***Unit 2: Slavery hymns assignment 2.2***

***Assignment 2.2. A:*** Listen to the song “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” by Etta James on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Thz1zDAytzU> and look at the traditional lyrics below.

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| **Chorus:**  Swing low, sweet chariot  Coming for to carry me home,  Swing low, sweet chariot,  Coming for to carry me home.  I looked over Jordan, and what did I see  Coming for to carry me home?  A band of angels coming after me,  Coming for to carry me home.  **Chorus**  Sometimes I'm up, and sometimes I'm down,  (Coming for to carry me home)  But still my soul feels heavenly bound.  (Coming for to carry me home)  **Chorus**  The brightest day that I can say,  (Coming for to carry me home)  When Jesus washed my sins away.  (Coming for to carry me home)  **Chorus**  If you get there before I do,  (Coming for to carry me home)  Tell all my friends I'm coming there too.  (Coming for to carry me home)  **Chorus** |

***Assignment 2.2 B:*** Take a close look at different parts of the song “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” by Etta James and try to come up with the literal meaning of that particular part of the lyrics, and think about the ‘coded’/’secret’ meaning this part of the text might have. The first part is already given as an example. You may use the internet (but remember to study this for your final test).

Take a close look at all the words and their meanings and what message did slaves want to convey by using these words. The literal meaning of slave lyrics often refers to something Biblical.

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| **Lyrics** | **Literal Meaning** | **“Coded”/”Secret” meaning** |
| Swing low, | Come down | Come into slaveholding states |
| Sweet Chariot |  |  |
| Comin’ for to carry me home.. |  |  |
| I looked over Jordan, and what did I see? |  |  |
| A band of angels coming after me |  |  |
| If you get there before I do, tell all my friends I’m coming too |  |  |
| Sometimes I’m up, sometimes I’m down |  |  |
| But still my soul feels heavenly bound |  |  |