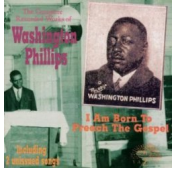


Washington Phillips – I Am Born To Preach The Gospel (1991)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 05 August 2011 18:38 - Last Updated Thursday, 18 July 2013 15:48

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01. *I Am Born To Preach The Gospel* 02. *The Church Needs Good Deacons* 03. *I Had A Good Father And Mother* 04. *Take Your Burden To The Lord And Leave It There* [play](#) 05. *A Mother's Last Word To Her Daughter* 06. *Paul And Silas In Jail* 07. *Denomination Blues (Part 1)* 08. *Denomination Blues (Part 2)* 09. *Lift Him Up That's All* 10. *Jesus My Friend* 11. *Mother's Last Word To Her Son* 12. *What Are They Doing In Heaven Today* 13. *I've Got The Key To The Kingdom* 14. *Train Your Child*

[play](#)

15. *You Can't Stop A Tattler (Part 1)* 16. *You Can't Stop A Tattler (Part 2)* 17. *That's All (Part 1)* 18. *That's All (Part 2)*

Personnel: George Washington Phillips (vocals, dulcimer).

Texas-born singer Washington Phillips did a limited amount of recording between his first sessions in 1927 and his last, which were completed in 1939. What little recording the unique solo gospel performer did can be found on this wondrous 16-track collection. Accompanying himself and singing with gentle resolve, Phillips created serene music that really did feel touched by grace. (Until recently, it was thought that Phillips played a rare autoharplike instrument called a dolceola. But Austin American-Statesman writer Michael Corcoran's research points to a zither as the probable source of the celestial sound on these recordings. Corcoran also found that Phillips didn't die in 1938, as was generally believed, but lived until 1954.) Early in his career, Ry Cooder revived a couple of Phillips's best numbers ("Denomination Blues" and "Tattler"), but the singer is largely a forgotten figure these days. *I Am Born to Preach the Gospel* makes that seem like an unpardonable sin. ---Steven Stolder

Washington Phillips is a figure of considerable mystery: gospel and blues historians can't even

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agree on when he died (at last, 1954 seems to be the confirmed date), nor what instrument he played: though for years he was credited with playing an obscure keyboard instrument called the dolceola, new research (including the first known photograph of the performer) suggests that he was in fact playing a type of zither, possibly homemade and possibly two of them at the same time. What is inarguable is the otherworldly beauty of Phillips's music and the simple, graceful wisdom of his lyrics, which range from the musical retelling of key Bible scenes to sharp commentary on the divisions between various black congregations. Released in 1991, **I AM BORN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL: COMPLETE RECORDED WORKS 1927-1929** contains all 16 surviving recordings by Washington Phillips. (One 1929 single is now lost.) It is an essential document for all fans of gospel blues. ---cduniverse.com

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