

## Rick Lee James



### **Thunder** Track by Track

**Thunder** [Lowell Alexander, Phil Naish, Rich Mullins [CCLI Song Number: 7098409 © 2011]]

Thunder is a song that Rich Mullins wrote in the 1970's for his Cincinnati based band, Zion. For whatever reason, Rich never recorded it himself. After Rich went to be with the Lord, his friends and co-writers Lowell Alexander and Phil Naish rewrote parts of the verses and arranged the song into something new and fresh. It was a fun challenge to work on a Rich Mullins song that had never been covered before. With the imagery in the chorus of Jesus clearing the temple, I knew it would be a great way to set the tone for the rest of the album since I hope that the songs would break the mold a bit for the contemporary worship music genre.

**Whom Have I In Heaven But You** (Psalm 73) [CCLI Song Number: 6011961 © 2013 Rick Lee James]

This song originally appeared on my live album, Basement Psalms a few years ago. Psalm 73 is a Psalm that I think all of us can relate to. The Psalmist sees wicked people thriving and gaining more power, while he, a righteous man, is being mocked and broken downtime and again. At the end of his rope, the Psalmist nearly falls away from following God, but a trip into the house of the Lord and a fresh revelation of who God is changes everything. The Psalmist rejoices that the nearness of the Lord is truly his good. What a glorious proclamation of the goodness of God. I wanted to really make this song rock. The musical highlight for me is the Hammond B3 played by Anthony Hoisington and the powerful electric guitar of Jeremy Thompson.

**Glory To God The Trinity** (Trinity Hymn) [CCLI Song Number: 7113858 Rick Lee James 2017]

I have a hard time finding hymns dealing with the theology of the Trinity, so I decided to write one. I don't know why but I've always felt drawn to Celtic music and that

really comes out in this song. I hope this hymn on the Trinity will find a place among congregations who want to be intentional in their proclamation that the God of the Bible is the God we see revealed in the Holy Trinity. Too many times I think we have turned Jesus into an idol because we haven't worshiped him in a Trinitarian context. May God help us as we dive together into this sacred mystery of the faith. A fun musical highlight on this track for me was playing a harmonized acoustic guitar solo in two parts. I would love to re-create it live one day in a worship service with a second guitar soloist. If you play, have fun with this one.

**The Lord Is Our Shepherd** (CCLI Song Number: 7113860 Rick Lee James 2017)

This is without a doubt the most difficult song on the album for me. One miscarriage seemed more than our family could bear. After four miscarriages, our hearts have been so wounded that I wonder if they will ever heal. My beautiful wife has endured more emotional pain than anyone ever should. After one of the miscarriages we experienced, when once again our child's heartbeat couldn't be found, I remember just holding my wife in the hospital bed and praying Psalm 23, "The Lord is My Shepherd". We prayed that prayer in spite of how we felt. I still pray it daily in the hope that at the resurrection, the renewal of all things when Christ returns, that we will someday meet and hold these babies that we lost. Musically this song is sparse. In the studio I played the piano and sang the vocals, but mostly I wept. I have to tell you that Chris Hoisington really became more than a producer for me in these personal moments. He sat with me, cried with me, and prayed with me throughout the process. As believers we will have grief, we will have hurt, we will have terrible struggles, but in Christ we also have a Savior who draws near and suffers with us. This song is our very personal story, and I hope it will help others to come out of the shadows and embrace their own pain. Only broken people will ultimately find healing.

# LYRICS



**Stay** (CCLI Song Number: 7113862 Rick Lee James 2017)  
This is one of my favorite songs on the album too. I wrote it hoping to have a song for the close of a worship service when the emphasis was waiting on the Lord. We are in such a rush in our society, but I don't think true transformation happens without waiting. We need quiet moments, we need time not just to talk to God, but to listen as well. It was a stretch for me, but also a lot of fun, to play jazzy pi-

ano riffs with Paul Mitro on Drums and Jeremy Thompson on electric guitar. Together I think we made a decent little trio. What a blessing to make music with brothers who believe the truth being conveyed in these songs. I feel like this one just turned out beautifully.

ATTN Media: For Rick Lee James press photos and additional press materials, go to: [www.RickLeeJames.com/Thunder](http://www.RickLeeJames.com/Thunder)

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## THUNDER: ALBUM LYRICS

### Thunder

Lowell Alexander, Phil Naish, Rich Mullins CCLI Song Number: 7098409 © 2011

You walked in when the prophets had grown tired  
Of being so inspired but rarely being heard  
Coming on to a world confused and scattered  
The silence was shattered by the power of the Word

### Chorus

It sounded like thunder when you cleared the temple  
Sounded like thunder sometimes when you prayed  
Incredible wonder when the veil was torn in glory  
It sounded like thunder when the stone was rolled away

### Verse

You spoke truth, You sat among the people  
They listened in amazement at all the things You said Like a  
storm that rose above the quiet  
The sound of Your love was enough to raise the dead

### Chorus

It sounded like thunder when you cleared the temple  
Sounded like thunder sometimes when you prayed

Incredible wonder when the veil was torn in glory  
It sounded like thunder when the stone was rolled away

### Bridge

When I think about You giving and loving and crying  
And suffering our pain  
When I think about You living and dying and rising  
My tears fall like rain

### Chorus

It sounded like thunder when you cleared the temple  
Sounded like thunder sometimes when you prayed  
Incredible wonder when the veil was torn in glory  
It sounded like thunder when the stone was rolled away

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# LYRICS



## Whom Have I In Heaven But You (Psalm 73)

### Verse 1

I had nearly fallen away. My feet had almost stumbled  
The wicked seem to have no shame. Their hearts are never  
humbled  
Their bodies are sound, their pockets are full. They scoff at  
the righteous ones  
They say You don't know. They say You can't see But where  
else could I go?

### Chorus

Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart forever.  
Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart  
forever.

### Verse 2

I walked into the house of the Lord trying to understand  
The bitterness in my soul had made me a foolish man  
But You didn't scorn. You held my hand, You led me home  
again.  
You are the shelter the world hasn't seen I'll tell everyone  
I can

### Chorus

Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart  
forever.  
Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart  
forever.

### Bridge

Your nearness is my good. Your nearness in my good.  
Truly good, You're truly good.

### Chorus

Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart  
forever.  
Whom have I in heaven but You? There's nothing on the  
earth I desire more?  
My flesh may fail but You are the strength of my heart  
forever.

### Ending

Your nearness is my, Nearness is my, Nearness is my good.  
Your nearness is my, Nearness is my, Nearness is my good.  
Your nearness is my, Nearness is my, Nearness is my good.  
Your nearness is my, Nearness is my, Nearness is my good.

Your nearness in my good, Your nearness in my good.

CCLI Song # 6011961

Rick Lee James

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