

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

Gospel Song by James M. Black; **DATE:** 1893; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Jenkins Family- 1924; Carter Family; Virginia Squires; The Harvesters Bluegrass Gospel Band; Mountain Therapy; **NOTES:** James M. Black, a Methodist Sunday school teacher in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, was calling roll one day for a youth meeting. Young Bessie, daughter of a drunkard, did not show up, and he was disappointed at her failure to appear. Black made a comment to the effect, "Well, I trust when the roll is called up yonder, she'll be there." He tried to respond with an appropriate song, but could not find one in his song book: "This lack of a fitting song caused me both sorrow and disappointment. An inner voice seemed to say, "Why don't you write one?" I put away the thought. As I opened the gate on my way home, the same thought came again so strongly that tears filled my eyes. I entered the house and sat down at the piano. The words came to me effortlessly. The tune came the same way—I dared not change a single note or word."

When the trum pets of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more and the morn ing breaks e
 ter nal bright and fair When the saved of earth shall ga ther o ver on the o ther shore and the
 roll is called up yon der I'll be there When the roll (when the roll is called up yon der I'll be
 there) When the roll (when the roll is called up yon der I'll be there) when the roll is called up
 yon der when the roll is called up yon der I'll be there.

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On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,

And the glory of His resurrection share;

When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,

And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Chorus: When the roll, is called up yon-der, When the roll, is called up yon-der,

When the roll, is called up yonder, When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,
 Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care;
 Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done,
 And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.