Saints and children we have gathered here to hear the sacred st ory

And I'm glad to bring it to you with my best rhyming and rhythm 'Cause I know the thirsty listen and down to the waters come And the Holy King of Israel loves me here in America

And if you listen to my songs I hope you hear the water falling I hope you feel the oceans crashing on the coast of north New E ngland

And the Holy King of Israel loves me here in America

And if I were a painter I do not know which I'd paint
The calling of the ancient stars or assembling of the saints
And there's so much beauty around us for just two eyes to see
But everywhere I go I'm looking

And once I went to Appalachia for my father he was born there And I saw the mountains waking with the innocence of children And my soul is still there with them wrapped in the songs they brought

And the Holy King of Israel loves me here in America

And I've seen by the highways on a million exit ramps
Those two-legged memorials to the laws of happenstance
Waiting for four-wheeled messiahs to take them home again
But I am home anywhere if You are where I am

And if you listen to my songs I hope you hear the water falling I hope you feel the oceans crashing on the coast of north New E ngland

I wish I could be there just to see them, two summers past I was \boldsymbol{s}

And the Holy King of Israel loves me here in America