

GOD

24

## Yigdal Elohim Chai (The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

Moses Maimonides, 12th century  
Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400  
Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,  
1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,  
2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;  
3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;  
4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to  
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!  
God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.  
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.  
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,  
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;  
Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,  
All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,  
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

The twelfth-century scholar Moses Maimonides drew up the thirteen articles of the Hebrew creed, which were subsequently cast in metrical form (the Yigdal). This translation represents an ecumenical collaboration between Rabbi Landsberg and Unitarian minister Mann.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
Traditional Yigdal melody  
Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

DISCIPLESHIP

500

# We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

Gen. 28:10-17

African-American spiritual

1 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,  
 2 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er,  
 3 Rise, shine, give God glo-ry, rise, shine, give God glo-ry,

we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, bear-ers of the cross.  
 ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, bear-ers of the cross.  
 rise, shine, give God glo-ry, bear-ers of the cross.

*Like many spirituals, this one uses a story from the Hebrew scriptures as its starting point and the element of the ladder as a creative device to draw us into the narrative. In like manner, the following twentieth-century adaption of the song by Carole Etzler employs the story of Sarah, the matriarch of the Hebrew people, and extends the direction of the pilgrimage from the upward climb of the ladder to the outward embrace of a circle.*

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.  
 African-American spiritual

501

# We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle

Gen. 17:15-19; 18:9-15

Carole A. Etzler, 1975

- 1 We are danc-ing Sar-ah's cir-cle, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 2 Here we seek and find our sto-ry, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 3 We will all do our own nam-ing, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 4 Ev-ery round a gen-er-a-tion, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 5 On and on the cir-cle's mov-ing, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.

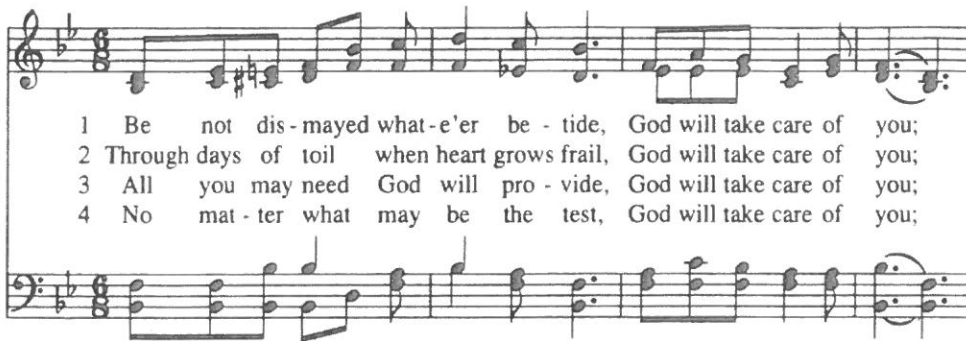
Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.  
 African-American spiritual

# Be Not Dismayed

(God Will Take Care of You)

*Civilla D. Martin, 1904; alt.*

*Ps. 91*

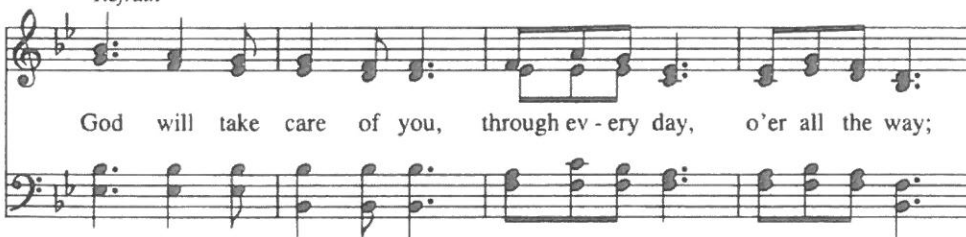


1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;  
 2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;  
 3 All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;  
 4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;

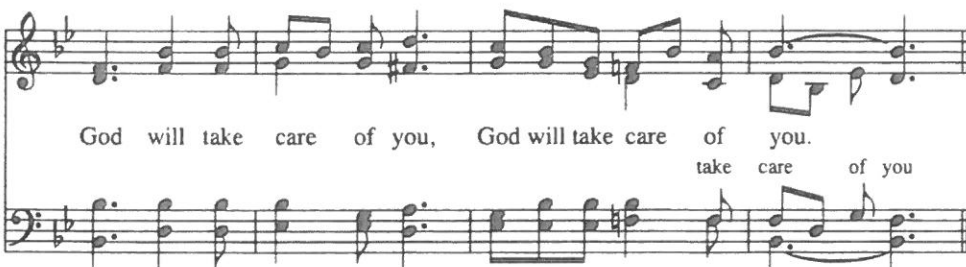


Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.  
 When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.  
 Noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.  
 Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast, God will take care of you.

*Refrain*



God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;



God will take care of you, God will take care of you.  
 take care of you

*This early hymn by Civilla Martin was written in 1904 and set to music by her husband, a Baptist minister, as a contribution to a songbook he was compiling for a school. This is one of several such collaborations.*

Tune: MARTIN C.M. with refrain  
 W. Stillman Martin, 1905