

<p>Damascus was: David Coy: Drums and Percussion/ Tom McKeown: Vocals, Keyboards, Guitars Marc Reich: Vocals, Guitars/ Cliff Zweibruck: Bass Guitar</p> <p>Damascus Anthology II was digitally remastered for CD in “The Garage” by Tom McKeown. Special thanks to Steve Moroniak for the DAT tapes of the original masters.</p> <p>“Timeless” This recording was almost DOA. We spent a great deal of time recording the bass and drum tracks along with some scratch guitar and vocal lines at our own studio on a four track machine. We then transferred our tapes at Master Tracks and added the vocals, keyboards and guitar parts. The first mix we did at Master Tracks was so discouraging that we scrapped the entire project for nearly a year. We just couldn’t get the sound we were looking for. Many months later, after reading an ad in a magazine, I gave a guy named Steve Moroniak a call at Reel Productions. At first he felt the project might be too big for his “songwriters” studio, but thankfully, we finally got together. We ended up remixing the entire recording at Reel Productions. I don’t think we will ever forget the huge mess of cabling we had all over the studio while mixing down the multitracks. Though I was never completely satisfied with my performance on the songs, I am still very grateful to Steve for helping save these tunes from extinction.</p> <p>Time For A Season - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> What Four? - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> A Knight To Remember - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> Timeless - <i>words and music by Tom McKeown</i> Lord Of The Mountain - <i>words and music by Marc Reich</i> The Keeper - <i>words and music by Tom McKeown</i></p> <p>Timeless recorded Jan. 1986 - Jan. 1987 at Damascus Studio, Master Tracks , Reel Productions Produced by Tom McKeown / Engineered by Tom McKeown, Marc Reich, Steve Moroniak Mixed by Tom McKeown, Marc Reich</p>	<p>“Soon ... The Doors Will Open” I think we finally started hitting our stride on “Soon.” . Our earlier years were always plagued by our inability to make our music as powerful on tape as it was live. I finally decided that the studio recordings didn’t have to be an exact copy of the live shows. We ended up doing what ever it took to get the song across on tape. I went with layering multiple instruments in an attempt to capture a bit of what I had always heard in my head, and for the most part it worked. Drums are one of the toughest instruments to record well. It takes a lot of time to get the right sound. We all know, time is money and we didn’t have much money, so we once again layed down the bass and drums tracks at our studio and then transferred the tapes over at Reel Productions. By this time we had developed quite a friendship with Steve and his wife Carol. <i>(his dog yappy is another story)</i> Through the recording and process, I started to feel as though I lived over at Reel Productions. Someone from the band was always over there recording something. The sessions went very well and the first mixdown I did with Marc. The mix was pretty good, but after some intense listening, I ended up remixing all the tracks. Steve did an excellent job of chopping up the little bits of tape we had all over the studio while getting the masters ready for duplication. We were able to release the tapes before Christmas in 1988 to coincide with some record release shows. This was definitely a high point for us collectively.</p> <p>Decisions - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> Psalm AD - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> An Angel - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> Reckless - <i>words and music by Tom McKeown</i> Lead Me On - <i>words and music by Tom McKeown</i> Blind Peace - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> Something To Live For - <i>words and music by Tom McKeown</i> Still Waters - <i>words by David Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i> Waves - <i>words by Kathy Coy, music by Tom McKeown</i></p> <p>Soon.. recorded July 1988 - Oct. 1988 at Damascus Studio and Reel Productions Produced by Tom McKeown / Engineered by Tom McKeown and Steve Moroniak Mixed by Tom McKeown</p>	<p>The rest of the story..... Shortly after the release of “Soon....” , Marc let us know he had accepted a job offer in Oregon. I still remember him telling us he was leaving as we were loading the truck for some shows in Michigan. It hit us like a bomb shell. I think most of us were in total shock for the entire trip. At that point, we had been together as Damascus for ten years. I had known Marc and played in bands with him since we were in high school. This was one of the darkest times for us. Later, we all did a lot of soul searching to decide what to do next. Should we split the band now or continue on? I was glad we decided to continue our path together. We first thought of replacing Marc with another guitars / vocalist, but soon decided to work as a trio. Technology became a huge player in our future. Though we never used sequencers live, we did use thirteen keyboards. Everyone had multiple jobs now. Cliff played bass, bass pedals and keyboards. Dave played drums, percussion and keyboards triggered from pads. This was a new era and a very exciting one. Rearranging our songs for a trio proved to be quite difficult. We rearranged what we could and started writing again. We had many successful shows as a trio and in 1991 we recorded a demo of some of the new material. I still feel these songs were among the best we ever wrote. We continued to play out and shopped our demo to some record labels, but sadly, interest was still not there for our type of progressive rock music. The Christian market was filled with “fluff” and we flat out refused to change. We were told that we could be big if we would just get in the mainstream. That was never meant to be. That year, we left the church we were rehearsing in for the last 11 years because of theological differences. We then set out to turn Cliffs garage into our new studio. Once completed, we turned our attention to recording what was to be Damascus 5. The songs were great, all we needed to do was capture them on tape. That also, was not meant to be. Shortly after we began recording, the lights went out for the last time. Dave told us he just couldn’t do this anymore. The lack of recognition from the industry had weighed us all down. Dave was just the first to express what we all felt. Maybe someday we will put together what would have been our fifth and finest recording. The Turning Tide; Time Is A Tool; Ice Of My Desire; A Passing Of Moments; So The Story Goes; Screwtape; On A Wire Until then, we have this CD as our badge of honor.</p> <p>Notes by Tom McKeown Dec. 1998</p>
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Time For A Season

Reason for the season
Time flows to time
Silence breeds suspicion
Reveal what's on your mind

Situation harvest
Time to choose
Discerning awareness
Contemplate the move

Only see what we see
Do understand
I am what you perceive
There's much more to a man

Full expression for all
So many selves
Harmony survival
One common law of gifts

This moment like all time
Is only true
One love becomes the act
That flows from me to you

What Four?

Wise old man in the hills
Lone striver see
His reality
Is the philosophy
Keeper of the valley
How could you know
Experimenter
His name compels us home

Fly low prevailing wind
Pilot of plains
Plots his freedom's course
The glory of His name

Prayer unto the Father
From eastern air
Wise men have seen Him
In humble stable there

A Knight To Remember

Some mornings when I wake up
There's no mercy in his eyes
His fiery breath burns me
The air is filled with sighs

Never quite sure of his origin
Seems to come out of the night
I quickly summon the King
He issues the weapons for fight

You can not slay the red dragon
Seems death is his soul serving friend
For when I strike his nature
His poison I can not defend

If not for the love and the knowledge
Grace from the wisest true Knight
I'd surely be the next victim
To suffer the red dragon's plight

The Knight sends His army of angels
Shoulder's pouched with the arrows of truth
I am tempted to passions of fear
But I cling to the faith of my youth

I say "puncture the demon!"
Michael smiles and spits from his mouth
But before the arrows can reach him
The creature turns tail to the south

The battle for a time is over
I feel relief rush to my head
I give thanks for life now before me
Pull the sheets back and climb out of bed

It was a Knight to remember

Timeless

Timeless is the promise
Beginning and the end
And though we are so battle scarred
Our wounds He will mend

You were given
Everything that you could want
But your thirst was endless
He warned you long ago

But you wouldn't listen then
Still His words are timeless

You fought the good
And praised the evil that men do
Then you betray them
But your time is short
and all you have you soon shall lose
God won't be mocked

You're the "Great Oppressor"
I See you turn your head to laugh
As we stumble
But in that hour
When everything will pass away
We won't remember your name

Lord Of The Mountain

In the distance an eagle cries to her young
Just a symbol Lord of the things You've begun
Oh Lord, I've never felt so high
Or so close to You

I keep climbing higher, trying to get to You
The good book tells me that plans like that just won't do
Is that the reason why Lord, You sent us Your Son?

You're the Lord of the mountain
You taught the eagle to fly
You're the Lord of the mountain
You here Your children when they cry

You're the Lord of the mountain
You made the earth and the sky
You're the Lord of the mountain
Hear me cry

While I'm here Lord, I'd just like to pray
Take my heart Lord, make it Yours today
And keep me from the things that keep me away from You

The river runs clear, it's full of life
Makes it's way down the mountain, cutting like a knife
It gives me vision, shows me the way I must go

I feel Your power in the mountain urging me on
I climbed it, I was blessed, a new works begun
Give me strength Lord, I don't want to let You down

The Keeper

When I'm down and out
And I've given up
I seem to see Your face
And you make me look up
Cause when I'm needing You
You're always there
I can count on you
Cause you really care

I'm living for the Keeper

Though you don't see Him now
He's watching my friend
Though His human life's over
He'll be back in the end
Just when we're needing Him
He's always there
We can count on Him
Cause He's always there

Our lives could be cut by your anger
They would fade away like a whisper
Decisions

Maybe I want to reach you
That you may reach
Maybe God took a chance on free will
hoping that we'd seek
Is it such a bad thing
to long down deep inside
Maybe this longing is God Himself
Hoping we won't deny

Maybe we feel alone in the world
To see the need
Could we take our eyes off ourselves
That we might be freed
Is God such an awful being
Filling our hearts with desire
Maybe God is waiting to love
Hoping we'd know His will

Maybe it's time to take a step
Knowing He's within
Yes, God gave a choice to be free
Let the new life begin
Isn't it a good thing

Oh, let the whole world know
That it's been God all along
Patiently waiting for us to know

Psalm AD

Breathe on my mind
Oh sweet perpetual life
It seems like hours
Since I've known Your gold
Low, my gate be that of silver
This be the power and glory foretold

Though as a child
Stumbling unaware in the flame
You put me high up on a hill
Where we dance away all the shame
Yet now I wait
Will I never eat of the bread?

I pray this motive force of love
Be fixed upon my head

Lord, be my heart
A shining flute set to a trill
And Thy grace, seek my face
That none should taste a kill
Oh, sweet breathe of truth
Divine bride, imperishable fruit

An Angel

I wrestled with an angel today
Light blessed the curses of darkness away
The truth of trodden soil lost
Straight and narrow, worth the cost

I was loved by an angel today
Need of the moment, fulfilled by a prayer
Fears cast out by His perfect love
Humbled peace to divine love
I was loved by an angel today

I met an angel today
Courage in the face of adversity
Faming emotions soaring high
River Jordan sweeping by

I called to an angel today
Unchanging spirit, ours eternally

My will to claim thanks to Thee
I called to an angel today

Reckless

Someone has been calling you
Preparing for your soul
Someone's waiting patiently
But still you just don't know
He's waiting for the day to come
When you'll open up the door
With loving kindness in His heart
He'll give you so much more

But now you live your life like a boat that's
lost at sea
Turning from the One who could save you
Well it should never be

Reckless, reckless
Reckless, reckless
You don't know what you're looking for
Reckless, reckless

Look beyond your broken dreams
He's waiting there for you
Put aside your worldly goals
Then you'll be born anew
The anguish in your heart
You never make the grade

But remember of the righteousness
Through faith that Jesus made

Well you've been around the world and
seen all there is to see
But you past right by that voice inside,
your one chance to be free

Lead Me On

Lead me down that path
That You alone have travelled
Take me far away
Beyond my here and now

And if the rains should come
To wash away my trail
Call out my name
Your love will not fail

Lead me on

The lonely hour I wait
Can not match your mercy
Nothing separates
Me from your love
And soon the doors will open
And the light of day
Comes rushing in
Taking me away

Lead me on

Blind Peace

Soul force windfall within
There is only love
You can't compute destiny
Saving descending dove

It appears we need to know
The form of our release
Oh, toiled soils of our past
Composure is in our reach

Does it really matter
Coursed actions in the make
Be kind, be gentle, choose harmony
Attain now for His namesake

Self appointed judge of all
Fears locked in dungeons deep
From throne on high, a deem of fire
Another child sleeps

Stretch forth lame inner ear
Let go to lighter heart
Will gentle vision to decision
Bless all and none shall harm
Lord highest love of God
Crystal depth by outer wall
Wed light, love and joint courage
Sustenance of my soul

Something to Live For

What is success?
Tell me where do we find it?
Is it a dream that keeps leading us on

So fragile is life
it's more precious than gold
But it's shattered in heartbreak if to that is what we
hold

Is it ours to decide
The length of our days?
Do we see the future or just close our eyes?
Do we know all the answers
Or stop asking the questions?
Do we want to know truth or just listen to lies?

There is One
Who encompasses creation
gives forth direction, wills the breath of life
A guiding light
That none can extinguish

Still Waters

Our God is all
Through Christ we become one
His body freely given us
The new agreement in His blood

Passage in His name
Wonderful counselor divine
Compelling peace and understanding
The true garnish of the vine

Life's not always easy
The march to fullness falters
He's the essence of existence
And the Master of still waters

As wise as the serpents
As harmless as a dove
Our evil ways are numbered
As we join into His love

Christ is our crown
His love and truth light our way
Now is our salvation
Wait and trust upon His day

Are we not His children?
Do we live as if we knew?
Are we pious to the past
Or misusing the morrow?

Waves

Waves of all colors, sizes and shapes
Some beautiful, some durable, but all the same
Being tossed by the waves
Oblivious to what's going on around them?
Wishing to be called to some higher purpose
A road somewhere....
Concrete beams for a many storied building

Waves tossing rocks and sand
Coming in and going out
Leaving tide waves on the shore
Altering the beach
Again, again and once more
Are they the God?
No, also a part of life
Doing their task as they must

Are we the rocks?
Wishing the be called upon
Just doing the best we can
Being tossed around by the waves
Are we doing the best we can?
We should and we need to
We owe it to ourselves, fellow travellers
And our Lord Jesus

Something to live for in the darkest of nights