



"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

2/4/09

Program 67 "Tears In Heaven" © Eric Clapton and Will Jennings

The Song ¹

- Ballad about pain Eric Clapton felt following the 1991 death of his 4-year-old son, Conor, who fell 53 stories from a window in a New York City condo
- One of Clapton's most successful songs, reaching #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the U.S., and 3 at #1 on the American adult contemporary chart in 1992
- 3 Grammy's: Song of Year, Record of Year Male Pop Vocal Performance in '93
- Included on Clapton's Grammy award-winning album, *Unplugged*.
- #353 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Songs
- Initially featured on the soundtrack to the film *Rush*
- Co-author Will Jennings, was reluctant at first to help Clapton with the lyrics
 - "This is a song so personal and so sad that it is unique in my experience of writing songs." – Will Jennings
- Clapton stopped playing it in 2004, as well as the song "My Father's Eyes"
 - "I didn't feel the loss anymore...the feelings [are]...kind of gone and I really don't want them to come back, particularly." – Eric Clapton
- Covered collectively by several artists in '04 to raise money for victims of the Tsunami. Performers included Elton John, Rod Stewart, Steven Tyler, Josh Groban, Gwen Stefani, Ozzy Osbourne, Slash, Andrea Bocelli and Mary J. Blige

The Artist -- Eric Patrick Clapton (1945-) ²

- Legendary English blues-rock guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer
- Rough beginnings -- born in Ripley, Surrey, England, the son of 16-year-old Patricia Molly Clapton and Edward Walter Fryer, a 24-year-old soldier from Quebec
 - Believed his grandparents were his parents; discovered truth at age 9
- Numerous struggles with drugs and relationships
- Only person inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame 3 times:
 - As member of Yardbirds, Cream, and as solo performer
- Also was a member of John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers, Derek and the Dominoes, The Glands, Blind Faith, Delaney and Bonny and Friends, and contributed to a myriad of recordings by other famous artists
- Acclaimed by critics and fans alike as one of the greatest guitarists of all time
 - Best known for mastery of the Fender Stratocaster guitar
 - Vast array of awards and honors
- Ranked #4 in *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of the "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time" (#1 was Jimi Hendrix) and #53 on list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time
- Hits include "Layla", "Wonderful Tonight", "I Shot The Sheriff", "Cocaine", "White Room", "Sunshine Of Your Love", "After Midnight", "Crossroads", "Let It Rain", "Bell Bottom Blues"
- Performances with Jeff Beck in '81... "...heralded a return to form and prominence for Clapton in the new decade. Many factors had influenced Clapton's comeback, including his **deepening commitment to Christianity**, to which he had converted prior to his heroin addiction"

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tears_in_Heaven

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Clapton

Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven
Will it be the same
If I saw you in heaven
I must be strong, and carry on
Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven

Would you hold my hand
If I saw you in heaven
Would you help me stand
If I saw you in heaven
I'll find my way, through night and day
Cause I know I just can't stay
Here in heaven

Time can bring you down
Time can bend your knee
Time can break your heart
Have you begging please
Begging please

(instrumental)

Beyond the door
There's peace I'm sure.
And I know there'll be no more...
Tears in heaven

Would you know my name
If I saw you in heaven
Will it be the same
If I saw you in heaven
I must be strong, and carry on
Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven

Cause I know I don't belong
Here in heaven

- Discuss 90 Minutes In Heaven, by Don Piper
- See account of Apostle Paul's visit in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4 – *"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know— God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell"*

- Will we know each other in Heaven?
- From the Bible's "Love Chapter" ...
 - *"Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known"*
– 1 Corinthians 13:12, NIV

- The death of a toddler inspired this song. Do babies and toddlers go to Heaven at death?
 - Discuss prevenient grace
 - (Samuel to King David)...*"...what is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for this child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food." David said, "while the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."*
-- 2 Samuel 12:21-23

- Are there tears in Heaven?
- *"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away"* – Revelation 21:3-4, NIV

Final Thoughts:

A famous rock classic declares "...if there's a rock 'n roll Heaven, then you know they've got a ____ of a band. Do not be deceived by the illusion that all people go to Heaven when they die. Jesus purchased our ticket with His own life, but we must believe upon Him, accept what He did for us, then take up our cross daily and live for Him!

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