

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land 52

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!
3 "No more shall they in bond - age toil: let my peo - ple go!
4 O let us all from bond - age flee; let my peo - ple go!

op - pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo - ple go!
If not, I'll smite your first - born dead. Let my peo - ple go!"
Let them come out with E - gypt's spoil: let my peo - ple go!"
And let us all in Christ be free: let my peo - ple go!

Refrain

Go down, (go down,) Mo - ses, (Mo - ses,) way down in E - gypt's

land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo - ple go!

Nothing in Hebrew Scripture resonated more deeply with the experience of African Americans in North America than Israel's slavery in Egypt. In this spiritual's recurring line, "Let my people go," past and present became one, as they still do for all who are oppressed.