;
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here.

“ Swing Low, Swing Chariot”

Refrain:

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Comin' for to carry me home!

Stanzas:

I looked over Jordan and what did I see,
Comin' for to carry me home!
A band of angels comin' after me,
Comin' for to carry me home!

If you get there before I do,
Comin' for to carry me home,
Jess tell my friends that I'm coming' too,
Comin' for to carry me home.

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Comin' for to carry me home,
But still my soul feels heavenly bound
Comin' for to carry me home!

“ Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel”

Refrain:

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel,
Deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel,
Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel,
An' why not every man?

Stanza:

He delivered Daniel f'om de lion's den,
Jonah from de belly of de wale,
An' de Hebrew chillen from da fiery furnace,
An' why not every man?