

From: "Sam Cooke Portrait of a Legend 1951-1964"

A Change Is Gonna Come

by

SAM COOKE

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A CHANGE IS GONNA COME

Words and Music by
SAM COOKE

Slowly ♩ = 58

A♭9(♯11) G♭9(♯11) F7

N.C.

1. I was born _

mp *cresc.* *f rit.* *dim.* *a tempo*

(♩ = ♩.) (with pedal)

Verses 1 & 2:

B♭

_____ by the riv - er in a lit - tle tent, oh, _

2. See additional lyrics

mf a tempo

Cm7

Gm

_____ and just like _____ the riv-er, I've been a-run-nin' _____ ev - er since. _ It's been a

mf a tempo

2

B \flat Cm7 E \flat 7 D7

long, _____ a long time com-in', _____ but I know, _ oh-oo-oh, a

Gm 1. B \flat

change gon' come, _____ oh yes, it will. 2. It's been

2. B \flat Verses 3 & 4: B \flat

yes, it will. 3. I go _____ to the mov - ie and I

4. See additional lyrics

Cm7

go down - town _____ Some-bod-y keep tell-in' me don't _____

Gm Bb

hang a - round. _ It's been a long, _ a long

Cm7 Eb7 D7 To Coda ⊕ Gm

time com-ing, _ but I know, _ oh-oo-oh, a change gon' come, _ oh

Bridge: Bb Cm7

yes, it will. Then I go, oh-oo-oh, _ to my _

Bb6 Cm7

broth-er _ and I say, broth-er, _ help me _

4





please. _____ But he winds up _____ knock-ing me _____




back down on _____ my _____ knees, _____ oh. 4. There've been

Coda 



change gon' come, _____ oh yes, it will. _____

Verse 2:

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 comin',
 But I know, oh-oo-oh,
 A change gonna come, oh yes, it will.

Verse 4:

There've been times 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 comin',
 but I know, oh-oo-oh, a change gonna come, oh yes, it will.