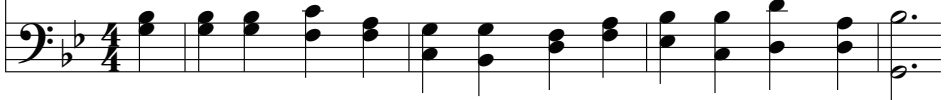


Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50



1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,
 2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,
 3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,
 4 For all the writ-ings that sur-ived, for lead-ers, long a - go,



some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.
 in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
 while some, re - mem-ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,
 who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,



The dawn - ing hope of hu - man-kind by them was sensed and shown:
 and by their tents, a - round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,
 or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise,
 give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom-ise, strength, and call,



a prom-ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
 they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
 re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
 the mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.



This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.