A Change Is Gonna Come
by Sam Cooke

I was born by the river\(^1\) in a little tent,
Oh, and just like the river, I've been running ever since.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon’ come,\(^2\) oh yes it will.

It's been too hard living, but I'm afraid to die
'Cause I don't know what's up there beyond the sky.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon’ come, oh yes it will.

I go to the movie, and I go downtown.
Somebody keep\(^3\) telling me, “Don't hang around.”\(^4\)

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon’ come, oh yes it will.

Then I go to my brother
And I say, "Brother, help me please."
But he winds up knockin' me
Back down on my knees.

There been times\(^5\) that I thought I couldn't last for long,
But now I think I'm able to carry on.

It's been a long, a long time coming,
But I know a change gon’ come, oh yes it will.

\(^1\) The songwriter was born in a small town next to the Mississippi River.

\(^2\) \textit{a change gon’ come} = \textit{a change is going to come}

\(^3\) \textit{Somebody keep telling me} = \textit{Somebody keeps telling me (with an s at the end of keep)}

\(^4\) This songwriter, who was African-American, wrote this song in 1963. In the Southern United States, segregation was legal at that time. African-Americans could not go to movie theaters and other places that were for whites only.

\(^5\) \textit{There been times} = \textit{There have been times}