

## Tom Russell

# "Mississippi River Runnin' Backwards"

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Old man river, that old man river he just keeps rolling  
along.

Mississippi river runnin' backwards, earthquake shook  
the land, it happened down here in 1912 it's happening  
here again.

Feast and famine ya'all fire and flood, abominations  
you understand, don't need no old testament profit to  
tell me we ain't living in the promise land.

"Everybody sing blow Gabriel blow, yeah blow that  
ragtime jazz, judgment day coming down here y'all in  
the land of the razzmatazz."

I saw carpet sweepers, microwave ovens, I saw busted  
down television screens.

Empty t.v. Evangelist cats with their hair all slicked up  
with brill cream.

Now the gospel news truly real bad news no need to  
invent all the doom and gloom, it's a one legged race  
to the liquor store, it's a hop skip and jump into the  
doom.

"Everybody sing blow Gabriel blow, yeah blow that  
ragtime jazz, judgment day coming down here y'all in  
the land of the razzmatazz."

Steamboat whistle blowing under water, everything is  
backwards and upside down, baby Moses in the  
bulrushes paddling sideways to higher ground.

Old ladies gambling inside river boat casinos,  
whirlpools swallowing em down insurance executives  
and fuller brush salesmen bushwhacked trying to leave  
town.

But their lifeboats went backwards up the mississippi  
river to the ancient Missouri side up thru Iowa,  
Minnesota into the hands of a righteous God.

"Everybody sing blow Gabriel blow, yeah blow that  
ragtime jazz, judgment day coming down here y'all in  
the land of the razzmatazz."

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