

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

A Hymn Story by Harry Eskew

Samuel Medley (1738-1799) was converted by a sermon delivered by the great hymn writer Isaac Watts, read to him by his grandfather, and by hearing evangelist George Whitfield preach. In 1769 he joined a Baptist church on Eagle Street in London. In addition to establishing a school, he was called in 1766 to pastor the Baptist church on Eagle Street. From 1767–1772 he served as pastor of a Baptist church at Watford, Herefordshire and one at Liverpool (1772–99) where he became a friend to the Baptist pastor John Fawcett, author of “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” Medley’s hymns were published during his lifetime in several editions. After his death in 1800, an edition of 232 of Medley’s hymns was published.

Medley’s best known hymn is “I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” dated 1775. It is based on Job 19:25 but is clearly his testimony of faith in the risen Christ. Written in long meter, it is published with the familiar tune DUKE STREET at number 210 in the *Celebrating Grace Hymnal* (Macon, GA, 2010). Printed below are the texts to Medley’s nine stanzas, followed by the five stanzas with the tune DUKE STREET as published in *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*.

I know that my Redeemer lives,
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives! He lives, who once was dead,
He lives! My ever-living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save,
He lives all-glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love,
He lives to plead for me above,
He lives my hungry soul to feed,
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply,
He lives to guide me with his eye,
He lives my hungry soul to feed.
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply,
He lives to guide me with his eye,
He lives to comfort me when faint,
He lives to hear my soul’s complaint.

He lives to crush the pow’rs of hell,
He lives that he may in me dwell,
He lives to heal, and make me whole,
He lives to guard my feeble soul,

He lives to silence all my fears,
 He lives to stop, and wipe my tears,
 He lives to calm my troubled heart,
 He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives my kind, wise, heav'nly friend,
 He lives and loves me to the end,
 He lives and while he lives I'll sing,
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath,
 He lives and I shall conquer death,
 He lives, my mansion to prepare,
 He lives to bring me safely there.

Celebrating Grace Hymnal

GOD THE SON

210 I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com-
 2. He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives
 3. He lives to bless me with His love; He lives
 4. He lives, my kind, wise, heav - en - ly friend; He lives
 5. He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives,

this as - sur - ance gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives ex - alt - ed,
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 loves me to the end; He lives, and while He
 Sav - ior, still the same; what com - fort this as

once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
 throned a - bove; He lives to rule His church in love.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 lives, I'll sing; He lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King!
 sur - ance gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

WORDS: Samuel Medley, 1775 (Job 19:25)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM
 Higher key, No. 158