

DYLAN AND THE BIBLE 1962-2012

A Compendium of Biblical References in the Songs of Bob Dylan
Compiled by [Damian Balassone](#)



- Investigates Biblical usage in the songs of Bob Dylan, using the 2004 edition of *Lyrics 1962-2001* and the official website www.bobdylan.com.
- Examines Dylan's songs in order of composition, detailing all likely Biblical references. Each lyric quoted has the corresponding Biblical passage succeeding it. Except for extremely long passages, each reference quotes the pertinent material from both the Bible and Dylan.
- Songs are listed in chronological order, with each section dedicated to an album. Songs which do not appear on albums are listed with the album that is closest to the date preceding their composition.
- I have quoted mainly from the New International Version (NIV). However, in some cases the King James Version (KJV) is used.
- The lyrics to most of these songs are found in *Lyrics 1962-2001* and/or www.bobdylan.com. There are a handful of songs that do not appear in either *Lyrics* or on the official website. In such cases the lyrics are derived from the excellent website www.dylanchords.info.
- As Dylan is primarily a songwriter, this project is devoted exclusively to his songs. Therefore poems, prose, memoirs, interviews, liner notes, etc, are not included.
- For any corrections/suggestions please contact damian.balassone@gmail.com

BOB DYLAN (1962)

Song	Let Me Die in My Footsteps
Lyric	There's been rumors of war and wars that have been
Source	<i>You will hear of wars and rumors of wars (Matthew 24:6, also Mark 13:7)</i>

Song	Long Ago, Far Away
Lyric	To preach of peace and brotherhood Oh, what might be the cost! A man he did it long ago And they hung him on a cross
Source	An obvious reference to the death of Christ by crucifixion. See Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19.

Song	Long Time Gone
Lyric	But I know I ain't no prophet An' I ain't no prophet's son
Source	<i>Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son..." (Amos 7:14)</i>

Song	I'd Hate to Be You on That Dreadful Day
Lyric	I'd Hate to Be You on That Dreadful Day
Source	<i>The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Joel 2:31, also Malachi 4:5)</i>

Song	I'd Hate to Be You on That Dreadful Day
Lyric	Well, your clock is gonna stop At Saint Peter's gate
Source	In Matthew, Jesus entrusts Peter with the keys to the kingdom. Hence, Peter is traditionally thought of as being the character one would encounter when standing before the gates of heaven. <i>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven... (Matthew 16:19)</i>

Song	All Over You
Lyric	Little David when he picked up his pebbles
Source	A reference to the stones that twelve year old David picked from the streams which he used to slay the giant Goliath. <i>Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand,</i>

| *approached the Philistine* (1 Samuel 17:40) |

Song	All Over You
Lyric	Even Sampson after he went blind
Source	Judges 16:20-30 tells how Samson, bound and gouged, took revenge on the Philistines by pushing with all his might against the two central pillars on which the temple stood. The temple collapsed and Samson died along with many Philistines.

Song	Talking Devil
Lyric	Well sometimes you can't see him so good When he hides his head neath a snow white hood
Source	This sounds like a loose rephrasing of 2 Corinthians where Paul warns of Satan's ability to masquerade as an angel of light. <i>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.</i> (2 Corinthians 11:14)

THE FREEWHEELIN' BOB DYLAN (1963)

Song	Masters of War
Lyric	Like Judas of old You lie and deceive
Source	Judas was the disciple who betrayed Christ. See Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 18.

Song	Masters of War
Lyric	Even Jesus would never Forgive what you do
Source	Dylan uses Jesus purely for effect here. The overriding message of the New Testament is that Jesus forgives those who repent and confess. The masters of war must be quite wicked if not even Jesus will forgive them.

Song	Masters of War
Lyric	All the money you made Will never buy back your soul
Source	<i>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?</i> (Matthew 16:26)

Song	Talkin' World War III Blues
Lyric	Let's go and play Adam and Eve
Source	A comical allusion to Adam and Eve who populated the earth. See Genesis 1-3.

Song	Whatcha Gonna Do
Lyric	Tell me what you're gonna do When the shadow comes under your door?
Source	Perhaps a reference to Exodus 11-12 when the Angel of Death, struck down all the firstborn in Egypt – unless the blood of a lamb was painted on their doors.

Song	Whatcha Gonna Do
Lyric	Tell me what you're gonna do When your water turns to wine
Source	Jesus turned water to wine at the wedding in Cana, though it's unclear in what context Dylan is using the image here. <i>And the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine</i> (John 2:9)

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' (1963)

Song	The Times They Are A-Changin'
Lyric	And the first one now Will later be last
Source	<i>But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first</i> (Matthew 19:30, also Luke 13:30; Mark 10:31; Numbers 24:20)

Song	With God on Our Side
Lyric	In a many dark hour I've been thinkin' about this That Jesus Christ Was betrayed by a kiss But I can't think for you You'll have to decide Whether Judas Iscariot Had God on his side
Source	Dylan is asking the question rather cheekily whether Judas' betrayal of Christ was part of God's overall plan. <i>He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"</i> (Luke 22:47-48, also Matthew 26:48-49; Mark 14:44-45)

Song	When the Ship Comes In
Lyric	Oh the time will come up When the winds will stop And the breeze will cease to be breathin'
Source	<i>After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.</i> (Revelation 7:1)

Song	When the Ship Comes In
Lyric	But we'll shout from the bow your days are numbered
Source	The phrase "days are numbered" originates from Daniel after he interpreted the writing on the wall for Belshazzar. <i>God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end</i> (Daniel 5:26, see also Psalm 90:12)

Song	When the Ship Comes In
Lyric	And like Pharaoh's tribe

	They'll be drowned in the tide
Source	A reference to Exodus 14:21-29 where Pharaoh and his army were drowned whilst pursuing the Israelites across the Red Sea.

Song	When the Ship Comes In
Lyric	And like Goliath, they'll be conquered
Source	A reference to 1 Samuel 17 where the giant Goliath was slain by David. <i>Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.</i> (1 Samuel 17:49-50)

ANOTHER SIDE OF BOB DYLAN (1964)

Song	I Shall Be Free No. 10
Lyric	The streets in heaven are lined with gold
Source	This is in line with John's description of the New Jerusalem, though Dylan is probably just rehashing a line from Gospel Plow (a song covered on his first album). <i>The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass</i> (Revelation 21:21)

Song	To Ramona
Lyric	And there's no use in tryin' T' deal with the dyin' Though I cannot explain that in lines
Source	Dylan says he can't explain it but I think he's alluding to Matthew 8:21-22. <i>Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."</i> (Matthew 8:21-22, also Luke 9:60)

Song	Ballad in Plain D
Lyric	Of the two sisters, I loved the young
Source	Reminds of Genesis 29:1-30 where Jacob loved Rachel but had to marry her older sister Leah first.

BRINGING IT ALL BACK HOME (1965)

Song	Love Minus Zero/No Limit
Lyric	Expecting all the gifts that wise men bring
Source	The “wise men” of the gospels followed the Star of Bethlehem in order to present gifts to the newborn Jesus. <i>And when they [the Wise men] were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11 KJV)</i>

Song	Bob Dylan’s 115th Dream
Lyric	You know they refused Jesus, too
Source	A reference to the ultimate rejection of Christ by mankind. <i>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him (John 1:11)</i>

Song	Gates of Eden
Lyric	Title and subsequent refrain
Source	After Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden its entrance was guarded by cherubim and a flaming sword. <i>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:23-24)</i>

Song	Gates of Eden
Lyric	All except when 'neath the trees of Eden
Source	The trees in question here could be the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. See Genesis 2:9, 15-17; 3:23-24.

Song	Gates of Eden
Lyric	Side saddle on the Golden Calf
Source	The Golden Calf was the idol the Israelites worshipped while Moses was up on the mountain conversing with God. See Exodus 32.

Song	It’s Alright, Ma (I’m Only Bleeding)
Lyric	He not busy being born Is busy dying.
Source	Once again the phrase here seems to be loosely based on Matthew 8:21-22. See also To Ramona.

Song	It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)
Lyric	While one who sings with his tongue on fire
Source	The phrase "tongues of fire" originates from Acts 2. It was the miraculous gift granted to some early Christians, a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. <i>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:3-4)</i>

Song	It's All Over Now, Baby Blue
Lyric	Forget the dead you've left, they will not follow you
Source	<i>Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." (Matthew 8:21-22, Luke 9:60)</i>

Song	Love Is Just a Four Letter Word
Lyric	The Holy Kiss that's supposed to last eternity
Source	The phrase "Holy Kiss" appears 4 times on the New Testament. Interestingly, Dylan uses the phrase in capitals. <i>Greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16)</i>

HIGHWAY 61 REVISTED (1965)

Song	Tombstone Blues
Lyric	To Jezebel the nun she violently knits
Source	Jezebel was the wicked princess from Sidon who married Ahab, king of Israel. She worshipped idols and persecuted prophets. In particular she desired to kill Elijah who had defeated the prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel. Eventually she met a violent death as predicted by Elijah. Her mention as a nun here is sarcastic. See 1 Kings 16-19; 2 Kings 9:30-37.

Song	Tombstone Blues
Lyric	Well, John the Baptist after torturing a thief
Source	John the Baptist was the prophet who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. What exactly Dylan is trying to say here is anyone's guess, but it obviously has a comical tone. See Matthew 3; 11; 14; Mark 1; 6; Luke 1; 3; 7; John 1; 3.

Song	Tombstone Blues
Lyric	The king of the Philistines his soldiers to save Puts jawbones on their tombstones and flatters their graves
Source	A reference here to the Philistines who were slaughtered by Samson with a donkey's jaw-bone. <i>With a donkey's jawbone I have made donkeys of them. With a donkey's jawbone I have killed a thousand men</i> (Judges 15:14-17)

Song	Tombstone Blues
Lyric	At Delilah who sits worthlessly alone
Source	Delilah was the object of Samson's affection. Eventually she learnt the secret of his strength and betrayed him to the Philistines. See Judges 16

Song	Tombstone Blues
Lyric	I would set him in chains at the top of the hill Then send out for some pillars and Cecil B. DeMille
Source	Cecil B. DeMille directed the film "Samson and Delilah" (1949) which is based on the story from Judges. Judges 16:20-30 tells how Samson, in chains and with eyes gouged, took revenge on the Philistines by pushing with all his might against the two central pillars on which the temple stood. The temple collapsed and Samson died alongside many Philistines.

Song	Queen Jane Approximately
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Lyric	Now when all the bandits that you turned your other cheek to
Source	<i>If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also</i> (Matthews 5:39)

Song	Highway 61 Revisited
Lyric	Oh God said to Abraham, "Kill me a son"
Source	In Genesis, Abraham is tested by God and asked to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering. <i>Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering ..."</i> (Genesis 22:2)

Song	Desolation Row
Lyric	All except for Cain and Abel
Source	Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Cain killed Abel because God preferred Abel's offering to his, see Genesis 4:1-18.

Song	Desolation Row
Lyric	And the Good Samaritan, he's dressing
Source	The Parable of the Good Samaritan is told by Jesus in Luke 10:25-37.

Song	Desolation Row
Lyric	And though her eyes are fixed upon Noah's great rainbow
Source	After the flood, God creates a rainbow, which symbolises the promise that he would never destroy life on earth via a flood again. <i>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth...Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life</i> (Genesis 9:13-15)

BLONDE ON BLONDE (1966)

Song	Rainy Day Women # 12 & 35
Lyric	Title
Source	<i>A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day (Proverbs 27:15)</i>

Song	Rainy Day Women # 12 & 35
Lyric	Well, they'll stone ya when you're trying to be so good
Source	Could be an allusion to the Biblical custom of stoning alleged blasphemers. Prophets had been stoned previously (Matthew 23:37) and Christ himself narrowly avoided being stoned (John 8:59). Stephen became the Church's first martyr via stoning (Acts 7:54-60). Is Dylan comparing the criticism he is receiving for going electric to those prophets and disciples who were unjustly stoned?

Song	Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again
Lyric	Just drink up your blood like wine
Source	Perhaps an allusion to the Eucharist. <i>Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 26:27-28)</i>

Song	Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again
Lyric	Handing out free tickets To the wedding of his son
Source	Parallel this with "The Parable of the Wedding Banquet" in Matthew 22:1-14 where a king prepared a wedding for his son but none of the invitees attended. In order to fill the wedding hall, he allowed people off the street to attend. One of these guests was not wearing appropriate clothing and was banished from the function.

Song	Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands
Lyric	Where the sad-eyed prophet says that no man comes
Source	Though this evokes Old Testament imagery it is nonetheless hard to pinpoint a specific reference. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet (see Jeremiah 8:21-9:1 and 13:17) and perhaps he is the prophet Dylan had in mind. The second part of this line "no man comes" recalls the gospel of John <i>Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6 KJV)</i>

Song	Sad-Eyed Lady of the Lowlands
Lyric	The kings of Tyrus with their convict list
	This evokes Ezekiel 28:12-19 (KJV) which is a lamentation against the king of Tyrus. The passage is thought by many scholars to be a prophecy about the fall of Satan. See verse 13 “you were in Eden” and verse 14 “you were anointed as a guardian cherub”. In the context of this song I think Dylan is using the image to describe the improper motives of alternate suitors of this sad-eyed lady that he is so besotted with (“but who among them really wants just to kiss you?”).
Source	<i>Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus (Ezekiel 28:12 KJV)</i>

THE BASEMENT TAPES (1967)

Song	Too Much of Nothing
Lyric	Now, it's all been done before It's all been written in the book
Source	<i>What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9)</i>

Song	Open the Door, Homer
Lyric	If we expect to live off the fat of the land
Source	The phrase "fat of the land" originates from Genesis. <i>I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land. (Genesis 45:18)</i>

Song	Open the Door, Homer
Lyric	And remember when you're out there Tryin' to heal the sick That you must always First forgive them.
Source	Christ did not just heal the sick he also forgave them. Therefore a physical miracle was usually accompanied by a spiritual miracle e.g. when Jesus healed the paralytic he first forgave the man before healing him. <i>Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."</i> (Matthew 9:2)

Song	This Wheel's on Fire
Lyric	Title
Source	<i>His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze (Daniel 7:9, see also Ezekiel 10:6)</i>

Song	Sign on the Cross
Lyric	And it's that ol' sign on the cross That worries me
Source	When Christ was crucified a sign was placed above his head which read "King of the Jews". <i>And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS (John 19:19, also Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38)</i>

Song	Sign on the Cross
Lyric	Well, it's that old key to the kingdom
Source	<i>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:17)</i>

Song	Sign on the Cross
Lyric	Oh, when your, when your days are numbered
Source	The phrase “days are numbered” originates from Daniel after he interpreted the writing on the wall for Belshazzar. <i>God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end (Daniel 5:26)</i>

Song	Sign on the Cross
Lyric	You might think you're weak But I mean to say you're strong
Source	<i>For when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:10, also Joel 3:10)</i>

JOHN WESLEY HARDING (1968)

Song	John Wesley Harding
Lyric	But no charge held against him Could they prove
Source	It is well known that this album contains an abundance of Biblical allusions. Dylan himself called it the first Biblical album. The title track seems to bestow certain Christ-like qualities on John Wesley Harding. For example, this line recalls Pilate's words re Christ: <i>I find no basis for a charge against him</i> (John 18:38, 19:4, 6, Luke 23:4, 14-15, 22).

Song	As I Went Out One Morning
Lyric	Depart from me this moment
Source	<i>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity</i> (Matthew 7:23 KJV, also Matthew 25:41)

Song	I Dreamed I Saw St. Augustine
Lyric	And hear my sad complaint
Source	<i>Hear me, O God, as I voice my complaint</i> (Psalm 64:1)

Song	All Along the Watchtower
Lyric	"There must be some way out of here," said the joker to the thief
Source	Some commentators have speculated this line refers to Christ on the cross, crucified between two thieves. The gospels of Luke and Mark recount some dialogue between the three men. In verse two Dylan has the thief replying to the joker's words – this could be attributed to the thief who is sympathetic to Christ's plight. Once again, as with much discussion of Dylan's lyrics, this is highly speculative. See Matthew 27:38; also Mark 15:27, 32; Luke 23:39-44; John 19:18.

Song	All Along the Watchtower
Lyric	All along the watchtower, princes kept the view
Source	A watchtower is mentioned in Isaiah 21:5-9 KJV. Later on in this passage there is mention of two riders, princes and a lion as well. See below.

Song	All Along the Watchtower
Lyric	While all the women came and went, barefoot servants, too
Source	This could be an allusion to Isaiah 20:3 where Isaiah is described by God as "my barefoot servant". <i>Then the LORD said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has</i>

	<i>gone stripped and barefoot for three years ...” (Isaiah 20:3)</i>
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Song	All Along the Watchtower
Lyric	Outside in the distance a wildcat did growl Two riders were approaching, the wind began to howl
Source	Once again the passage from Isaiah 21:5-9 KJV has been drawn upon heavily by Dylan. The wild cat growling could refer to the presence of the lion (there is also a lion growling in Isaiah 31:4).

Song	The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest
Lyric	So when Frankie Lee needed money one day Judas quickly pulled out a roll of tens
Source	It is worth noting that Judas was in charge of the finances. See John 13:29.

Song	The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest
Lyric	"It's just my foolish pride ..."
Source	A merging of phrases from Proverbs perhaps. <i>In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride (Proverbs 14:3 KJV)</i>

Song	The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest
Lyric	And, foaming at the mouth
Source	The term “foaming at the mouth” is cited as a sign of demonic possession. <i>When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth (Mark 9:20)</i>

Song	The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest
Lyric	So when you see your neighbor carryin' somethin' Help him with his load
Source	<i>If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it (Exodus 23:5, also Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 22:4)</i>

Song	Drifter’s Escape
Lyric	My trip hasn't been a pleasant one And my time it isn't long
Source	Once again the Christ-like lines are emerging. <i>My appointed time is near (Matthew 26:18)</i>

Song	Drifter's Escape
Lyric	Outside, the crowd was stirring You could hear it from the door Inside, the judge was stepping down While the jury cried for more
Source	Parallel this to John 19:15 and Matthew 27:22-24 where the crowd and the chief priests are yelling for the crucifixion of Christ, despite Pilate's reluctance to hand him over. Finally Pilate washes his hands and hands Christ over to them to be crucified.

Song	Dear Landlord
Lyric	Now, each of us has his own special gift
Source	<i>But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that (1 Corinthians 7:7)</i>

Song	I Am a Lonesome Hobo
Lyric	But I did not trust my brother I carried him to blame Which led me to my fatal doom To wander off in shame
Source	There are similarities here to the story of Cain (see Genesis 4:1-16) who after killing his brother Abel in a jealous fit, was banished by God to another land, east of Eden, called Nod.

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	I pity the poor immigrant Who wishes he would've stayed home
Source	Interestingly, most of this song can be cross-referenced to Leviticus 26, including virtually all of verse 2 below. The title and first two lines seem to echo Exodus 16:2-3 where the Israelites, who have just escaped their slave-masters in Egypt, are now stranded in the desert and wishing they were back in Egypt – a theme that pervades much of the next three books of the Bible. <i>In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt!"</i> (Exodus 16:2-3)

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	I pity the poor immigrant Whose strength is spent in vain
Source	<i>Your strength will be spent in vain, because your soil will not yield its crops, nor will the trees of the land yield their fruit (Leviticus 26:20)</i>

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	Whose heaven is like Ironsides
Source	<i>I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze (Leviticus 26:19)</i>

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	Who eats but is not satisfied
Source	<i>You will eat, but you will not be satisfied (Leviticus 26:26 Isaiah 9:20; Micah 6:14)</i>

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	And turns his back on me
Source	Twice in the book of Jeremiah, this phrase is attributed to God. <i>They turned their backs to me and not their faces (Jeremiah 2:27, also 32:33)</i>

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	Who fills his mouth with laughing
Source	<i>He will yet fill your mouth with laughter (Job 8:21, also Psalm 126:2)</i>

Song	I Pity the Poor Immigrant
Lyric	And who builds his town with blood
Source	<i>Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed (Habakkuk 2:12, also Micah 3:10)</i>

Song	The Wicked Messenger
Lyric	Title
Source	<i>A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing (Proverbs 13:17)</i>

Song	The Wicked Messenger
Lyric	From Eli he did come
Source	See 1 Samuel 1-4. Eli was a Priest and notably the mentor of Samuel. Eli's sons were wicked and would not listen to their father. Thus God warned Eli of their fate. Upon hearing that both his sons had died in battle, Eli collapsed and died.

Song	The Wicked Messenger
Lyric	And the seas began to part

Source	Any mention of seas parting brings to mind Exodus 14:21-22 when Moses parted the sea so the Israelites could cross it and therefore escape their pursuers, the Egyptians.
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Song	The Wicked Messenger
Lyric	"If ye cannot bring good news, then don't bring any"
Source	Bad news was told by messengers to Eli in 1 Samuel 4:12-18 re the death of his sons, and also to David in 2 Samuel 18:31-33 re the death of his son Absalom. But perhaps the best fit here is from 1 Kings 22:1-28 when King Ahab of Israel was planning to fight a battle against the Syrians. He asked many prophets if he was going to win. Four hundred said "yes" – only Micaiah prophesied defeat. Ahab was angry at this answer and hence put Micaiah into prison. His prediction came true.

NASHVILLE SKYLINE (1969)

Song	To Be Alone With You
Lyric	I'll always thank the Lord
Source	Pure coincidence, but Psalm 34:1 GNT reads: <i>I will always thank the Lord.</i> Otherwise no biblical allusions on this album – clearly a thematic departure from John Wesley Harding.

NEW MORNING (1970)

Song	Day of the Locusts
Lyric	Title and chorus
Source	The plague of locusts was the 8th plague that God inflicted on Egypt, see Exodus 10. Dylan is using the imagery to express his discomfort with academia and the fickle praise they are heaping on him by awarding him a degree.

Song	Three Angels
Lyric	Three angels up above the street Each one playing a horn
Source	Angels playing horns or trumpets appear frequently in the Bible e.g. Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 8-11. Notably in Revelation 14:6 there are three angels mentioned, each with a specific message.

PLANET WAVES (1973)

Song	On a Night Like This
Lyric	Let the four winds blow
Source	In Biblical times it was thought the world was flat with four corners and that wind came from each of these four corners. Hence the phrase “four winds” appears nine times. It is usually synonymous with apocalyptic prophecy. <i>And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens</i> (Mark 13:27)

Song	Forever Young
Lyric	May God bless and keep you always
Source	<i>The LORD bless you and keep you</i> (Numbers 6:24)

Song	Forever Young
Lyric	May you always do for others And let others do for you
Source	<i>Do to others as you would have them do to you</i> (Luke 6:31, also Matthew 7:12)

Song	Forever Young
Lyric	May you build a ladder to the stars And climb on every rung
Source	An allusion to “Jacob’s Ladder” where Jacob has a dream in which he sees a ladder reaching to heaven, with the angels of God ascending and descending on it. <i>And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it</i> (Genesis 28:12)

Song	Forever Young
Lyric	May you always know the truth
Source	In John the phrase, “know the truth” is used by Christ. <i>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free</i> (John 8:32)

Song	Forever Young
Lyric	May you always be courageous Stand upright and be strong
Source	The term “strong and courageous” appears ten times in the NIV (Deuteronomy 31:6, 7, 23 and Joshua 1:6, 9, 18; 10:25; 1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 32:7) and is commonly uttered to inspire the people of Israel before

	they enter the Promised Land. The term only appears twice in the KJV, most notably when God is commanding Joshua to take over the reins from Moses who had just died. Rather the KJV uses the term “be strong and of a good courage”. The phrase “stand upright” is used three times in the KJV e.g. Psalm 20:8. <i>Only be thou strong and very courageous</i> (Joshua 1:7 KJV). <i>Be strong and of a good courage</i> (Joshua 1:6 KJV)
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Song	Wedding Song
Lyric	You breathed on me and made my life a richer one to live
Source	<i>The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being</i> (Genesis 2:7)

Song	Wedding Song
Lyric	When I was deep in poverty you taught me how to give
Source	Compare the widows offering (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4) where the widow put into the offering two copper coins – which was all she had.

Song	Wedding Song
Lyric	Eye for eye and tooth for tooth, your love cuts like a knife
Source	<i>But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...</i> (Exodus 21:23-25, also Leviticus 24:20, Deuteronomy 19:21)

BLOOD ON THE TRACKS (1974)

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	Title
Source	The title and refrain echo Isaiah 32:2 (NASB), though Isaiah 4:5-6 (RSV) has also been cited by commentators. <i>Each will be like a refuge from the wind / And a shelter from the storm</i> (Isaiah 32:2 (NASB))

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	I came in from the wilderness, a creature void of form
Source	Before God created the heavens and earth, the earth was described in this manner. <i>And the earth was without form, and void</i> (Genesis 1:2 KJV)

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	She walked up to me so gracefully and took my crown of thorns
Source	Christ had a crown of thorns placed on his head prior to his crucifixion. <i>They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head</i> (Matthew 27:28-29, also Mark 15:17; John 19:2)

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	I've heard newborn babies wailin' like a mournin' dove
Source	<i>I moaned like a mourning dove</i> (Isaiah 38:14)

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	In a little hilltop village, they gambled for my clothes
Source	An allusion to Christ who was crucified in Jerusalem – a city that was built on a hill. The following verses recount how, while Christ was being crucified, soldiers gambled for his clothes: <i>They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing</i> (Mark 15:24, also Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24; Psalm 22:16-18)

Song	Shelter from the Storm
Lyric	I offered up my innocence and got repaid with scorn
Source	Before and while Christ was on the cross, he was mocked and scorned by soldiers, chief priests, teachers of law, elders, people passing by and the robbers who were crucified with him. <i>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads... "He saved others but he can't save himself!"</i> (Matthew 27:39, 42, also Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-39; Psalm 22:7)

Song	Up to Me
Lyric	We heard the Sermon on the Mount and I knew it was too complex
Source	The Sermon on the Mount is recorded in Matthew 5-7. Some of Christ's most well-known sayings are uttered during this sermon, as well as some of his most cryptic e.g. the Beatitudes.

DESIRE (1975)

Song	Joey
Lyric	Let's blow this place to kingdom come
Source	The phrase "kingdom come" originates from the Lord's Prayer. <i>..your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven</i> (Matthew 6:10)

Song	Joey
Lyric	Sister Jacqueline and Carmela and mother Mary all did weep
Source	Reminds of John 20:11 where Mary Magdalene is weeping after the death of Christ, although Mary Magdalene is not to be confused with Mary the mother of Jesus.

Song	Joey
Lyric	He ain't dead he's just asleep
Source	Christ uttered these lines before he raised the dead girl and before he raised Lazarus (see John 11:11). As with all the Biblical allusions in this song, Dylan is cleverly using Biblical language to tell another story. <i>The girl is not dead but asleep</i> (Matthew 9:24, also Mark 5:39; Luke 8:52)

Song	Abandoned Love
Lyric	Send for Saint John the Evangelist
Source	This lyric appears in an alternate version of the song. Traditionally John the Evangelist was thought to have been the apostle of Christ, and the author of the Gospel of John, the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. Modern day scholars dispute this.

Song	What Will You Do When Jesus Comes?
Lyric	Title and refrain
Source	From the soundtrack of Renaldo and Clara, this chorus song obviously deals with the second coming; a major theme in the New Testament, particularly Revelation.

STREET LEGAL (1978)

Song	Changing of the Guards
Lyric	Where the good shepherd grieves
Source	<i>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep</i> (John 10:11)

Song	Changing of the Guards
Lyric	I've moved your mountains and marked your cards
Source	Moving mountains is usually associated with faith in the New Testament. See Matthew 17:20; 21:21; Mark 11:23; 1 Corinthians 13:2.

Song	Changing of the Guards
Lyric	But Eden is burning
Source	In Genesis 1-3, the Garden of Eden was the first dwelling place for mankind, until Adam and Eve sinned and were banished by God. See Gates of Eden.

Song	Changing of the Guards
Lyric	Peace will come / With tranquillity and splendor on the wheels of fire
Source	<i>His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze</i> (Daniel 7:9)

Song	New Pony
Lyric	I had a pony, her name was Lucifer
Source	Lucifer, which means morning star, is a name attributed to Satan. <i>How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!</i> (Isaiah 14:12 KJV)

Song	No Time to Think
Lyric	Betrayed by a kiss on a cool night of bliss
Source	<i>Jesus asked him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?</i> (Luke 22: 48)

Song	No Time to Think
Lyric	Where the lion lies down with the lamb
Source	<i>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them</i> (Isaiah 11:6)

Song	No Time to Think
Lyric	The bridge that you travel on goes to the Babylon girl / With the rose in her hair
Source	A possible reference to the whore of Babylon from Revelation 17:5 also cited by Dylan in Foot of Pride.

Song	No Time to Think
Lyric	Starlight in the East and you're finally released
Source	The Star of Bethlehem rose from the East and provided the path for the three wise men (i.e. the Magi) to find the new born Christ. <i>Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him</i> (Matthew 2:2)

Song	No Time to Think
Lyric	You can give but you cannot receive
Source	<i>It is more blessed to give than to receive</i> (Acts 20:35)

Song	Senor (Tales of Yankee Power)
Lyric	Senor, senor, do you know where we're headin'? Lincoln County Road or Armageddon?
Source	Armageddon is the predicted place of the final battle between good and evil as mentioned in Revelation. <i>Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon</i> (Revelation 16:16)

Song	Senor (Tales of Yankee Power)
Lyric	Let's overturn these tables
Source	<i>Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves</i> (Matthew 21:12, John 2:15)

Song	Where Are You Tonight? (Journey Through Dark Heat)
Lyric	I left town at dawn, with Marcel and St. John, strong men belittled by doubt
Source	Which Saint John? Either John the Baptist or John the Evangelist who is traditionally thought to be the author of the Gospel of the same name, three Epistles and Revelation (modern day scholars disagree).

Song	Where Are You Tonight? (Journey Through Dark Heat)
Lyric	There's a lion in the road, there's a demon escaped
Source	<i>There is a lion in the road ...</i> (Proverbs 26:13)

Song	Where Are You Tonight? (Journey Through Dark Heat)
Lyric	I bit into the root of forbidden fruit with the juice running down my leg
Source	The mere mention of the phrase “forbidden fruit” evokes Genesis 2-3 and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from. Funnily enough the actual term “forbidden fruit” is not mentioned there, although it is uttered in Leviticus 19:23 KJV. <i>You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die</i> (Genesis 2:16-17)

Song	Where Are You Tonight? (Journey Through Dark Heat)
Lyric	If you don't believe there's a price For this sweet paradise Remind me to show you the scars
Source	Thomas refused to believe Christ had risen unless he saw the scars on his hands. Later when Christ appears to the disciples he shows his hands to Thomas. Dylan is using the image metaphorically here. <i>Unless I see the nail marks on his hands... I will not believe it</i> (John 20:25)

SLOW TRAIN COMING (1979)

Song	Gotta Serve Somebody
Lyric	Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord But you're gonna have to serve somebody
Source	<i>No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.</i> (Matthew 6:24, also Luke 16:13)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	Precious angel, under the sun
Source	The term “under the sun” evokes the Book of Ecclesiastes, where it is stated 27 times.

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	To show me I was blinded, to show me I was gone
Source	Blindness here means that one has been shielded by the devil from the truth. <i>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God</i> (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	How weak was the foundation I was standing upon?
Source	See “The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders” in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:47-49. The wise man built his house on the rock, whereas the foolish man built his on the sand, thereby experiencing destruction when the torrent struck.

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	Now there's spiritual warfare and flesh and blood breaking down
Source	The term “spiritual warfare” perhaps has its origins in Ephesians 6:12 KJV, 2 Corinthians 10:4 KJV or even 1 Peter 2:11 KJV: <i>Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul</i> (1 Peter 2:11 KJV)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	Ya either got faith or ya got unbelief and there ain't no neutral ground
Source	<i>He who is not with me is against me</i> (Matthew 12:30, also Luke 11:23)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	The enemy is subtle, how be it we are so deceived
Source	The reference to the enemy being subtle brings to mind Genesis 3:1 KJV when the serpent deceived Eve into eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge. Also, the phrase “how be it” appears as one word “howbeit” 64 times in the KJV. <i>Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field...</i> (Genesis 3:1 KJV)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	Shine your light, shine your light on me
Source	There are innumerable references to Christ being described as a light that shines e.g. 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:14. Christ is also presented as the Light of the World in the Gospel of John. Being “too blind to see” evokes 2 Corinthians 4:4. <i>Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you</i> (Ephesians 5:14)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	Can they imagine the darkness that will fall from on high When men will beg God to kill them and they won't be able to die?
Source	<i>During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them</i> (Revelation 9:6)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	You were drawing water for your husband, you were suffering under the law
Source	The allusion to a woman drawing water for her husband brings to mind John 4 where Jesus converses with a Samaritan woman at a well (she in fact had five husbands). The mention of the law here refers to the Torah and the Law of Moses. In the New Testament the Law of Moses is superseded by the Grace of Christ. For a full understanding of this theme, the book of Romans should be consulted.

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	You never mentioned one time the Man who came and died a criminal's death
Source	An obvious allusion to Christ. See Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32.

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	What God has given to us no man can take away
Source	<i>Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy</i> (John 16:22, also Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:9)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	We are covered in blood, girl, you know our forefathers were slaves
Source	The blood of Christ purifies from sin (e.g. 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5) in much the same way that the blood of the sacrificed lamb protected the Israelites from the Angel of Death in Exodus 12:1-13. <i>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.</i> (Exodus 12:13)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	You're the queen of my flesh, girl, you're my woman, you're my delight
Source	<i>The husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife</i> (1 Corinthians 7:4)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	But there's violence in the eyes, girl, so let us not be enticed
Source	<i>But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed</i> (James 1:14)

Song	Precious Angel
Lyric	On the way out of Egypt, through Ethiopia, to the judgment hall of Christ
Source	Led by Moses, the Israelites exited Egypt (see Exodus 12:31-42). The reference to Ethiopia could be a reference to Dylan's African-American girlfriend at the time (the lady to whom this song is dedicated). Interestingly enough, Moses married an Ethiopian woman (see Numbers 12:1). As for the judgement hall of Christ, see below: <i>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ</i> (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Song	I Believe in You
Lyric	They'd like to drive me from this town
Source	Compare Luke 4:28-29 where Jesus was driven out of the town of Nazareth after speaking in the synagogue. <i>All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of town ...</i> (Luke 4:28-29)

Song	I Believe in You
Lyric	Where I will always be renewed
Source	Being inwardly renewed is a common theme in the epistles of Paul, see Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 4:23. <i>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind</i> (Romans

	12:2)
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Song	I Believe in You
Lyric	Keep me set apart
Source	The expression “set apart” is used numerous times in the Bible: <i>Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations</i> (Jeremiah 1:5)

Song	I Believe in You
Lyric	I know I will sustain
Source	<i>Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you</i> (Psalm 55:22)

Song	Slow Train
Lyric	Are they lost or are they found
Source	This line recalls several parables of Christ from Luke 15 i.e. the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son. They illustrate how there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents. <i>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and now is found</i> (Luke 15:32)

Song	Slow Train
Lyric	Have they counted the cost it'll take to bring down
Source	In Luke, Christ talks about the cost of being a disciple and likens it to someone building a tower and estimating the cost of completing it. If the tower is not finished that person will be subject to ridicule. <i>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it</i> (Luke 14:28 NKJV)

Song	Slow Train
Lyric	But the enemy I see Wears a cloak of decency
Source	2 Corinthians mention Satan’s ability to pass himself off as a man of peace. See also Man of Peace. <i>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light</i> (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Song	Slow Train
Lyric	All non-believers and men stealers talkin' in the name of religion
Source	In 1 Timothy 1:10 KJV “men stealers” are identified as lawbreakers. <i>For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers,</i>

	<i>for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine (1 Timothy 1:10 KJV)</i>
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Song	Slow Train
Lyric	They say lose your inhibitions Follow your own ambitions
Source	Selfish ambition is identified by Paul an act of the sinful nature. See Galatians 5:20. This trait is also condemned in Philippians 1:17; 2:3; James 3:14, 16.

Song	Slow Train
Lyric	They talk about a life of brotherly love, show me someone who knows how to live it
Source	The term “brotherly love” is used by Paul in Romans and 1 Thessalonians. <i>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Romans 12:10)</i>

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	Sons becoming husbands to their mothers And old men turning young daughters into whores
Source	In 1 Corinthians 5:1 Paul states his disgust at the sexual immorality of the Corinthians. One particular member of that community was having relations with his father’s wife.

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	Stripes on your shoulders Stripes on your back and on your hands
Source	The image here is of someone suffering. The gospels detail the floggings Christ received e.g. John 19:1; Mark 15:15; Matthew 27:26; also see Isaiah 53:5.

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	Swords piercing your side Blood and water flowing through the land
Source	An allusion to John 19:34. See also 1 John 5:6, 8. This was prophesied in Isaiah 53:5 and Zechariah 12:10. <i>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water (John 19:34)</i>

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	You remember only about the brass ring You forget all about the golden rule

Source	The brass ring mentioned here may symbolise Mosaic Law. Exodus 27:4 tells us that the altar for a burnt offering required a brass ring in each of its four corners. The golden rule (Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31) is said by Christ to sum up the entire Law and the Prophets (i.e. the Old Testament). Dylan is perhaps aiming this line at those who seek redemption through the law rather than through Christ. <i>Do to others as you would have them do to you</i> (Luke 6:31)
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Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	But there's only one authority And that's the authority on high
Source	See Romans. The expression "on high" is found countless times in the Bible. <i>Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established</i> (Romans 13:1, also Matthew 28:18; John 5:27)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	I got a God-fearing woman
Source	<i>Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised</i> (Proverbs 31:30)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	She can walk in the spirit of the Lord
Source	Galatians 5:16, 25 KJV talk about the importance of walking in the Spirit. <i>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit</i> (Galatians 5:25 KJV)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	Jesus said, "Be ready For you know not the hour in which I come"
Source	<i>Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come</i> (Matthew 24:42 KJV, see also Matthew 25:13; Luke 12:40; Mark 13:32)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	He said, "He who is not for Me is against Me"
Source	<i>He that is not with me is against me</i> (Matthew 12:30 KJV, also Luke 11:23)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	There's a kingdom called Heaven A place where there is no pain of birth
Source	After the fall of man God punished the female gender by increasing their pain

	during childbearing (see Genesis 3:16). Such pain would not exist in heaven. Also note the new heaven of Revelation 21:4 where it is stated that there will be no pain.
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Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking
Lyric	Well the Lord created it, mister About the same time He made the earth
Source	<i>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth</i> (Genesis 1:1 KJV)

Song	Gonna Change My Way of Thinking (alternate version 2003)
Lyric	Jesus is calling, He's coming back to gather up his jewels We living by the golden rule, whoever got the gold rules
Source	The golden rule is stated in Luke 6:31; also Matthew 7:12. See entry above.

Song	Do Right to Me Baby (Do Unto Others)
Lyric	Don't wanna judge nobody, don't wanna be judged
Source	<i>Do not judge, or you too will be judged</i> (Matthew 7:1, also Luke 6:37)

Song	Do Right to Me Baby (Do Unto Others)
Lyric	But if you do right to me, baby I'll do right to you, too Ya got to do unto others Like you'd have them, like you'd have them, do unto you
Source	Dylan's hip way of rephrasing the golden rule. <i>Do to others as you would have them do to you</i> (Luke 6:31, also Matthew 7:12)

Song	Do Right to Me Baby (Do Unto Others)
Lyric	Don't wanna wink at nobody, don't wanna be winked at
Source	Winking is not a desirable action in the Old Testament. See Psalm 35:19; Proverbs 6:13; 10:10; 16:30. <i>He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity</i> (Proverbs 6:13)

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	God don't make no promises that He don't keep
Source	God keeping promises is a strong Biblical theme e.g. Joshua 23:14. <i>...not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled</i> (Joshua 23:14, also Romans 15:8; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Titus 1:2)

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	When you gonna wake up and strengthen the things that remain?
Source	<i>Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God (Revelation 3:2 KJV)</i>

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	Counterfeit philosophies have polluted all of your thoughts
Source	<i>Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit (Colossians 2:8 KJV)</i>

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	Adulterers in churches and pornography in the schools You got gangsters in power and lawbreakers making rules
Source	In the epistle 1 Timothy lawbreakers, adulterers and perverts are mentioned. <i>We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts (1 Timothy 1:8-10)</i>

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	You can't take it with you
Source	<i>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Timothy 6:7)</i>

Song	When You Gonna Wake Up?
Lyric	There's a man on a cross and he's been crucified for you
Source	An obvious reference to the death of Christ. See Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19.

Song	Man Gave Names to All the Animals
Lyric	Man gave names to all the animals
Source	<i>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field (Genesis 2:19-20)</i>

Song	Man Gave Names to All the Animals
Lyric	In the beginning, in the beginning
Source	<i>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)</i>

Song	Man Gave Names to All the Animals
Lyric	He saw an animal as smooth as glass Slithering his way through the grass Saw him disappear by a tree near a lake . . .
Source	Dylan deliberately leaves out the last line here but the implication is obvious. With the creature disappearing by a tree near a lake we can't help but think of the cunning snake from Genesis 3.

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	The iron hand it ain't no match for the iron rod
Source	A reference to Christ and his eventual reign. <i>And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron</i> (Revelation 12:5 KJV, also 19:15 KJV; Psalms 2:9 KJV)

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	The strongest wall will crumble and fall to a mighty God
Source	Recalls Joshua 6:1-21 where the walls that surrounded Jericho collapsed after the Israelites marched around it seven times. The term "mighty God" brings the passage Isaiah 9:6 KJV to mind. The term occurs 9 times in the KJV. <i>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace</i> (Isaiah 9:6 KJV)

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	For like a thief in the night, He'll replace wrong with right
Source	<i>For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night</i> (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 1 Peter 3:10, Matthew 24:42-44)

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	Truth is an arrow and the gate is narrow that it passes through
Source	<i>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it</i> (Matthew 7:14, also Luke 13:24)

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	He unleashed His power at an unknown hour that no one knew
Source	<i>No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father</i> (Matthew 24:36; 25:13; Mark 13:32)

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	Surrender your crown on this blood-stained ground, take off your mask
Source	The surrendering of crowns evokes Revelation 4:10 KJV where the 24 elders do such. The blood-stained ground evokes Genesis 4:10 after Cain killed Abel. <i>The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne (Revelation 4:10). The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground (Genesis 4:10)</i>

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	He sees your deeds, He knows your needs even before you ask
Source	Matthew 6:4 states that God sees what is done in secret. As for knowing our needs before we ask: <i>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him (Matthew 6:4, also Matthew 6:31-33; Luke 12:29-30)</i>

Song	When He Returns
Lyric	He's got plans of His own to set up His throne When He returns
Source	Revelation may be the best fit for this line, describing the day of judgement. <i>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them (Revelation 20:16)</i>

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Title
Source	<i>As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10, also Psalm 14:3)</i>

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Sometimes the devil likes to drive you from the neighborhood He'll even work his ways through those whose intentions are good
Source	2 Corinthians mention Satan's ability to pass himself off as a man of peace. See also Man of Peace. <i>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)</i>

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Look around, ya see so many social hypocrites Like to make rules for others while they do just the opposite
Source	<i>Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell</i>

	<i>you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.”</i> (Matthew 23:1-3)
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Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Put your goodness next to God's and it comes out like a filthy rag
Source	<i>...and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags</i> (Isaiah 64:6)

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Someday you'll account for all the deeds that you done
Source	<i>But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken</i> (Matthew 12:36)

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	God got the power, man has got his vanity
Source	In the KJV the vanity of man is mentioned many times in Psalms and Ecclesiastes. <i>The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity</i> (Psalm 94:11 KJV)

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Don't you know there's nothing new that's under the sun?
Source	The term “under the sun” occurs 27 times in Ecclesiastes e.g. 1:9

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Just say that I trusted in God and that Christ was in me
Source	<i>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me</i> (Galatians 2:20, also Colossians 1:27)

Song	Ain't No Man Righteous, No Not One
Lyric	Say He defeated the devil, He was God's chosen Son
Source	The defeat of the devil is documented in Revelation 12:9-10 and 20:10. In Luke 9:35 Christ is identified as God's chosen son after the transfiguration.

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	Satan whispers to ya, "Well, I don't want to bore ya But when ya get tired of the Miss So-and-so I got another woman for ya"
Source	Satan is presented as the tempter in the Gospels i.e. Luke 4:5-8 and Matthew 4:8-10 and is said to “lead the world astray” in Revelation 12:9. The theme of this song is in line with that depiction.

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	When the deeds that you do don't add up to zero
Source	<i>Their deeds amount to nothing</i> (Isaiah 41:29)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	Ask Lot what he thought when his wife turned to stone
Source	When Lot and his family left Sodom and Gomorrah (while it was being destroyed) they were told by God not to look back. Lot's wife did so and was transformed into a pillar of salt. <i>But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt</i> (Genesis 19:26)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	Here comes Satan, prince of the power of the air
Source	<i>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air</i> (Ephesians 2:2 KJV)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	He's gonna make you a law unto yourself
Source	<i>For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves</i> (Romans 2:14 KJV)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	He's gonna deaden your conscience 'til you worship the work of your own hands
Source	The first part of this line recalls 1 Timothy; the second can be traced back to Isaiah. <i>Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron</i> (1Timothy 4:2). <i>Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands</i> (Isaiah 2:8, see also Jeremiah 1:16; Micah 5:13)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	You'll be serving strangers in a strange, forsaken land.
Source	Reminiscent of that stated by Moses when he named his son. The strange land was Midian where Moses fled to after he killed an Egyptian. <i>And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land</i> (Exodus 2:22 KJV)

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	Put their faith in their possessions, in their jobs or their wives
Source	<i>A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15, see also Matthew 19:21)</i>

Song	Trouble in Mind
Lyric	When my life is over, it'll be like a puff of smoke
Source	<i>For my days vanish like smoke (Psalm 102:3)</i>

Song	Ye Shall Be Changed
Lyric	You harbor resentment
Source	<i>The godless in heart harbor resentment (Job 36:13)</i>

Song	Ye Shall Be Changed
Lyric	In a twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet blows The dead will arise and burst out of your cloths And ye shall be changed
Source	<i>In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Corinthians 15:52 KJV)</i>

Song	Ye Shall Be Changed
Lyric	You drink bitter water
Source	See Exodus and the struggle of the Israelites in the wilderness after they exited Egypt. <i>When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter (Exodus 15:23)</i>

Song	Ye Shall Be Changed
Lyric	And you been eating the bread of sorrow
Source	<i>It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows (Psalm 127:2 KJV)</i>

Song	Ye Shall Be Changed
Lyric	You can't live for today
Source	<i>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself (Matthew 6:34)</i>

Song	Blessed is the Name (various versions performed live November 18-20, 1979)
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Lyric	Blessed is the name of the Lord forever Wisdom and might are his
Source	<i>Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his</i> (Daniel 2:20 KJV)

Song	Blessed is the Name (various versions performed live November 18-20, 1979)
Lyric	When he moved his face upon the water
Source	<i>And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters</i> (Genesis 1:2)

Song	Blessed is the Name (various versions performed live November 18-20, 1979)
Lyric	But he did not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah Till Lot was safely out of the town
Source	See Genesis 19. Lot, along with his family were spared when God destroyed the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Song	Blessed is the Name (various versions performed live November 18-20, 1979)
Lyric	But not one drop of water fell Till Noah was safely in the ark
Source	See Genesis 6-9 and the story of Noah who, along with his family, was spared when God destroyed the earth.

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	Well you heard about Pharaoh's army Trampling through the mud
Source	A reference to Exodus 14:21-29 where Pharaoh's army was drowned while pursuing the Israelites across the Red Sea. See <i>When the Ship Comes In</i> .

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	You heard about the Hebrew children Redeemed by blood
Source	The blood of the sacrificed lamb provided atonement for the Hebrews. See Leviticus 17:11; 23:12.

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	Same spirit drivin' in ya That raised Christ from the dead
Source	<i>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit</i> (Romans 8:11)

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	We need that protection By the armour of the Lord
Source	<i>Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:11)</i>

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	The sword of God is sharper Than any double sided sword
Source	<i>For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12)</i>

Song	Cover Down, Pray Through (performed live 1980)
Lyric	He's the helmet of salvation Blade of righteousness
Source	<i>He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head (Isaiah 59:17)</i>

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	I will glorify His name
Source	<i>All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name (Psalm 86:9)</i>

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	His own knew him not
Source	<i>He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not (John 1:10)</i>

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	He said when the fig tree was blooming He would be at the gate
Source	<i>See Matthew 24 when Christ is talking about signs of the end of the age. Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door (Matthew 24:32-33)</i>

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
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Lyric	His mother didn't know what she carried Took an angel of the lord to tell her
Source	Luke 1:26-38 tells us the angel Gabriel told Mary that she would soon be with child.

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	The god of the world tried to drive me crazy
Source	Paul calls the devil the god of this world in 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	Even Peter denied Him
Source	A reference to Peter's denial of Christ. See Matthew 26:34, 74-75; Mark 14:30, 68, 72; Luke 22:34, 60-61; John 13:38; 18:27.

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	Took Him out and falsely tried Him, eventually crucified him
Source	An obvious reference to Christ. See Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19.

Song	I Will Love Him (performed live 1980)
Lyric	When Herod found out that he was born he had every boy child slain
Source	See Matthew 2:16-18. A reference to the Massacre of the Innocents when Herod ordered the slaughter of all children less than 2 years of age in Bethlehem.

SAVED (1980)

Song	Saved
Lyric	I was blinded by the devil
Source	<i>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4)</i>

Song	Saved
Lyric	Born already ruined Stone-cold dead As I stepped out of the womb
Source	Mankind's inherent evil nature is explained in Romans. <i>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:12)</i>

Song	Saved
Lyric	By His word I have been healed
Source	See Matthew and the faith of the centurion who believed that all Christ had to do was speak the word and his servant would be healed. <i>The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed (Matthew 8:8, Luke 7:7)</i>

Song	Saved
Lyric	By His spirit I've been sealed
Source	<i>Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)</i>

Song	Saved
Lyric	I've been saved By the blood of the lamb
Source	A metaphor for the blood Christ shed to atone the sins of mankind. <i>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect (1 Peter 1:18-19)</i>

Song	Saved
Lyric	By His strength I do endure
Source	<i>...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you</i>

	<i>may have great endurance</i> (Colossians 1:11)
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Song	Saved
Lyric	He bought me with a price
Source	<i>You are not your own; you were bought at a price</i> (1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23)

Song	Saved
Lyric	Freed me from the pit And the fire that burns in it
Source	The pit is a metaphor for eternal damnation. See Job 33: 8, 22, 24, 28, 30; Psalm 40:2 and Revelation chapters 19-21 which talk about the lake of fire. <i>He lifted me out of the slimy pit</i> (Psalm 40:2)

Song	Saved
Lyric	But by His mercy I've been spared
Source	<i>Remember me, O my God ...and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy</i> (Nehemiah 13:22 KJV)

Song	Saved
Lyric	Not by works But by faith in Him who called
Source	<i>Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ</i> (Galatians 2:16, also Ephesians 2:8-9)

Song	Covenant Woman
Lyric	Covenant woman got a contract with the Lord
Source	While this song, along with Precious Angel, is about Dylan's girlfriend at the time, it could also refer to God's everlasting covenant with Israel. The following verse also appears on the album liner. <i>Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah</i> (Jeremiah 31:31)

Song	Covenant Woman
Lyric	Way up yonder, great will be her reward
Source	<i>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven</i> (Matthew 5:12, Luke 6:35)

Song	Covenant Woman
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Lyric	Covenant woman, shining like a morning star
Source	<i>I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star</i> (Revelation 22:16)

Song	Covenant Woman
Lyric	And I know He will do it 'cause He's faithful and He's true
Source	<i>I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True</i> (Revelation 19:11)

Song	Covenant Woman
Lyric	You know we are strangers in a land we're passing through
Source	Dylan could be referring to earthly life as compared to spiritual eternity, but the line also echoes the struggle of the Israelites before they entered the promised land, see Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	Pulled me out of bondage and You made me renewed inside
Source	<i>Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day</i> (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	Filled up a hunger that had always been denied
Source	<i>And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger</i> (John 6:35 KJV)

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	Opened up a door no man can shut and You opened it up so wide
Source	<i>I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it</i> (Revelation 3:7-8, also Isaiah 22:22)

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	And You've chosen me to be among the few
Source	<i>For many are called, but few are chosen</i> (Matthew 22:14)

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	You have laid down Your life for me
Source	<i>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us</i> (1 John 3:16, also John 10:11, 15:13)

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	Soon as a man is born, you know the sparks begin to fly
Source	<i>Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward (Job 5:7)</i>

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	He gets wise in his own eyes and he's made to believe a lie
Source	<i>Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil (Proverbs 3:7, also Proverbs 26:12, Isaiah 5:21). And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie (1 Thessalonians 2:11)</i>

Song	What Can I Do For You?
Lyric	I know all about poison, I know all about fiery darts
Source	<i>Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (James 3:8)</i>

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	Well, I'm hangin' on to a solid rock
Source	Christ is called the Rock in 1 Corinthians 10:4. In Psalm 62:2 David refers to God as his rock and salvation. The image occurs countless times in the Bible. <i>He alone is my rock and my salvation (Psalm 62:2)</i>

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	Made before the foundation of the world
Source	<i>Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:20)</i>

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	For me He was chastised, for me He was hated
Source	<i>If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first (John 15:18)</i>

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	For me he was rejected by a world that He created
Source	<i>He was despised and rejected by men (Isaiah 53:3)</i>

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	Nations are angry, cursed are some

Source	<i>The nations were angry; and your wrath has come</i> (Revelation 11:18)
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Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	People are expecting a false peace to come
Source	See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, although it could refer to those who are deceived by the man of lawlessness as mentioned in 2 Thessalonians.

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	It's the ways of the flesh to war against the spirit
Source	<i>Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul</i> (1 Peter 2:11 KJV)

Song	Solid Rock
Lyric	Using all the devices under the sun
Source	The term “under the sun” evokes the Book of Ecclesiastes, where it is stated 27 times e.g. Ecclesiastes 1:9.

Song	Pressing On
Lyric	Well I'm pressing on To the higher calling of my Lord
Source	<i>I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus</i> (Philippians 3:14 ASV)

Song	Pressing On
Lyric	Say, "Prove to me that He is Lord, show me a sign"
Source	The term “show me a sign” comes from the gospels when the Pharisees ask Jesus to show them a sign to which Christ says “none will be given except the sign of Jonah”. <i>The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven</i> (Matthew 12:38-42; also Mark 8:11-12; Luke 11:16)

Song	Pressing On
Lyric	When what's lost has been found, what's to come has already been?
Source	This line recalls several parables of Christ from Luke 15 i.e. the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son. They illustrate how there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents. The line “what’s to come has already been” evokes Ecclesiastes. <i>That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been</i> (Ecclesiastes 3:15 KJV)

Song	Pressing On
Lyric	Shake the dust off of your feet, don't look back
Source	This is what Christ commands his disciples to do to towns who do not welcome them. The phrase "don't look back" reminds us of Genesis 19:17 and the fate of Lot's wife who looked back despite advice to the contrary. <i>If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town</i> (Matthew 10:14, also Mark 6:11, Luke 9:4)

Song	Pressing On
Lyric	Temptation's not an easy thing, Adam given the devil reign Because he sinned I got no choice, it run in my vein
Source	Paul explains in Romans that the original sin committed by Adam and Eve (as recorded in Genesis 3) means that mankind is born into sin. <i>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam</i> (Romans 5:14)

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	When they came for Him in the garden, did they know?
Source	This is a reference to the arrest of Jesus which occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane. See Matthew 26:47-50; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-11.

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	Did they hear when He told Peter, "Peter, put up your sword"?
Source	<i>Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"</i> (John 18:11)

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	When He spoke to them in the city, did they hear? Nicodemus came at night so he wouldn't be seen by men Saying, "Master, tell me why a man must be born again"
Source	The city is Jerusalem. John 2:13 states that at the time of the Passover Christ went to Jerusalem. His encounter with Nicodemus is recorded soon after in John 3:1-7. <i>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"</i> (John 3:4)

Song	In the Garden
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Lyric	When He healed the blind and crippled, did they see? When He said, "Pick up your bed and walk, why must you criticize?"
Source	The gospels are littered with examples of Christ healing the blind and crippled, but this verse seems to be preoccupied with the healing of a paralytic as recorded in Matthew 9:5-6; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:23-24; John 5:1-14. <i>Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked (John 5:7-8)</i>

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	Same thing My Father do, I can do likewise"
Source	<i>The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise (John 5:19 KJV)</i>

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	The multitude wanted to make Him king, put a crown upon His head Why did He slip away to a quiet place instead?
Source	<i>Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself (John 6:15)</i>

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	When He rose from the dead, did they believe?
Source	The resurrection is recorded in Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24 and John 20.

Song	In the Garden
Lyric	He said, "All power is given to Me in heaven and on earth"
Source	<i>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18 KJV)</i>

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	I've escaped death so many times, I know I'm only living By the saving grace that's over me
Source	<i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)</i>

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	My faith keeps me alive, but I still be weeping
Source	A sentiment first uttered in Habakkuk and repeated often in the New Testament epistles i.e. Romans 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38. <i>...but the righteous will live by his faith (Habakkuk 2:4)</i>

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	Well, the death of life, then come the resurrection
Source	Many verses could be cited here, particularly from the book of Romans e.g. Romans 6:4. Spiritual death is the result of sin, but because Christ bore the sins of mankind, a spiritual resurrection is possible. <i>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies ..."</i> (John 11:25)

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	I put all my confidence in Him
Source	<i>And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us</i> (1 John 5:14 KJV)

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	Well, the devil's shining light, it can be most blinding
Source	This line seems to be a cross between 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 2 Corinthians 11:14. <i>The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ</i> (2 Corinthians 4:4). <i>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light</i> (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	The wicked know no peace and you just can't fake it
Source	<i>"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked."</i> (Isaiah 48:22, 57:21)

Song	Saving Grace
Lyric	There's only one road and it leads to Calvary
Source	See Luke 23:33; John 19:17. "Calvary" is the Latin version of the Aramaic word Golgotha which means "place of the Skull". It is the place where Christ was crucified.

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Will He know you when He sees you Or will He say, "Depart from Me"?
Source	<i>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me</i> (Matthew 7:21-23, also Matthew 25:41; Luke 13:27)

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Am I ready to lay down my life for the brethren
Source	<i>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers (1 John 3:16)</i>

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	And to take up my cross?
Source	<i>Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me (Matthew 16:24 KJV)</i>

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Are you ready for the judgment?
Source	There are numerous reference to the Day of Judgment when Christ will judge all e.g. 2 Corinthians 5:10; John 5:22. The event is described in Revelation 20:11-15. <i>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV)</i>

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Are you ready for that terrible swift sword?
Source	<i>In that day the Lord will take his terrible, swift sword and punish Leviathan, the swiftly moving serpent, the coiling, writhing serpent (Isaiah 27:1 NLT)</i>

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Are you ready for Armageddon?
Source	The great battle of Armageddon is prophesied in Revelation. <i>Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon (Revelation 16:16)</i>

Song	Are You Ready?
Lyric	Are you ready for the day of the Lord?
Source	The expression “the day of the Lord” is found 25 times in the Bible, most famously in Joel 2:11, later quoted by Peter in Acts 2:20 after the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Its most common interpretation would be the second coming of Christ e.g. 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

Song	City of Gold
Lyric	There is a City of Gold
Source	The New Jerusalem is described in Revelation as a city of pure gold. <i>The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass (Revelation 21:21)</i>

Song	City of Gold
Lyric	Glory to God, not by deeds or by might
Source	<i>'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty (Zechariah 4:6)</i>

Song	City of Gold
Lyric	No one's afraid to show their face
Source	In Genesis 3:10 Adam hid from God after he sinned because he was afraid. No such shame will be prevalent in the city of gold.

Song	City of Gold
Lyric	Where the mighty have fallen and there are no police
Source	This phrase “mighty have fallen” is used by David in his laments for Saul and Jonathan. <i>How the mighty have fallen (2 Samuel 1:19)</i>

Song	City of Gold (Live Version, performed in 1980-81)
Lyric	Raised up in glory, angels wearing white
Source	The term “raised in glory” is found in 1 Corinthians 15:43 when Paul is talking about the resurrection of the dead. <i>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power (1 Corinthians 15:43)</i>

Song	City of Gold (Live Version, performed in 1980-81)
Lyric	Never know sickness, never know night
Source	<i>On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there (Revelation 21:25)</i>

Song	Ain't Gonna Go to Hell for Anybody (performed 1980)
Lyric	I been down that road, I know where it leads
Source	Compare Matthew 7:13 and the gate that leads to destruction.

Song	Ain't Gonna Go to Hell for Anybody (performed 1980)
Lyric	But it don't suit my purposes, it ain't my goal To gain the whole world and give up my soul
Source	<i>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? (Matthew 16:26)</i>

Song	Ain't Gonna Go to Hell for Anybody (performed 1980)
Lyric	Smoke arises forever A place reserved for the devil
Source	<i>And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever</i> (Revelation 14:11)

Song	Ain't Gonna Go to Hell for Anybody (performed 1980)
Lyric	Ain't gonna go to hell for anybody Not for father, not for mother, not for sister, not for brother, no way!
Source	Luke states that Christ came not to bring peace but to cause division – even amongst families. <i>They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother</i> (Luke 12:53)

Song	Making A Liar Out Of Me
Lyric	Title and refrain
Source	Title based on 1 John 1:10. <i>If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.</i> See also 1 John 5:10

Song	Making a Liar Out of Me
Lyric	On them burning bridges knowing your feet are made of clay
Source	Recalls Daniel's vision. Daniel 2:33

Song	Making a Liar Out of Me
Lyric	That threaten now to overtake your promised land
Source	The term “promised land” referred to that of Canaan, which was promised by God to the exiled Israelites. <i>This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob</i> (Deuteronomy 34:4)

Song	Making a Liar Out of Me
Lyric	Well I say you'd not sow discord among brothers
Source	Such discord is listed as one of the things that God hates in Proverbs 6:19.

Song	Making a Liar Out of Me
Lyric	I say you never sacrificed my children
Source	This line recalls Genesis 22:2 and the Abraham and Isaac story.

Song	Making a Liar Out of Me
Lyric	And that it's not the Tower of Babel that you're building
Source	See Genesis 11.

Song	Stand By Faith
Lyric	Title and refrain
Source	<i>They were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith</i> (Romans 11:20)

SHOT OF LOVE (1981)

Song	Shot of Love
Lyric	I seen the kingdoms of the world and it's makin' me feel afraid
Source	When Christ was tempted by Satan he was taken to a mountaintop and shown the kingdoms of the world. <i>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world</i> (Luke 4:5-8, also Matthew 4:8-10)

Song	Shot of Love
Lyric	Like the men that followed Jesus when they put a price upon His head
Source	The price being thirty pieces of silver for which Christ was sold to the Pharisees and Chief Priests by Judas. See Matthew 26:15.

Song	Property of Jesus
Lyric	Because he has denied himself the things that you can't live without
Source	<i>If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me</i> (Matthew 16:24)

Song	Property of Jesus
Lyric	Because he doesn't pay no tribute to the king that you serve
Source	This king is the devil, who is described by Christ as the Prince of this world in. John 8:44; 12:31; 14:30. Luke 4:5-8 also quotes the devil saying that all the kingdoms of the world are under his authority.

Song	Property of Jesus
Lyric	You think that when you rest at last you'll go back from where you came
Source	Genesis 3:19 and Ecclesiastes 3:20 state that man, who was created by dust, will return to dust. However Dylan is probably hinting that the mockers of Christians, described in this song, have a different spiritual destination to what they anticipate.

Song	Lenny Bruce
Lyric	He just showed the wise men of his day to be nothing more than fools
Source	<i>For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight</i> (Ecclesiastes 2:15-16)

Song	Watered-Down Love
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Lyric	Love that's pure hopes all things Believes all things Never needs to be proud
Source	This echoes the discourse on love by Paul from 1 Corinthians. <i>Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things</i> (1 Corinthians 13:6-7 KJV). <i>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud</i> (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Song	Groom's Still Waiting at the Altar
Lyric	Heard the last moan of a boxer, seen the massacre of the innocents
Source	The "Massacre of the Innocents" is a term used in the NKJV to describe the horrific events of Matthew 2:16-18 when Herod ordered the slaughter of all children less than 2 years of age in Bethlehem.

Song	Groom's Still Waiting at the Altar
Lyric	See the groom still waitin' at the altar
Source	The groom is a metaphor for Christ, while the church is described as the bride. See John 3:28-29 or more specifically Matthew 9:15. Note, Revelation 19:7 and Ephesians 5:25 also paint the church as a bride. However, Dylan may be using the image more literally here and singing to a lady friend.

Song	Groom's Still Waiting at the Altar
Lyric	Try to be pure at heart, they arrest you for robbery
Source	<i>Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God</i> (Matthew 5:8 KJV)

Song	Dead Man, Dead Man
Lyric	Uttering idle words from a reprobate mind
Source	<i>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient</i> (Romans 1:28 KJV)

Song	Dead Man, Dead Man
Lyric	Clinging to strange promises, dying on the vine
Source	This is possibly an allusion to a well-known sermon of Christ. <i>I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful</i> (John 15:1-2)

Song	Dead Man, Dead Man
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Lyric	Dead man, dead man When will you arise?
Source	<i>Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you</i> (Ephesians 5:14)

Song	Dead Man, Dead Man
Lyric	Satan got you by the heel
Source	The image of Satan at the heel recalls God's words to the cunning serpent in Genesis 3:15. <i>He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel</i> (Genesis 3:15)

Song	In the Summertime
Lyric	Fools they made a mock of sin
Source	<i>Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour</i> (Proverbs 14:9 KJV)

Song	In the Summertime
Lyric	But all that sufferin' was not to be compared With the glory that is to be
Source	<i>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us</i> (Romans 8:18)

Song	Trouble
Lyric	You can see the writing on the wall inviting trouble.
Source	This phrase originates from Daniel 5 when Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall for Belshazzar.

Song	Trouble
Lyric	Since the beginning of the universe man's been cursed by trouble.
Source	The Fall of Man is documented in Genesis 3. See also Psalm 51:5; Job 14:1. <i>Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble</i> (Job 14:1)

Song	Every Grain of Sand
Lyric	Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events that I must break
Source	Cain killed his brother Abel in a jealous rage and was thus punished by God. Genesis 4:1-16.

Song	Every Grain of Sand
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Lyric	Oh, the flowers of indulgence and the weeds of yesteryear Like criminals, they have choked the breath of conscience and good cheer
Source	See “The Parable of the Sower” in Mark. <i>Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful</i> (Mark 4:18-19)

Song	Every Grain of Sand
Lyric	That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand
Source	<i>Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered</i> (Luke 12:6-7)

Song	Every Grain of Sand
Lyric	I am hanging in the balance of the reality of man Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand
Source	The mention of the sparrow may also be a reference to Luke 12. The message being that if God cares for sparrows, how much more will he care for his people. <i>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows</i> (Matthew 10:29, also Luke 12:6-7)

Song	Caribbean Wind
Lyric	She was the rose of Sharon from paradise lost
Source	<i>I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys</i> (Song of Songs 2:1)

Song	Caribbean Wind
Lyric	From the city of seven hills near the place of the cross
Source	The “place of the cross” could be a reference to Golgotha where Christ was crucified. <i>Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)</i> (John 19:17)

Song	Caribbean Wind
Lyric	'Bout armies on the march and time that is short
Source	<i>What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short</i> (1 Corinthians 7:29)

Song	Caribbean Wind
Lyric	And famines and earthquakes and hatred written upon walls
Source	<i>There will be famines and earthquakes in various places</i> (Matthew 24:7)

Song	Need a Woman
Lyric	To see the promised land with me as the time goes by
Source	The term “promised land” referred to that of Canaan, which was promised by God to the exiled Israelites. Note, this line is not in the Lyrics version. The version in Lyrics is Ry Cooder’s rewritten version of the song and which a vastly different version to that sung by Dylan and released on the Bootleg Series Volume 3. <i>This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob</i> (Deuteronomy 34:4)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	My right hand drawing back while my left hand advances
Source	<i>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing</i> (Matthew 6:3)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	Do I need your permission to turn the other cheek?
Source	<i>If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also</i> (Matthew 5:39)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	In the valley of the giants where the stars and stripes explode
Source	In the NIV the “Valley of Rephaim” is mentioned on eight occasions. In Joshua 15:8 KJV this is translated as the “valley of the giants”. The Rephaites were an ancient people of enormous stature. The mention of stars and stripes gives this line a modern flavour, which could lead to numerous interpretations.

Song	Angelina
Lyric	The peaches they were sweet and the milk and honey flowed
Source	The phrase “milk and honey” occurs numerous times in the Bible, firstly in Exodus. <i>So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey</i> (Exodus 3:8)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	I see pieces of men marching; trying to take heaven by force
Source	<i>And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force</i> (Matthew 11:12 KJV)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	I can see the unknown rider, I can see the pale white horse
Source	An allusion to Revelation 6:2-8. The pale and white horses are two of the four horses of the apocalypse. The rider of the pale horse represents death. The rider of the white horse represents conquest. However there is also a white horse mentioned in Revelation 19 upon whom which Christ is riding. Perhaps the narrator of this song is unsure which is which, indicating some kind of faith crisis.

Song	Angelina
Lyric	In God's truth tell me what you want, and you'll have it of course
Source	<i>Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours</i> (Mark 11:24, also Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; Luke 11:9; John 15:7)

Song	Angelina
Lyric	Pass the tree of smoke, pass the angel with four faces
Source	Creatures with four faces are mentioned in Ezekiel 1, the four faces being that of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle. In Ezekiel 10, angels with four faces are mentioned; the faces being that of a cherub, a man, a lion and an eagle. Interestingly in Revelation 4:7 and 7:11 there are four living creatures at the throne of the God – one is like a lion, one is like an ox, one is like a man and the fourth like a flying eagle. All these creatures do is sit around the throne of God and praise him. Perhaps Dylan has merged the imagery from Ezekiel and Revelation here. Like most of the lyrics in this song, it is not easy to interpret the precise meaning here. <i>Each of the cherubim had four faces: One face was that of a cherub, the second the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle</i> (Ezekiel 10:14)

Song	You Changed My Life
Lyric	You do the work of the devil, you got a million friends
Source	<i>For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil</i> (1 John 3:8)

Song	You Changed My Life
Lyric	I was eating with the pigs of a fancy tray
Source	See Luke 15:15-16 “The Parable of the Lost Son” where the lost son longed to eat the food that the pigs were eating.

Song	You Changed My Life
Lyric	In a world that you made You were an outcast
Source	<i>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him (John 1:10)</i>

Song	You Changed My Life
Lyric	Your eyes were on fire Your feet were of brass
Source	The imagery here corresponds with John's vision of a Son of Man as recorded in Revelation. <i>These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze (Revelation 2:18-19, also Daniel 10:6)</i>

Song	You Changed My Life
Lyric	Stranger in a strange land
Source	This phrase originates from Exodus. It was stated by Moses when he named his son. The strange land was Midian where Moses had fled to after he had slain an Egyptian. <i>And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land (Exodus 2:22 KJV)</i>

Song	Jesus is the One (performed live 1980)
Lyric	It ain't Mr. Rockefeller That can raise the dead
Source	Christ raised the dead e.g. Lazarus in John 10, and the little girl in Matthew 9. Of course he rose from the dead himself.

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
Lyric	You're still tryin' to buy your way into the dreams of them Whose bodies will be food for worms
Source	Worms are often used as a metaphor for spiritual damnation. See Isaiah 51:8; 66:24; Mark 9:44; Acts 12:23.

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
Lyric	My brother's blood is crying from the grave
Source	<i>What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground (Genesis 4:10)</i>

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
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Lyric	I stand in jeopardy every hour
Source	<i>And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?</i> (1 Corinthians 15:30 KJV)

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
Lyric	Jeremiah preached repentance To those that would turn from hell
Source	Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet. His message was largely one of warning. If the Israelites continued to rebel against God, it was inevitable that judgement would come upon them. The exile to Babylon was God's punishment for their rebellion. Jeremiah implored the people to change their ways. <i>Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding</i> (Jeremiah 3:22)

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
Lyric	But the critics all gave him such bad reviews Put him down at the bottom of a well
Source	<i>So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud</i> (Jeremiah 38:6)

Song	Yonder Comes Sin (recorded 1981)
Lyric	No kingdom made of human hands can stand
Source	This refers to God's sovereignty over the kingdoms of the world, but the language is reminiscent of Luke. <i>If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?</i> (Luke 11:17)

Song	Thief on the Cross (performed Live in 1981)
Lyric	There's thief on the cross, I want to talk to him
Source	Christ was crucified between two thieves. One of the thieves was sympathetic to Christ's plight, the other wasn't. Christ extends mercy to the sympathetic one. See Luke 23:39-44. See also All Along the Watchtower and Spirit on the Water.

INFIDELS (1983)

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	Standing on the waters casting your bread
Source	<i>Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again</i> (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	You're going to Sodom and Gomorrah But what do you care? Ain't nobody there would want to marry your sister
Source	Sodom and Gomorrah were the cities that God destroyed on account of their wickedness, see Genesis 19:1-29. Combining this “sister” line with the Sodom and Gomorrah line has comical effect because Sodom and Gomorrah were guilty of every kind of sexual depravity under the sun and would have gladly slept with any man or woman. The sister of the subject of this song must be very unattractive if even Sodom and Gomorrah would reject her! There is also a possibility that Dylan is referring to the story where the fearful Abraham claimed that his wife Sarah was his sister (Genesis 20).

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	Friend to the martyr, a friend to the woman of shame
Source	Christ was merciful to many women of shame e.g. the adulterer in John 8:3-11; the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:1-26; the sinful woman who anointed his feet in Luke 7:36-39; and perhaps Mary Magdalene (contrary to tradition there is never any mention in the gospels that she was a prostitute – although she did have seven demons cast out of her, see Luke 7:2). Christ was obviously a friend to the martyr as well, as he was the one they were prepared to die for. The first martyr was Stephen, see Acts 7:54-60. Whether Dylan is referring here to Jesus, Israel, the antichrist, or even himself is impossible to be sure of.

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	You look into the fiery furnace, see the rich man without any name
Source	This seems like a reference to Luke 16:19-31 where Christ tells the story of the rich man and the poor beggar Lazarus. They both die and the rich man goes to hell (i.e. the “fiery furnace”), while the poor man is carried by angels to heaven. The phrase “fiery furnace” also appears in Daniel 3.

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	Well, the Book of Leviticus and Deuteronomy

	The law of the jungle and the sea are your only teachers
Source	These two books are the third and fifth books of the Old Testament and/or the Jewish Torah. They are concerned primarily with the Law. In Matthew 22:35-40 Christ states that Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 sum up the entire Law.

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	In the smoke of the twilight on a milk-white steed Michelangelo indeed could've carved out your features
Source	In Revelation 19:11-13 Christ rides a white horse, although there is also a white horse mentioned in Revelation 6:2 that is thought to represent the antichrist. The mention of Michelangelo further confuses the issue, as one of Michelangelo's most famous works is his statue of the David – Israel's most revered king.

Song	Jokerman
Lyric	A woman just gave birth to a prince today and dressed him in scarlet He'll put the priest in his pocket, put the blade to the heat Take the motherless children off the street And place them at the feet of a harlot
Source	This could be an allusion to Revelation 12:6 which tells of a woman who, despite the presence of an enormous dragon, gives birth to a male child (Christ) who we are told will rule the nations with an iron rod. However, in this song Dylan has the child wearing scarlet which is confusing, as this child now appears to have more in common with the scarlet beast of Revelation 17 – a beast that carries the whore of Babylon i.e. a harlot, which is the very word Dylan uses to rhyme with scarlet in this verse. Is Dylan referring to this Satanic creature from Revelation 17 rather than the Christ-like figure from Revelation 12? Or he is deliberately intertwining the two images to illustrate how the antichrist will deceive many? (It should be noted that the character being described here is not the same character as the Jokerman who is being described in the first 4 verses).

Song	Sweetheart Like You
Lyric	They say in your father's house, there's many mansions
Source	<i>In my Father's house are many mansions</i> (John 14:2 KJV)

Song	Neighborhood Bully
Lyric	He's wandered the earth an exiled man Every empire that's enslaved him is gone Egypt and Rome, even the great Babylon
Source	At differing times Israel was captive to Egypt (See Exodus 1:1-11), to Babylon

	(See Jeremiah 13:9) and to Rome (see the New Testament).
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Song	License to Kill
Lyric	Man thinks 'cause he rules the earth he can do with it as he please
Source	Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (Genesis 1:26)

Song	Man of Peace
Lyric	You know sometimes Satan comes as a man of peace
Source	The whole song is based on 2 Corinthians 11:14 and Satan's ability to pass himself off as a man of peace and thus deceive many e.g. "sweet gift of the gab", "harmonious tongue", etc. <i>And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light</i> (2 Corinthians 11:14)

Song	Man of Peace
Lyric	Well, the howling wolf will howl tonight, the king snake will crawl
Source	The "king snake" may refer to Satan e.g. Genesis 3, and Revelation 20:2 where he is called "that ancient serpent". The "howling wolf" may refer to false prophets as they are described as such by Christ in Matthew 7:15.

Song	Man of Peace
Lyric	Trees that've stood for a thousand years suddenly will fall
Source	Revelation 20 tells how Satan will be unleashed after 1000 years of bondage. <i>When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth</i> (Revelation 20:7-8)

Song	Man of Peace
Lyric	And he's following a star The same one them three men followed from the East
Source	The boy thinks he is following the Messiah or the Star of Bethlehem as described in Matthew 2:1-2 which the three wise men followed, but the boy is being deceived and is following the antichrist. See also Isaiah 14:12.

Song	I and I
Lyric	Been so long since a strange woman has slept in my bed
Source	In the Book of Proverbs, the KJV refers to the adulteress as a "strange woman".

	See Proverbs 2:16; 5:3; 5:20; 6:24; 7:5; 20:16; 23:27; 27:13 KJV.
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Song	I and I
Lyric	To some righteous king who wrote psalms beside moonlit streams
Source	An allusion to King David, author of many Psalms, see Luke 20:42.

Song	I and I
Lyric	One says to the other, no man sees my face and lives
Source	<i>You cannot see my face, for no-one may see me and live</i> (Exodus 33:20)

Song	I and I
Lyric	Took an untrodden path once, where the swift don't win the race
Source	<i>The race is not to the swift</i> (Ecclesiastes 9:11)

Song	I and I
Lyric	It goes to the worthy, who can divide the word of truth
Source	<i>Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth</i> (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

Song	I and I
Lyric	And to see an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth
Source	<i>But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth</i> (Exodus 21:23-24, also Deuteronomy 19:18-20; Leviticus 24:20)

Song	Don't Fall Apart on Me Tonight
Lyric	He looked so baffled and so bewildered When he played and we didn't dance
Source	<i>We played the flute for you, and you did not dance</i> (Matthew 11:16-19)

Song	Blind Willie McTell
Lyric	All the way from New Orleans To New Jerusalem
Source	See Revelation 21 for a description of the New Jerusalem. (This is how Dylan has performed the song live – the official lyric is different, the word “New” before Jerusalem is omitted).

Song	Blind Willie McTell
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Lyric	Well, God is in His heaven
Source	<i>God is in heaven and you are on earth</i> (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

Song	Blind Willie McTell
Lyric	And we all want what's his
Source	Compare Genesis 3:5-6. Adam and Eve ate the fruit off the tree of knowledge because they wanted to be like God.

Song	Blind Willie McTell
Lyric	But power and greed and corruptible seed Seem to be all that there is
Source	<i>Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever</i> (1 Peter 1:23 KJV)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	They sang "Danny Boy" at his funeral and the Lord's Prayer
Source	The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:5-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Preacher talking 'bout Christ betrayed
Source	As stated earlier, Christ was betrayed by Judas. See Matthew 17:22; 26:20-21; 26:45-49, Mark 14:18, 41-45; Luke 22:14,21-22,47-48; John 13:1-2, 21; 18:3-9.

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	It's like the earth just opened and swallowed him up
Source	There are several passages in the Old Testament where the earth opens up and swallows people who have treated God with contempt. <i>And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them</i> (Numbers 16:32, also 26:10; Deuteronomy 11:6; Psalm 106:17; Exodus 15:12.)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Well, there ain't no goin' back when your foot of pride come down
Source	The title and refrain may originate from Psalm 36:11 KJV, although in the psalm David is asking for protection against the foot of the pride, whereas Dylan is using the phrase to indicate stubbornness. The characteristic of pride is condemned throughout the Bible e.g. Romans 12:16; Mark 7:22. <i>Let not the foot of pride come against me</i> (Psalm 36:11 KJV)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	He looked straight into the sun and said revenge is mine
Source	<i>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord (Romans 12:19, originally from Deuteronomy 32:35). Note, the character in the song is breaking this command.</i>

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	And your fall by the sword love affair with Errol Flynn
Source	The expression "fall by the sword" is used many times in the Old Testament e.g. the frustrated Israelites in Numbers. <i>And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword..?</i> (Numbers 14:12 KJV)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	There's a retired businessman named Red, cast down from heaven and he's out of his head
Source	The colour and the banishment from heaven remind us of Satan. <i>How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!</i> (Isaiah 14:12)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Miss Delilah is his, a Philistine is what she is
Source	See Judges 16:18-21. The woman being described here by Dylan is obviously not to be trusted. See also Tombstone Blues.

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	She'll do wondrous works with your fate Feed you coconut bread, spice buns in your bed If you don't mind sleepin' with your head face down in a grave
Source	Proverbs warns against the lure of the adulteress. <i>Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death</i> (Proverbs 7:27)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Well they'll choose a man for you to meet tonight You'll play the fool and learn how to walk through doors How to enter into the gates of paradise
Source	The "gates of paradise" remind us of Genesis 3:23-24 but here Dylan could be using the phrase as a metaphor for the purported salvation that is offered by some carnival-like churches.

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Yeah, from the stage they'll be tryin' to get water outta rocks
Source	While leading the Israelites out of Egypt and through the desert, Moses produced water from a rock to quench the thirst of the Israelites. In the context of this song, Dylan may be expressing dissatisfaction with the freak show elements of some churches. <i>Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank</i> (Numbers 20:11, also Exodus 17:1-7)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	They got mystery written all over their forehead
Source	<i>This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY</i> (Revelation 17:5)

Song	Foot of Pride
Lyric	Let the dead bury the dead. Your time will come
Source	<i>Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."</i> (Matthew 8:21-22, also Luke 9:60)

Song	Lord Protect My Child
Lyric	When God and man will be reconciled
Source	In 2 Corinthians and Colossians Paul talks about how God has reconciled himself to mankind through the blood Christ shed on the cross. <i>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ</i> (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Song	Someone's Got a Hold of My Heart
Lyric	They say, "Eat, drink and be merry"
Source	<i>Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry</i> (Luke 12:19)

Song	Someone's Got a Hold of My Heart
Lyric	I keep seeing visions of you, a lily among thorns
Source	<i>Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens</i> (Song of Songs 2:2). This song is an earlier version of Tight Connection to My Heart (1985). See entry for that song for lyrics that overlap.

Song	Tell Me
Lyric	Do you long to ride on that old ship of Zion?
Source	Zion is another name for Jerusalem. Originally it referred to a mountain

	(Mount Zion) that stood near Jerusalem. <i>I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill</i> (Psalm 2:6)
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Song	Tell Me
Lyric	What means more to you, a lap dog or a dead lion?
Source	<i>Anyone who is among the living has hope —even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!</i> (Ecclesiastes 9:4)

EMPIRE BURLESQUE (1985)

Song	Tight Connection to My Heart (Has Anybody Seen My Love?)
Lyric	Has Anybody Seen My Love?
Source	<i>Have you seen the one my heart loves?</i> (Song of Songs 3:3)

Song	Tight Connection to My Heart (Has Anybody Seen My Love?)
Lyric	In a town without pity
Source	<i>May that man be like the towns the LORD overthrew without pity</i> (Jeremiah 20:16)

Song	Tight Connection to My Heart (Has Anybody Seen My Love?)
Lyric	I can still hear his voice crying In the wilderness
Source	A phrase used to prophesise, and later describe, John the Baptist. See Isaiah 40:3 KJV. John himself uttered these words (as recorded in Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4 and John 1:23) to explain his ministry. <i>The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God</i> (Isaiah 40:3 KJV)

Song	Tight Connection to My Heart (Has Anybody Seen My Love?)
Lyric	Never could learn to drink that blood And call it wine
Source	The imagery of blood and wine cannot be used without reference to the Eucharist. See Matthew 26:28, also Mark 14:24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:24-25; John 6:53-56.

Song	Seeing the Real You at Last
Lyric	Trouble always comes to pass
Source	<i>And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass</i> (Matthew 6:24 KJV)

Song	Seeing the Real You at Last
Lyric	Whatever you gonna do Please do it fast
Source	These words echo what Christ said to Judas moments before Judas organised to betray him. <i>What you are about to do, do quickly</i> (John 13:27)

Song	Trust Yourself
Lyric	In a land of wolves and thieves
Source	In John 10 Christ identifies himself as the good shepherd and talks about thieves (verse 10) and wolves (verses 12 and 13), also Matthew 6:20; 7:15.

Song	When the Night Comes Falling from the Sky
Lyric	You will seek me and you'll find me
Source	<i>Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find</i> (Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9-10)

Song	Something's Burning, Baby
Lyric	Are you still my friend, baby, show me a sign
Source	The term "show me a sign" comes from the gospels when the Pharisees ask Jesus to show them a sign to which Christ says "none will be given except the sign of Jonah". See Matthew 12:38-42; also Mark 8:11-12; Luke 11:16.

Song	Something's Burning, Baby
Lyric	We've reached the edge of the road, baby, where the pasture begins
Source	<i>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture</i> (John 10:9, also Psalm 23:2)

Song	Something's Burning, Baby
Lyric	Where charity is supposed to cover up a multitude of sins
Source	<i>Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins</i> (1 Peter 4:8)

Song	Something's Burning, Baby
Lyric	You can't live by bread alone, you won't be satisfied
Source	<i>Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God</i> (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4)

Song	Something's Burning, Baby
Lyric	You can't roll away the stone if your hands are tied
Source	The imagery here recalls the stone that was rolled away from the tomb after the resurrection of Christ. <i>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb but when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus</i> (Luke 24:2-3, also Matthew 28:2; Mark 16:3; John 20:1)

Song	Dark Eyes
Lyric	A cock is crowing far away and another soldier's deep in prayer
Source	Reminds of the cock that crowed after Peter denied Christ. See Matthew 26:34, 74-75; Mark 14:30, 68, 72; Luke 22:34, 60-61; John 13:38; 18:27.

Song	Dark Eyes
Lyric	But I can hear another drum beating for the dead that rise
Source	<i>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16)</i>

Song	Dark Eyes
Lyric	Oh, time is short and the days are sweet and passion rules the arrow that flies
Source	The phrase "time is short" is found in 1 Corinthians. Paul believed that the second coming of Christ was imminent. <i>What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short (1 Corinthians 7:29)</i>

KNOCKED OUT LOADED (1986)

Song	Maybe Someday
Lyric	Thirty pieces of silver
Source	Recalls the price that Judas received for handing Christ over to the authorities. So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. (Matthew 26:14-16, also Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6; Zechariah 11:12)

Song	Maybe Someday
Lyric	Maybe someday you'll hear a voice from on high
Source	The term "voice from on high" could refer to God's voice e.g. 2 Samuel 22:14; Jeremiah 25:30.

Song	Maybe Someday
Lyric	Maybe someday you will look back and see That I made it so easy for you to follow me
Source	The term "follow me" is uttered by Christ in Matthew 8:22 and elsewhere.

Song	Maybe Someday
Lyric	There was no greater love than what I had for you
Source	<i>Greater love has no-one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends</i> (John 15:13)

Song	Under Your Spell
Lyric	Maybe next time I'll let the dead bury the dead
Source	<i>Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."</i> (Matthew 8:21-22)

Song	Band of the Hand (It's Hell Time, Man!)
Lyric	Wealth is a filthy rag
Source	<i>...and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags</i> (Isaiah 64:6)

DOWN IN THE GROOVE (1988)

Song	Death Is Not the End
Lyric	Oh, the tree of life is growing
Source	The “tree of life” is mentioned in the first and last books of the Bible – it symbolises the paradise of God and eternal life. See Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14; Genesis 3:22-24.

Song	Death Is Not the End
Lyric	And the bright light of salvation shines In dark and empty skies
Source	<i>I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth</i> (Isaiah 49:6, also Acts 13:47; Psalm 27:1)

Song	Death Is Not the End
Lyric	And you search in vain to find just one law abiding citizen
Source	A reference to the story of Lot. Genesis 18-19 tells how God spared Lot and his family before he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot was the only the law abiding citizen in this town.

Song	Love Rescue Me (Co-written with U2)
Lyric	Yeah, though I walk In the valley of the shadow Yet, I will fear no evil I have cursed thy rod and staff They no longer comfort me, rescue me.
Source	An allusion to Psalm 23:4, although the narrator here no longer finds comfort with thy rod and staff (as in the Psalm) but rather needs love to rescue him. <i>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me</i> (Psalm 23:4)

OH MERCY (1989)

Song	Where Teardrops Fall
Lyric	I've torn my clothes and I've drained the cup
Source	Tearing ones clothes is an expression of grief in the Bible and usually follows the news of the death of a loved one e.g. 2 Samuel 1:2, 11; 3:31.

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	And time is running backward And so is the bride
Source	Often Christ is likened to a bridegroom, whilst the Church is likened to his bride. <i>For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready</i> (Revelation 19:7, also 21:2, 9; Matthew 9:15; 25:1-13; Mark 2:19-20; Luke 5:34-35; John 3:29)

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Ring them bells St. Peter
Source	St. Peter is of course the apostle of Christ. In Matthew 16:18 he was entrusted with the keys to the kingdom.

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Where the four winds blow
Source	In Biblical times it was thought the world was flat with four corners and that wind came from each of these four corners. Hence the phrase "four winds" appears nine times in the Bible i.e. Mark 13:27 and is usually synonymous with apocalyptic prophecy.

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Ring them bells Sweet Martha
Source	Martha was the sister of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead. She is only mentioned twice the gospels i.e. John 11:1-46; Luke 10:38-42. It is evident that she believed in Christ's divinity and it is stated that Christ loved her (John 11:5).

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	The sun is going down upon the sacred cow
Source	The sacred cow is perhaps a reference to idols or paganism. In Hinduism the cow is sacred. In Exodus 32 the Israelites worshipped a golden calf.

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Ring them bells so the world will know That God is one
Source	An expression not dissimilar to Galatians 3:20, Mark 12:29 and Deuteronomy 6:4 – also of note is that it is the opening phrase of the Jewish Shema. <i>Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one</i> (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Oh the shepherd is asleep
Source	<i>Your shepherds are asleep</i> (Nahum 3:18 ESV)

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	And the mountains are filled With lost sheep
Source	Because the shepherd is asleep (in the previous line) the sheep are lost. Lost sheep are a common Biblical theme, indicating that flock have strayed from God's pasture – either by turning away or by being poorly shepherded. See Jeremiah 50:6; but also Ezekiel 34:6; Psalm 119:176; Matthew 10:6-7; Luke 15:4-7; Matthew 18:12; Jeremiah 10:21; Isaiah 53:6; John 10:11-14; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34. <i>My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains</i> (Jeremiah 50:6)

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Ring them bells for the blind and the deaf
Source	The phrase “blind and deaf” brings to mind many passages from both the Old and New Testaments – it should be taken figuratively e.g. Israel is considered blind and deaf by Isaiah because she has turned away from God. See Isaiah 29:18; 35:5; 42:18; 43:8. In the New Testament Christ healed the blind and the deaf e.g. Matthew 11:4-5; Luke 7:22.

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Ring them bells for the chosen few
Source	<i>For many are called, but few are chosen</i> (Matthew 22:14)

Song	Ring Them Bells
Lyric	Who will judge the many when the game is through
Source	This line seems to be scripturally based on Matthew 19:28 and Luke 22:29-30 where Christ tells his disciples that they will judge “the twelve tribes of Israel”. 1 Corinthians 6:2 further emphasises that the saints will eventually judge the

	world.
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Song	Man in the Long Black Coat
Lyric	Preacher was a talkin' there's a sermon he gave He said every man's conscience is vile and depraved
Source	<i>Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.</i> (Titus 1:15 KJV)

Song	Disease of Conceit
Lyric	Give ya delusions of grandeur And an evil eye
Source	The term “evil eye” appears three times in the KJV, most significantly in Proverbs and in Mark 7:22 where Christ lists it as one of the “evil things that come from within”. <i>He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye</i> (Proverbs 28:22 KJV)

Song	What Was It You Wanted?
Lyric	What was it you wanted When you were kissing my cheek?
Source	<i>He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"</i> (Luke 22:47-48, also Matthew 26:48-49; Mark 14:44-45)

Song	What Was It You Wanted?
Lyric	Where were you when it started
Source	<i>Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?</i> (Job 38:4)

Song	Shooting Star
Lyric	It's the last temptation The last time you might hear the sermon on the mount.
Source	See Up To Me re Sermon on the Mount i.e. Matthew 5-7. The “last temptation” conjures up images of: Christ being tempted in the desert by Satan; and also the controversial film directed by Martin Scorsese, released a year prior to this album.

Song	Dignity
Lyric	Heard the tongues of angels and the tongues of men
Source	In 1 Corinthians Paul refers to both the tongues of angel and the tongues of men

	as being meaningless when compared to love. <i>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal</i> (1 Corinthians 13:1)
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Song	Dignity
Lyric	I met the sons of darkness and the sons of light
Source	An expression to differentiate those who are saved and those who are not. <i>You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness</i> (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

Song	Dignity
Lyric	Into the valley of dry bone dreams
Source	Recalls imagery from Ezekiel where he describes the Valley of Dry Bones – a vision revealed to him by God where he sees a pile of bones at the floor of a valley. Through God, Ezekiel commands the bones to reattach into human form and to come to life and to eventually breathe. The vision is a metaphor for Israel. <i>And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone</i> (Ezekiel 37:7)

Song	Dignity
Lyric	Death is standing at the doorway of life
Source	These lyrics from an alternate version of the song, evoke Exodus 11-12 when the Angel of Death, struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, unless the blood of the lamb was painted on the doors of their houses. The lyrics also remind of the ministry of Paul who spoke so much about life and death in both Romans and 2 Corinthians 4. <i>We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body</i> (2 Corinthians 4:10)

UNDER THE RED SKY (1990)

Song	Wiggle Wiggle
Lyric	Wiggle - you can raise the dead
Source	Christ not only rose from the dead but also raised others up from the dead (i.e. Lazarus in John 11 and the little girl in Matthew 9); but the character in this song seems a much more unsavoury one than Christ e.g. “Wiggle like a big fat snake” and “Wiggle 'til you vomit fire”. Perhaps Dylan is targeting religious showmen who turn their services into freak shows – see also verse 4 of Foot of Pride.

Song	Under the Red Sky
Lyric	This is the key to the kingdom and this is the town
Source	<i>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:17)</i>

Song	Under the Red Sky
Lyric	This is the blind horse that leads you around
Source	<i>I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations (Zechariah 12:4)</i>

Song	Under the Red Sky
Lyric	Someday little girl everything is gonna be new
Source	<i>He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5)</i>

Song	Unbelievable
Lyric	They said it was the land of milk and honey
Source	“Milk and honey” is a term used 23 times in the OT usually in relation to the Promised Land that the Israelites were destined to enter after leaving Egypt. <i>So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8)</i>

Song	T.V. Talkin' Song
Lyric	One time in London I'd gone out for a walk Past a place called Hyde park where people talk 'Bout all kinds of different gods, they have their point of view To anyone passing by, that's who they're talking to
Source	Compare to Acts 17:16-32 where Paul is discussing religion with the Athenians

	who love to hear the latest ideas.
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Song	T.V. Talkin' Song
Lyric	Your mind is your temple, keep it beautiful and free
Source	Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Song	T.V. Talkin' Song
Lyric	Lead you to the land of forbidden fruits
Source	The mere mention of the phrase "forbidden fruit" evokes Genesis 2-3 and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from. Funnily enough the actual term "forbidden fruit" is not mentioned here, although it is uttered in Leviticus 19:23 KJV.

Song	10,000 Men
Lyric	Title
Source	This title reflects a lot of verses from Judges, Samuel and Chronicles regarding bloody battles around the time Israel entered Canaan. Christ also used the phrase in Luke 14:31-33 when discussing the cost of becoming a disciple.

Song	2 X 2
Lyric	How much poison did they inhale?
Source	In Mark, Christ talks about signs that will accompany believers, one of which is drinking poison. <i>They will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all</i> (Mark 16:16-18)

Song	2 X 2
Lyric	Two by two, they stepped into the ark
Source	An allusion to Noah's Ark, where Noah was required to carry on the Ark one male and one female of every living creature. <i>You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you</i> (Genesis 6:19)

Song	God Knows
Lyric	God knows there's gonna be no more water But fire next time
Source	In the Old Testament, God destroyed the earth by a great flood i.e. water, see Genesis 9. In 2 Peter it is implied that next time the earth will be destroyed by fire. <i>The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by</i>

	<i>fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare (2 Peter 3:8-10)</i>
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Song	God Knows
Lyric	God knows the secrets of your heart He'll tell them to you when you're asleep
Source	<i>Would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?</i> (Psalm 44:21)

Song	God Knows
Lyric	God knows there's a river God knows how to make it flow
Source	Two passages come to mind here. John 7:38 KJV (cited below) and Revelation 22:1-3 which describes the River of Life which flows from the throne of God. <i>He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38 KJV)</i>

Song	God Knows
Lyric	God knows you ain't gonna be taking Nothing with you when you go
Source	<i>For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Timothy 6:7)</i>

Song	Handy Dandy
Lyric	He's got that fortress on the mountain With no doors, no windows, no thieves can break in
Source	<i>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal (Matthew 6:19-21)</i>

Song	Cat's in the Well
Lyric	The cat's in the well and the servant is at the door
Source	The servant is a possible allusion to Christ. See Isaiah 52-53 for the prophecy of the Suffering Servant. See also Revelation 3:20 where Christ says: "I stand at the door and knock". The servant could also apply to the House of Israel.

Song	Cat's in the Well
Lyric	Goodnight, my love, may the lord have mercy on us all
Source	A common cry for help from the sinner or the downtrodden. <i>Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt (Psalm 123:3)</i>

Song	Tragedy of the Trade (written with Gerry Coffin and Barry Goldberg)
Lyric	The world's been run with Backroom Blood Long before the time of the flood
Source	See Genesis 6-9

TIME OUT OF MIND (1997)

Song	Tryin' to Get to Heaven
Lyric	Now you can seal up the book and not write anymore
Source	A command given to the author of Daniel and the author of Revelation whilst they were witnessing disturbing visions of end times. <i>And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."</i> (Revelation 12:4)

Song	Tryin' to Get to Heaven
Lyric	I've been walking that lonesome valley
Source	<i>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death</i> (Psalm 23:4)

Song	'Til I Fell in Love with You
Lyric	But I know God is my shield and he won't lead me astray
Source	God as a shield is a common image in the Bible. See Genesis 15:1; Deuteronomy 33:29; 2 Samuel 22:3, 31; Psalm 7:10; 18:2,30; 84:11; 144:2; Proverbs 30:5. <i>My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation</i> (2 Samuel 22:3 KJV).

Song	'Til I Fell in Love with You
Lyric	If I'm still among the living, I'll be Dixie bound
Source	The phrase "among the living" certainly has a Biblical tone to it. <i>Anyone who is among the living has hope</i> (Ecclesiastes 9:4)

Song	Not Dark Yet
Lyric	Sometimes my burden seems more than I can bear
Source	These words recall those of Cain when punished by God for murdering his brother Abel. <i>Cain said to the LORD, My punishment is more than I can bear.</i> (Genesis 4:13)

Song	Cold Irons Bound
Lyric	Like the universe has swallowed me whole
Source	There are several passages in the Old Testament where the earth opens up and swallows people who have treated God with contempt. <i>And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them</i> (Numbers 16:32, also Numbers 26:10; Deuteronomy 11:6; Psalm 106:17; Exodus 15:12)

Song	Highlands
Lyric	The sun is beginning to shine on me But it's not like the sun that used to be
Source	Compare Revelation 21:23 where the New Jerusalem is described. <i>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp</i> (Revelation 21:23)

Song	Red River Shore
Lyric	Well I'm a stranger here in a strange land.
Source	This was stated by Moses when he named his son. The strange land was Midian where Moses fled to after he had slain an Egyptian. <i>And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land</i> (Exodus 2:22 KJV)

Song	Red River Shore
Lyric	Now I heard of a guy who lived a long time ago A man full of sorrow and strife That if someone around him died and was dead He knew how to bring 'em on back to life
Source	An obvious allusion to Christ. Firstly, Isaiah 53:3 describes the coming Messiah as a “man of sorrows” and secondly, a feature of Christ’s ministry was the raising up of the dead e.g. the raising of Lazarus (see John 11).

Song	Things Have Changed
Lyric	If the Bible is right, the world will explode
Source	Revelation deals with this theme on a grander scale but 2 Peter also prophesises the doomed fate of the world. <i>By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men</i> (2 Peter 3:7-10)

Song	Things Have Changed
Lyric	All the truth in the world adds up to one big lie
Source	<i>For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight</i> (1 Corinthians 3:19)

“LOVE AND THEFT” (2001)

Song	Tweedle Dee & Tweedle Dum
Lyric	Living in the Land of Nod Trustin' their fate to the Hands of God
Source	Nod was the land that Cain was banished to after he killed Abel. In Hebrew “Nod” means wanderer. Swift also used the phrase “Land of Nod” to describe sleeping. <i>And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden</i> (Genesis 4:16)

Song	Mississippi
Lyric	Your days are numbered, so are mine
Source	The phrase “days are numbered” originates from Daniel after he interpreted the writing on the wall for Belshazzar. <i>God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end</i> (Daniel 5:26)

Song	Summer Days
Lyric	Standing by God's river, my soul is beginnin' to shake
Source	God's river could be the River of Life as mentioned in Revelation 22:1-3.

Song	Bye and Bye
Lyric	I'm gonna baptize you in fire so you can sin no more
Source	A baptism of fire refers to one being baptised with the Holy Spirit as described by John the Baptist. <i>I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.</i> (Luke 3:16, also Matthew 3:11)

Song	High Water (for Charley Patton)
Lyric	I'm preachin' the Word of God
Source	Christ is described as the Word in John 1:1. The phrase “Word of God” occurs in Revelation 19:13 and refers to Christ.

Song	Po' Boy
Lyric	Poor boy 'neath the stars that shine Washin' them dishes, feedin' them swine
Source	<i>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs</i> (Luke 15:15)

Song	Cry Awhile
Lyric	Well, I'm crying to The Lord - I'm tryin' to be meek and mild
Source	It is impossible to hear the word “meek” and not think about the beatitudes. <i>Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth</i> (Matthew 5:5)

Song	Sugar Baby
Lyric	Look up, look up - seek your Maker - 'fore Gabriel blows his horn
Source	The angel Gabriel is mentioned 4 times in the Bible - twice in Daniel and twice in Luke. In Luke, Gabriel appears to Zacharias and Mary to prophesise the births of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. The image of Gabriel blowing a horn gives this line an apocalyptic tone e.g. Revelation 8-11 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 where angels are blowing horns to signify end times. God is described as Maker (emphasis on capital M) numerous times in the Bible e.g. Isaiah 17:7 KJV. Note, this line is taken verbatim from the 1929 film Show Boat.

Song	Cross the Green Mountain
Lyric	Heaven blazing in my head, I dreamt a monstrous dream Something came up out of the sea
Source	Recalls the visions/dreams of Daniel/John as recorded in Daniel and Revelation. <i>And four great beasts came up from the sea</i> (Daniel 7:3 KJV). <i>And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea</i> (Revelation 13:1 KJV)

Song	Cross the Green Mountain
Lyric	All must yield to the avenging God
Source	<i>The LORD is a jealous and avenging God</i> (Nahum 1:2)

Song	Cross the Green Mountain
Lyric	Serve God and be cheerful, look upward, beyond
Source	Christ implores his disciples to be “of good cheer” in John 16:33, see also Matthew 9:2. Proverbs also repeatedly preaches the virtues of being cheerful.

Song	Cross the Green Mountain
Lyric	I'm ten miles outside the city, and I'm lifted away In an ancient light, that is not of day
Source	Compare Revelation 21:23 and the New Jerusalem. Also note in the book of Daniel the term “Ancient of Days” is used to describe a Messianic figure. <i>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp</i> (Revelation 21:23)

Song	Tell Ol' Bill
Lyric	The enemy is at the gate
Source	This phrase may have Biblical origins. <i>Thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates</i> (Deuteronomy 28:57 KJV)

Song	Tell Ol' Bill
Lyric	The hour has come to do or die
Source	<i>Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners</i> (Mark 14:41)

MODERN TIMES (2006)

Song	Thunder on the Mountain
Lyric	Thunder on the mountain, fires on the moon Today's the day, gonna grab my trombone and blow
Source	The imagery here reminds of Exodus when Moses was conversing with God on Mount Sinai. <i>On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast.</i> (Exodus 19:16)

Song	Thunder on the Mountain
Lyric	The writing on the wall, come read it, come see what it say
Source	This phrase originates from Daniel 5 when Daniel interpreted the writing on the wall for Belshazzar.

Song	Spirit on the Water
Lyric	Spirit on the water Darkness on the face of the deep
Source	<i>And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters</i> (Genesis 1:2 KJV)

Song	Spirit on the Water
Lyric	I wanna be with you in paradise
Source	<i>Reminiscent of Christ's words to one of the thieves who was crucified with him. I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise</i> (Luke 23:43)

Song	Spirit on the Water
Lyric	I can't go to paradise no more I killed a man back there
Source	These lines draw parallels with Cain who was banished from God's presence after killing his brother and thus forced to become a restless wanderer of the earth. See Genesis 4:10-16.

Song	Rollin' and Tumblin'
Lyric	I've been conjuring up all these long dead souls from their crumblin' tombs
Source	Reminds of the scenes after Christ's death as described in Matthew. <i>The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the</i>

	<i>holy city and appeared to many people (Matthew 27:52-53)</i>
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Song	When the Deal Goes Down
Lyric	In the still of the night, in the world's ancient light
Source	While many lines from this album have been sourced to Civil War poet Henry Timrod, the term "ancient" suggests the book of Daniel. Daniel 7:7, 13 and 22 talk about a Messianic figure referred to as the "Ancient of Days".

Song	When the Deal Goes Down
Lyric	Each invisible prayer is like a cloud in the air
Source	Once again this line is thought to be inspired by Timrod, however it does bear resemblance to a verse in Lamentations. <i>You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through (Lamentations 3:44)</i>

Song	When the Deal Goes Down
Lyric	We all wear the same thorny crown
Source	An obvious allusion to Christ i.e. Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.

Song	Workingman's Blues #2
Lyric	No man, no woman knows The hour that sorrow will come
Source	Language here is similar to that of Christ when describing end times. <i>No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Matthew 24:36)</i>

Song	Nettie Moore
Lyric	A life time with you is like some heavenly day
Source	<i>With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day (2 Peter 3:8, also Psalm 90:4)</i>

Song	Nettie Moore
Lyric	Today I'll stand in faith and raise The voice of praise
Source	<i>Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang (2 Chronicles 5:13)</i>

Song	Nettie Moore
Lyric	The sun is strong, I'm standing in the light

	I wish to God that it were night
Source	The narrator wishes it was night because he believes his deeds will be exposed by the light as stated in John. <i>Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed</i> (John 3:20)

Song	The Levee's Gonna Break
Lyric	Everybody saying this is a day only The Lord could make
Source	A pun on a famous verse from Psalm 118. <i>This is the day the LORD has made</i> (Psalm 118:24)

Song	The Levee's Gonna Break
Lyric	A few more years of hard work, then there'll be a 1,000 years of happiness
Source	Revelation tells how Satan will be bound for 1000 years while Christ reigns. <i>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years</i> (Revelation 20:2, 4)

Song	Ain't Talkin'
Lyric	They say prayer has the power to help
Source	<i>Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much</i> (James 5:16 KJV)

Song	Ain't Talkin'
Lyric	I'm trying to love my neighbor and do good unto others
Source	<i>Love your neighbor as yourself</i> (Matthew 22:39). <i>So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets</i> (Matt 7:12)

Song	Ain't Talkin'
Lyric	It's bright in the heavens and the wheels are flying
Source	Is this another reference to Daniel and Ezekiel's Wheel? See also This Wheel's on Fire and Changing of the Guards. <i>His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze</i> (Daniel 7:9, Ezekiel 10:6)

Song	Ain't Talkin'
Lyric	Who says I can't get heavenly aid?
Source	Compare when Christ is about to get arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. <i>Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?</i> (Matthew 26:53)

Song	Ain't Talkin'
Lyric	Excuse me, ma'am I beg your pardon There's no one here, the gardener is gone
Source	There seems to be a connection here to John 20:14-16. In this passage a distraught Mary Magdalene is standing outside the empty tomb and is confronted by the risen Christ. She mistakes him for the gardener. John 19:41 clearly tells us that there was a garden at the place where Christ was buried. In fact there seems to be a subtle Passion theme that resonates throughout this entire song i.e. walking in the garden at night (Gethsemane?), being struck from behind (the betrayal by Judas and subsequent arrest of Christ), all worn down by weeping (compare Luke 22:44), making the most of one last extra hour (hints at Matthew 26:40 where Christ says to his disciples "So you could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"), much loved companions (his disciples?), "carrying a dead man's shield" (the Cross?), "walkin' with a toothache in my heel" (could refer to the serpent of Gen.3:15, "he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel").

TOGETHER THROUGH LIFE (2009)

Song	Beyond Here Lies Nothin'
Lyric	The whole world is my throne
Source	Sounds like a particularly clever rewrite of Isaiah 66:1 <i>This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool (Isaiah 66:1).</i>

Song	My Wife's Home Town
Lyric	Don't be lookin' at me with that evil eye
Source	The term "evil eye" appears three times in the KJV, most significantly in Proverbs and in Mark 7:22 where Christ lists it as one of the "evil things that come from within". <i>He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye (Proverbs 28:22 KJV)</i>

Song	If You Ever Go To Houston
Lyric	To pray the sinner's prayer
Source	The sinner's prayer is a modern day evangelical term referring to a prayer for repentance: <i>I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:17).</i>

Song	Jolene
Lyric	You make the dead man rise
Source	<i>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16), though Dylan is obviously using the line in a different context here.</i>

Song	This Dream of You
Lyric	There's a moment when all old things become new again
Source	The old and new comparison brings to mind some of the sayings of Christ (e.g. Luke 5:35-39), as well as the teachings of Paul: <i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17), although note Dylan is saying the moment for such has passed here.</i>

Song	This Dream of You
Lyric	I saw a star from heaven fall
Source	This could refer to the fall of Satan (see Isaiah 14:12, Luke 10:18), or end times (see Matthew 24:29, Revelation 8:10). <i>How art thou fallen from heaven, O</i>

	<i>Lucifer, son of the morning!</i> (Isaiah 14:12 KJV). <i>I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven</i> (Luke 10:18). <i>Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven</i> (Matthew 24:29 KJV). <i>And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven</i> (Revelation 8:10)
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Song	I Feel a Change Coming On
Lyric	And the fourth part of the day is already gone
Source	The term “the fourth part of the day” is found in Nehemiah 9:3, but the indefatigable Scott Warmuth proves that Dylan definitely sourced this phrase from Chaucer.

Song	I Feel a Change Coming On
Lyric	I got the blood of the land in my voice
Source	Evokes Genesis 4:10 after Cain killed Abel. <i>The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground</i> (Genesis 4:10)

TEMPEST (2012)

Song	Duquesne Whistle
Lyric	I can hear a sweet voice steadily calling Must be the mother of our Lord
Source	Mary the mother of Jesus, see Luke 1. The image fits in nicely with the Roman Catholic/mafia theme of the album.

Song	Soon After Midnight
Lyric	I'm searching for phrases / To sing your praises
Source	The phrase "sing your praises" can be found in Psalm 30:12 and Hebrews 2:12, but Dylan here is drawing from the Johnny Mercer song "Accentuate the Positive"

Song	Long and Narrow way
Lyric	It's a long road, it's a long and narrow way
Source	<i>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it</i> (Matthew 7:14, also Luke 13:24)

Song	Long and Narrow way
Lyric	Even death has washed its hands of you
Source	Dylan is using it in a different context here but any mention of this much-used phrase brings to mind the actions of Pontius Pilate: <i>When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"</i> (Matthew 27:24)

Song	Long and Narrow way
Lyric	And she has crowned my soul with grace
Source	Once again probably a different context, but it's worth stating that in the New Testament the Law of Moses is superseded by the Grace of Christ. <i>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God</i> (Ephesians 2:8)

Song	Long and Narrow way
Lyric	I'm still hurting from an arrow that pierced my chest
Source	The wording is slightly different but one does think of John 19:34 which tells that Jesus was pierced with a spear while on the cross. <i>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and</i>

	<i>water</i> (John 19:34)
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Song	Long and Narrow way
Lyric	Saying, "Be gentle brother, be gentle and pray."
Source	The line come from the Rudyard Kipling epigraph "Kim", but the virtue of gentleness is often encouraged in the bible e.g. <i>Be completely humble and gentle</i> (Ephesians 4:2)

Song	Narrow Way
Lyric	For a drink of wine and a crust of bread
Source	The imagery of wine and bread cannot be used without reference to the Eucharist. See Matthew 26, also Mark 14; Luke 22, John 6.

Song	Pay in Blood
Lyric	Man can't live by bread alone
Source	<i>Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God</i> (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4)

Song	Pay In Blood
Lyric	Title, chorus
Source	Dylan probably means something different here, but the symbol of blood paying a price has obvious biblical implications i.e. the blood of Christ purifies from sin (e.g.1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5) in much the same way that the blood of the sacrificed lamb protected the Israelites from the Angel of Death in Exodus 12:1-13. <i>The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you.</i> (Exodus 12:13)

Song	Pay In Blood
Lyric	I could stone you to death for the wrongs that you done
Source	Once again, it's just a common phrase here, but being stoned to death has biblical connotations e.g. the custom of stoning alleged blasphemers. Prophets had been stoned previously (Matthew 23:37) and Christ himself narrowly avoided being stoned (John 8:59). Stephen became the Church's first martyr via stoning (Acts 7:54-60).

Song	Pay In Blood
Lyric	The more I die the more I live
Source	The lyrics here echo the ministry of Paul who spoke so much about life and death in both Romans and 2 Corinthians 4. <i>We always carry around in our</i>

	<i>body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body (2 Corinthians 4:10)</i>
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Song	Pay In Blood
Lyric	I'm sworn to uphold the laws of God
Source	The language here reminds us of Romans: <i>Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law (Romans 3:31).</i>

Song	Scarlet Town
Lyric	I touched the garment, but the hem was torn
Source	See Matthew 9:20 KJV (also Matthew 14:36 KJV). <i>And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment (Matthew 9:20 KJV).</i>

Song	Scarlet Town
Lyric	Beggars crouching at the gate
Source	Beggars at the gate conjures up many biblical images i.e. Luke 16:20 and even Dylan's own blind man at the gate from "Simple Twist of Fate". However the internet sleuth's inform us that it is more likely that Dylan sourced this line from the John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "The Chapel Of The Hermits".

Song	Early Roman Kings
Lyric	Comin' down the mountain, distributing the corn
Source	Dylan is using "distributing the corn" as a euphemism for something different here – perhaps the spoils of crime – as Early Roman Kings was the name of an American gang. However the choice of the word "corn" conjures up biblical connotations – in particular Joseph who was responsible for distributing the corn in Egypt. <i>And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands (Genesis 41:57).</i>

Song	Tin Angel
Lyric	He renounced his faith he denied his lord
Source	The phrase "renounce your faith" is found in Revelation 2:13. The phrase "denying the Lord" is found in 2 Peter 2:1 KJV and Jude 1:4 KJV but also brings to mind the apostle Peter who denied Jesus (see Matthew 26:34, 74-75; Mark 14:30, 68, 72; Luke 22:34, 60-61; John 13:38; 18:27). However it is more likely that Dylan sourced this line from Walter Scott's "The Fire-King".

Song	Tin Angel
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Lyric	Crawled on his belly
Source	Recalls God's words to the cunning serpent: <i>You will crawl on your belly</i> (Genesis 3:14)

Song	Tempest
Lyric	The watchman, he lay dreaming
Source	Isaiah describes Israel's watchmen this way: <i>His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber</i> (Isaiah 56:10). The line also brings to mind the shepherd who is asleep from "Ring Them Bells" as well as the imagery from "All Along the Watchtower".

Song	Tempest
Lyric	The promised hour was near
Source	Reminds us of the phrase "the hour has come" from Mark 14:41.

Song	Tempest
Lyric	The veil was torn asunder / Between the hours of twelve and one
Source	At the precise moment of Christ's death, the veil of the temple was torn asunder. <i>At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom</i> (Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45)

Song	Tempest
Lyric	Brother rose up against brother
Source	<i>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death</i> (Matthew 10:21, also Mark 13:12)

Song	Tempest
Lyric	He saw the starlight shining / Streaming from the east
Source	The Star of Bethlehem rose from the East and provided the path for the three wise men (i.e. the Magi) to find the new born Christ. <i>Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him</i> (Matthew 2:2)

Song	Tempest
Lyric	He read the Book of Revelation / And he filled his cup with tears
Source	Dylan is obviously tying in apocalyptic imagery with the sinking of the Titanic.

Song	Tempest
Lyric	But there is no understanding / For the judgement of God's hand
Source	I venture to say a whole essay could be written on this topic, I will offer just one verse: <i>For who hath known the mind of the Lord?</i> (Roman 11:34 KJV).

Song	Roll on John
Lyric	Shine your light
Source	This is perhaps the first of many Christ-like metaphors in this song. There are innumerable references to Christ being described as a light that shines e.g. 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 5:14. Christ is also presented as the Light of the World in the Gospel of John. <i>Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you</i> (Ephesians 5:14)

Song	Roll on John
Lyric	Now the city gone dark, there is no more joy.
Source	Reminds of Luke 23:45 where it is stated that at the time of Christ's death the sun stopped shining. Note, the next part of this Luke 23:45 mentions the veil of the temple being torn, which Dylan referenced in "Tempest". Furthermore, the next verse in Luke (23:46) is perhaps referenced in the note below.

Song	Roll on John
Lyric	Your bones are weary, you're about to breathe your last
Source	<i>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last</i> (Luke 23:46, Mark 15:37)

Song	Roll on John
Lyric	You've been cooped up on an island far too long
Source	Some have speculated that Dylan could also be referring to the apostle John, who was later exiled on the island of Patmos.

Song	Roll On John
Lyric	I pray the Lord my soul to keep
Source	This line comes from an 18 th century children's bedtime prayer, but certainly echoes the following verses: <i>The LORD bless you and keep you</i> (Numbers 6:24). <i>O keep my soul, and deliver me</i> (Psalm 25:20).

About

[Damian Balassone](#)'s poems have appeared in more than 100 publications, including *The New York Times*. His most recent collections of poetry are *Strange Game in a Strange Land* and *The Book of Original Clichés*.