

# Hymn: Amazing Grace

"Amazing Grace" is one of the most enduring and popular hymns worldwide. It was written in 1772 by a man named John Newton, a former slave trader who experienced a profound transformation. Early in his life, John Newton was involved in the transatlantic slave trade, a dark chapter in history where people were captured, sold, and enslaved. However, Newton had a spiritual awakening during a storm at sea. Fearing for his life, he cried out to God for mercy, and miraculously, the storm subsided. This event marked a turning point in Newton's life.

Over time, Newton abandoned the slave trade and devoted himself to Christianity, later becoming a minister. He went on to become a staunch abolitionist, advocating for the rights of those kept in the bondage of slavery at numerous parliamentary meetings and even before the Privy Council. The words of "Amazing Grace" reflect his gratitude for the divine mercy that changed his heart. The lyrics speak of a wretch like him being saved and someone who was lost becoming found, emphasizing the power of redemption and forgiveness through God's grace. The lyrics were set to different tunes over the years, but it became best known when it was set to the melody of the song "New Britain" in a popular hymnbook published in 1847.

In the 19th century, the hymn gained widespread recognition during the Second Great Awakening, a revival of faith that spread throughout rural America. Its message of grace and redemption inspired individuals seeking solace and a renewed sense of purpose.

Throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries, "Amazing Grace" continued to be a beloved hymn in churches and found its way into popular culture, spreading worldwide. The hymn resonated with people from various backgrounds, transcending cultural boundaries. It was performed by countless artists in various styles, and it became one of the most translated songs in the world in over 60 different languages, from Cherokee to Russian! The hymn's universal themes of repentance, grace, and transformation continue to touch the hearts and souls of today's people.

"Amazing Grace" is more than just a hymn; it is a powerful testament to the human capacity for change through Christ's salvation and the transformative nature of grace. Its enduring legacy serves as a reminder that, no matter our past, redemption and renewal are possible.

SALVATION

# 314 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

st. 1-5 John Newton, 1779  
st. 6 anon.

NEW BRITAIN  
CM

*Columbian Harmony*, 1829

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
5. The earth shall soon dis - solve like snow; the  
6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
Word my hope se - cures; He will my Shield and  
sun for - bear to shine; but God, who called me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
Por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
here be - low, will be for - ev - er mine.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.