

Stories behind the Songs: "The Last Cloud"

Verse: Acts 1:9-11 – Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

This story was written by David Sexton in 2002

Each year among the songs that are published there are songs that really touch us emotionally and spiritually. These songs lift our spirits and our hopes. Some of them take us beyond singing and to the point of worship. In fact, this happens rather often.

I found one of these songs at the beginning of this year, while singing out of the new songbook "Mercy" published by Charles Towler of Gospel Heritage Music. Written by Freddie Edwards, the title is: "The Last Cloud". I would like to share the last two phrases of the lyrics. "Flying up through the sky we'll be free, on the last cloud we'll ever see."

When I first sang those phrases, they immediately brought joy to my heart. You see clouds have played an important part in events in the Bible. Some of these roles include leading the children of Israel as they fled bondage in Egypt, signifying God's presence and later in the New Testament at the transfiguration of Jesus. The scriptures tell us that Jesus ascended to heaven in the clouds and that when He returns, He will return in the clouds.

For many years we have sung about a land with no clouds and about the unclouded day. We know and understand these lyrics are referring to heaven and the peaceful and beautiful time awaiting the children of God.

Take time from your busy schedule and just consider the wonders and beauty of heaven. The Bible describes it as a land where there is no weariness, no sorrow, no pain, no curse, no night, no wicked people, no tears and no death! Oh, what a day it will be to sit around the throne in the very presence of God and Jesus and sing the songs that even the angels cannot sing!