

Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

This beloved hymn was written by the English minister Isaac Watts, who published it in 1719. During his lifetime, Watts wrote 750 hymns and is known as the “godfather of English hymnology.” For this work, he wrote nine stanzas based on Psalm 90, an ancient poetic prayer from the Bible. It’s one of his most popular hymns and is still sung today in churches and by individuals all over the world. The song has been cherished for many years as a beautiful and hopeful expression of faith during hard times.

The lyrics of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” express gratitude for God’s protection throughout the ages and talk about how He is our place of safety and refuge: “O God, our Help in ages past/our Hope for years to come/our Shelter from the stormy blast/and our eternal Home.”

This remarkable hymn has been set to many different melodies over the years. The most popular one is a tune known as “St Anne,” written by the English composer William Croft in 1708. It’s a jubilant, uplifting melody that makes it easy to sing along and reminds us of God’s everlasting love and faithfulness.

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” is a powerful reminder of God’s love and faithfulness throughout the years and a perfect way to express our gratitude for His protection. As you sing it with your family or friends, be sure to remember that no matter what life throws our way, we can always count on God to be our help in times of trouble.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are

hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is Thine
 earth re - ceived her frame, From ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone; Short as the watch that

storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

This tune in a higher key, No. 73.

Baptist Hymnal 1991 74

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

MUSIC (ST. ANNE 8.6.8.6.(C.M.)): William Croft, 1678-1727