

The Lord, On Our Side

Douglas Yates — inspired by Psalm 124 • Key: Eb major • 126 BPM • 4/4

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INTRO (LOW, COILED — DRY FUNK-ROCK CHANK, NO DRUMS)

Fm Eb Cm Eb Gm
If it had not been the Lord... (now let Israel say)

Eb Dm Eb Fm Eb
if it had not been the Lord on our side —

Fm Eb Fm
say it low, say it low...

VERSE 1 (BARITONE CROON, SYNCOPATED, IF/THEN DESCENT)

Eb Bb Eb Gm Cm
If it had not been the Lord — now let Israel say —

Eb Eb C# Eb Gm
if it had not been the Lord when the men came our way,

Gm C# Cm Fm Gm
then they'd have swallowed us quick with the wrath running hot,

Fm Cm Fm Gm
taken all that we were, taken all that we'd got.

Cm Eb Bb Bb Gm
There was blood on the teeth, there was death in the deep —

Fm Eb Eb Cm Gm
had He not stood beside us, we were theirs to keep.

PRE-CHORUS (HALF-TIME PUSH, TENSION WINDING UP)

Cm Fm Eb Gm Cm
We should not be standing, we should not draw breath —

Fm Eb Gm Cm Cm
one step from the swallowing, one inch from the death —

Eb Fm Eb
but He would not leave our side...

CHORUS (DETONATE — DEFIANT, SOARING, GANG-SHOUT)

Eb Cm Cm Eb
But the Lord was on our side! (on our side!)

Fm Eb Fm Cm
 The Lord was on our side! (on our side!)
 Fm Eb Cm Eb
 When the proud waters rose up to take us whole,
 Fm Eb Fm
 He would not give the soul —
 Bb Eb Bb Eb
 no, the snare is broken and we're alive, we're alive,
 Bb Fm Gm Fm
 'cause the Lord, the Lord was on our side!

VERSE 2 (MENACE RETURNS — THE PROUD WATERS)

Cm Bb Cm Fm
 Then the waters came climbing, and they came up proud,
 Bb Bb Cm Cm
 a black rolling current with no bottom and no ground.
 Cm Cm Eb Eb Eb
 Then the proud waters rose till they went over the soul,
 Cm Cm Cm
 took us down, took us under, took hold.
 Gm Gm Cm Cm Bb
 But blessed be the Lord in the height of the flood —
 Fm C# Cm Eb
 He reached in the current and He pulled us up.

PRE-CHORUS

Cm Eb Eb Cm Cm
 We should not be standing, we should not draw breath —
 Cm Eb Fm Eb Fm
 one step from the swallowing, one inch from the death —
 Gm Eb Eb
 but He would not leave our side...

CHORUS

Fm Eb Eb Eb
 But the Lord was on our side! (on our side!)
 Fm Bb C# Cm
 The Lord was on our side! (on our side!)

Fm **Eb** **Bb** **Cm**
 When the proud waters rose up to take us whole,
Bb **Eb** **Gm**
 He would not give the soul —
Cm **Eb** **Eb** **Eb**
 no, the snare is broken and we're alive, we're alive,
Eb **Eb** **Cm** **Cm**
 'cause the Lord, the Lord was on our side!

RIFF / BREAK (DIRTY SYNCOPATED RIFF, HARMONICA BITE, GANG-SHOUT)

Cm **Eb** **Eb**
 Tear the net! (tear it down!)
Bb **Eb** **Bb**
 Break the snare! (break it now!)
Eb **Eb** **Eb**
 Tear the net! (tear it down!)
Eb **Cm**
 Break the snare!

BREAKDOWN (STRIP TO BARE BASS + BLUESY HARMONICA, WHISPER-BUILD, THEN SNAP AND SLAM)

Eb **Eb** **Bb**
 Like a bird in the fowler's snare —
Eb **Cm** **Cm**
 caught in the wire, hanging there...
Fm **Eb** **Cm** **Eb**
 Blessed be the Lord (blessed be the Lord) —
Gm **Eb** **Dm**
 He did not give us to their teeth.
Eb **Fm** **Eb** **Fm**
 Blessed be the Lord (blessed be the Lord) —
Eb **Fm** **Eb** **Bb**
 not for a prey, not for the grave to keep.
Eb **Gm** **Cm** **Eb** **Eb**
 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...
C# **Eb** **Gm** **Gm**
 tell me where would we be? — swallowed alive.

C# Cm
Then — SNAP —

Fm Gm Fm
the snare is broken! (the snare is broken!)

Cm Fm
and we are escaped!

FINAL CHORUS (BIGGEST — FULL BAND SLAMS BACK, DOUBLED)

Gm Cm Eb Bb
But the Lord was on our side! (on our side!)

Bb Gm Fm Eb
The Lord was on our side! (on our side!)

Eb Cm Gm Cm
When the proud waters rose up to take us whole,

Fm Eb Gm
He would not give the soul —

Cm Fm Eb Gm
the snare is broken and we're alive, we're alive,

Cm Cm Eb Fm
'cause the Lord, the Lord was on our side!

Eb Eb Cm Cm Eb
No going back to the deep, no going back to the snare —

Fm Eb Fm
we rise, we fly, through the wide-open air,

Cm Fm Eb Cm
and the Lord, the Lord was on our side!

OUTRO (THE CONFESSION OVER A COILED RIFF, THEN CHANK CUTS DEAD)

Eb Fm Eb Fm Bb
Our help is in the name of the Lord — (the name, the name)

Eb Bb Eb Bb
the One who made the heaven and the earth.

Fm Gm Fm Cm
Our help is in the name of the Lord...

Bb Cm Fm Bb
now let Israel say it, let the ransomed say it:

Bb Cm Cm
the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Cm **Cm** **Eb** **Eb**
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Eb **Cm**
(chank cuts dead)