

What Does this Song Really Say?

Instructions:

Read the lyrics to the spiritual “Wade in the Water” and look for code words and phrases that may have been used to transmit information. Write an interpretation of the lyrics based on your findings.

“Wade In The Water”

Chorus:

Wade in the water (children).
Wade in the water.
Wade in the water.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Verse 1:

If you don't believe I've been redeemed,
God's gonna trouble the water.
I want you to follow him on down to Jordan stream.
(I said) My God's gonna trouble the water.
You know chilly water is dark and cold.
(I know my) God's gonna trouble the water.
You know it chills my body but not my soul.
(I said my) God's gonna trouble the water.
(Come on let's)

Repeat Chorus

Verse 2:

Now if you should get there before I do,
(I know) God's gonna trouble the water.
Tell all my friends that I'm comin' too.
(I know) God's gonna trouble the water.
Sometimes I'm up Lord and sometimes I'm down.
(You know my) God's gonna trouble the water.
Sometimes I'm level to the ground.
God's gonna trouble the water.
(I know) God's gonna trouble the water.

Repeat Chorus two times