

RECKONING DAY
By: Danny McGaughey
7/7/25

I came across a song that caught my attention, and as I listened, the title and some of the lyrics jumped out. The song is Independence Day by Martina McBride and Pat Benatar. Here is a link to that song, [Martina McBride & Pat Benatar Perform 'Independence Day' | CMT Crossroads](#)

The lyrics that really caught my attention are “roll the stone away, let the guilty pay,” and “a day of reckoning.” The song most certainly is not about the reckoning day for the Christian. However, there will be one. I have put a little spiritual spin on the lyrics and the message of the song.

I have a little refresher information about why we celebrate Independence Day. The Great Awakening was a religious revival that impacted the English colonies in America during the 1730's and 1740's. The movement came at a time when the idea of secular rationalism was being emphasized, and passion for religion had grown stale. The result was a renewed dedication to religion. They challenged the authority of the church by allowing people to be "born again" without the approval of the church. The Colonists wanted independence from Great Britain because the king created unreasonable taxes; taxes created because Britain had just fought the French and Indians. England decided that since they had fought on American soil, it was only fair to make the Colonists pay for it. The Colonists felt like they didn't have a say in the British Parliament, so they began to rebel. They wanted their freedom from oppression.

Independence Day for the Christian began in the beginning, [“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” \(Genesis 1:1\)](#) It was God's plan from the beginning of time as we know it to free mankind from the oppression of sin. He sent numerous prophets to warn mankind about sin. Their warning messages are recorded in the Old Testament. Man rebelled in the garden and is still rebelling today. Many today are slaves to drugs, greed, porn, and false doctrines. The sad thing is they don't even realize that these addictions control their lives. People die every day from drug overdoses. Some people act out the perversion they see in porn films, and innocent lives and families are destroyed. Man's selfish desires lead to his destruction. A life without Christ is a soul headed to hell, based on what is found in the Bible. [“Your own evil will discipline you; your own apostasies will reprimand you. Think it over and see how evil and bitter it is for you to abandon the Lord your God and to have no fear of Me. This is the declaration of the Lord God of Hosts.” \(Jeremiah 2:19\)](#) All must fear God. Why? Because fear of God is to recognize that God is the final judge. [“Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” \(Matthew 10:28\)](#)

For the Christian, there is freedom available because God made that freedom possible. [“Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, because the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, in order that the law's requirement would be accomplished in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” \(Romans 8:1-4\)](#)

These song lyrics jumped out at me, “roll the stone away, let the guilty pay.” [“After he bought some fine linen, he took Him down and wrapped Him in the linen. Then he placed Him in a tomb cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb.” \(Mark 15:46\)](#)

“They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” Looking up, they observed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.” (Mark 16:3-4)

The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive. Just as He has said, “Destroy this sanctuary, and I will raise it up in three days.” (John 2:19) No more animal sacrifices, no need to come to the Holy of Holies, no more need for the High Priest because Jesus just became our High Priest. “Then the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom.” (Mark 15:38)

“Now the main point of what is being said is this: We have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that was set up by the Lord and not man.” (Hebrews 8:1-2). The stone was rolled away, Jesus came out of the grave, and the ultimate sacrifice had been given. Jesus’ death and resurrection made it possible for man not to die a spiritual death. Jesus died so man would not have to. This is what awaits man if he rejects Jesus: a spiritual death. The fires of Hell await that person. However, for the Christian, there is life in heaven with all the saints. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

The last lyric that got my attention is “a day of reckoning.” Judgment day. “And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment—.” (Hebrews 9:27) We all will come to that point in our lives. No one knows when that will be. We must live our lives holy and pleasing to God. Be ready for that day at all times, as that can occur at any moment. Some think that since I am young, I have plenty of time before I die; I will wait till I am old, and then I will think about this Jesus. What if you do not live to be old? Death is no respecter of persons. My best friend in high school died within two years of graduation. My brother was born and lived for about two days. No one knows when their time is up. Some have the same attitude as the rich farmer, “Then I’ll say to myself, ‘You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.’” “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’” (Luke 12:19-20)

People plan what they are going to do tomorrow or the next day. Perhaps they are planning a vacation; could be planning a new career. All of these can change in the blink of an eye. No one is assured of tomorrow. “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.’ You don’t even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes. Instead, you should say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’” (James 4:13-15)

It is safe to say that people don’t get out of bed and think, well, this is my day of reckoning. They live their life like there is no tomorrow. Rest assured, there will be a day when we each stand before God in judgment. All control the outcome of their reckoning day. I read this week that there are over 400,000 graves in Arlington National Cemetery. These graves and hundreds more represent men and women who died for the freedom we enjoy today. It only took one to die for our spiritual freedom—Jesus Christ. “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22) The last lyrics of the song Independence Day are, “Roll the stone away, It’s Independence Day.” Jesus came out of the tomb, and now independence from sin is available to all. Have a blessed week.

[I AM THEY - Found My Freedom \(Official Lyric Video\) ft. Matthew West - YouTube](#)