

# My Lord, What a Morning!

African American Spiritual, United States, 18th or 19th Century

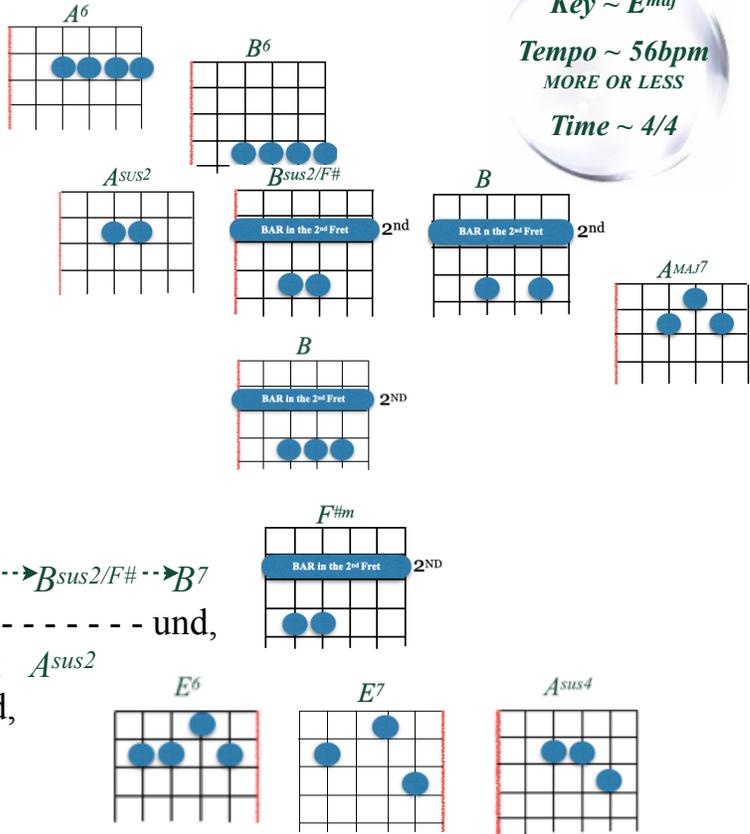
Sing along with University of Illinois Varsity Men's Glee Club directed by Dr. Barrington

Coleman @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkF2VYyouj0>



## CHORUS

HO  
 E A<sup>6</sup> B<sup>6</sup> E  
 My Lord, what a morning!  
 E A<sup>sus2</sup> A B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> B<sup>7</sup>  
 My Lord, what a morning!  
 E<sup>7</sup> A<sup>sus2</sup> A<sup>MAJ7</sup>  
 My Lord, what a mor - ning,  
 A E B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> B E  
 When the stars begin to fall.



HO  
 E B<sup>6</sup> A<sup>6</sup> E  
 You'll hear the trumpet sound,  
 A F<sup>#m</sup> B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> → B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> → B<sup>7</sup>  
 To make the nations undergro - - - - - und,  
 E E<sup>6</sup> E<sup>7</sup> A<sup>sus4</sup> A A<sup>sus2</sup>  
 Look into my God's right ha - - nd,  
 E B A<sup>sus2</sup> E  
 When the stars begin to fall.

## CHORUS

HO  
 E B<sup>6</sup> A<sup>6</sup> E  
 You'll hear the sinners mourn,  
 A F<sup>#m</sup> B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> → B<sup>sus2/F#</sup> → B<sup>7</sup>  
 To wake the nations undergro - - - - - und,  
 E E<sup>6</sup> E<sup>7</sup> A<sup>sus4</sup> A A<sup>sus2</sup>  
 Look into my God's right ha - - nd,  
 E B A<sup>sus2</sup> E  
 When the stars begin to fall.

You know what will befall  
your performance if you play  
upon a **reddened** string.

## CHORUS

## *Scripture and History*

**Matthew 24:29-31** “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



The 1790 Census of the United States reported more than 750,000 blacks. The musical expressions of the majority of this black people group—those enslaved in the South—greatly influenced American religious and secular musical forms.

The majority of African Americans embraced Christianity. As a result, they created and performed songs, particularly the spiritual, that had a lasting influence on Christian worship.

The first reference to spirituals as a distinctive genre appeared early in the nineteenth century. Many scholars believe, however, that the spiritual originated in the late eighteenth century.

It is not known precisely when the term spiritual began to be applied to black religious folksongs. Since the editors of *Slave Songs of the United States*, 1867 did not define the term in their compilation, it must have been in common use by 1860.

Improvisation was crucial in the creation of a spiritual and was most likely fashioned by combining verses from the Bible and hymns with portions of sermons and prayers given during the worship services of these enslaved Americans. Such religious expressions were embellished, and repetitive refrains were added.

“**My Lord, What a Morning!**” for example, was essentially re-created using the improvisational process from the hymn “Behold the Awful Trumpet Sounds.”

*Source: christianhistoryinstitute.org & find “Behold the Awful Trumpet Sounds” at hymnary.org*

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us63LzGibUM> for an alternative and stirring version of this hymn by the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir.