



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 79 "Lord, Is It Mine?" © 1979 Roger Hodgson

Our research has led us to several secular songs that express weariness and frustration with life, yet speak of reaching out to God for answers. The song featured in this program is no exception, as it describes feelings that most of us have encountered at some point. Now, let's find the Cross Connection!

The Song ¹

- From 1979 blockbuster album by Supertramp, *Breakfast In America*
 - Reached #1 in U.S. and #3 in U.K.
 - Sold 18+ million copies worldwide
 - Spawned four successful singles in the U.S.
 - Represented the height of Supertramp's popularity
- Lyrics paint picture of personal reflections on God as answer to world's problems

The Group – Supertramp ¹

- British progressive rock band with several hits in the '70s and early '80s
 - More popular in U.S., Canada, and most of Europe than in the U.K.
- Other hits include "Bloody Well Right", "Dreamer", "Goodbye Stranger", "Give a Little Bit", "The Logical Song", "Take The Long Way Home", and "Breakfast in America"
- Constituted by vocalist / pianist Rick Davies through responses to newspaper ad
- Took name from a 1908 book by W.H. Davies, *The Autobiography of a Supertramp*
- Came to prominence through a performance at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival, which also featured The Doors, The Who, and Jimi Hendrix
- A favorite band of Diana, Princess of Wales
- Several lineup changes in group members over the years; disbanded in 2002
- A couple of attempts to reunite the core members reportedly failed due to apparent conflicts between the wives of the two lead singers

I know that there's a reason why I need to be alone
 You've shown me there's a silent place _____
 that I can call my own
 Is it mine, Lord is it mine?
 You know I get so weary from the battles in this life
 and many times it seems like _____
 You're the only hope in sight
 Is it mine, Lord is it mine?

What similarities do you see between this stanza and "In My Room" (Beach Boys, Program #20)

*Where do I go when there's nobody else to turn to?
 Who do I talk to when nobody wants to listen?
 Who do I lean on when there's no foundation stable?
 I go to the Rock, I know He's able, I go to the Rock ²*

"Whom have I in heaven but you?" – Ps. 73:25a

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-30, NIV

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supertramp>

² 1st stanza and chorus of "I Go To The Rock", by Dottie Rambo

When everything's dark and nothing seems right,
there's nothing to win and there's no need to fight



There is indeed something to fight for!

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness"

– 2 Timothy 4:7-8

But we need not fight life's battles alone!

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" – Deut.31:6, NIV

"...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" – Romans 8:37b, NIV

I never cease to wonder at the cruelty of this land
but it seems a time of sadness is a time to understand
Is it mine, Lord is it mine?

When everything's dark and nothing seems right,
You don't have to win and there's no need to fight



What do you think is intended by "this land"?

What "time of sadness"? Personal?
National or international?

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" – 2 Timothy 3:1-4, NIV

If only I could find a way
to feel Your sweetness through the day
The love that shines around me could be mine.
So give us an answer, won't You,
We know what we have to do,
There must be a thousand voices trying to get through

Think of how many songs express the desire
to be closer to God! E.g. –

- "Just A Closer Walk With Thee"
- "Nearer My God To Thee"
- "I Need Thee Every Hour"
- "My Sweet Lord"
- "Draw Me Nearer"

"...call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me" – Ps. 50:15

Final Thoughts:

For all of its glamour, life as a rock star must certainly have some peculiar challenges and frustrations. There are no doubt many who would trade everything they have to live a common life again, in anonymity, blending into the crowd. This is simply to point out that no one is exempt from feelings of frustration, emptiness, and at times, futility. But, as another well known hymn tells us – *"There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God; a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God"*³. Praise Him for His goodness!

³ From "Near To The Heart Of God", words and music by Cleland B. McAfee

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