

♩ = 60

Amazing Grace

John Newton, circa 1772



Hymn

<http://BCFDPipesAndDrums.com/>

Last Modified 12/12/04

Verse 1

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Words:

John Newton, *Olney Hymns* (London: W. Oliver, 1779). Exception: the last stanza is by an unknown author; it appeared as early as 1829 in the Baptist Songster, by R. Winchell (Wethersfield, Connecticut), as the last stanza of the song "Jerusalem My Happy Home."

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Music:

"New Britain," in *Virginia Harmony*, by James P. Carrell and David S. Clayton (Winchester, Virginia: 1831).

This is probably the most popular hymn in the English language. A television documentary was even made about it. Perhaps it is because its words so well describe the author: John Newton was a slave trader before coming to Christ. It was played on the pipes by piper Eric Rigler at the funeral of American president Ronald Reagan in honor of his Scottish heritage.

Adapted from <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/a/m/amazgrac.htm>

[Video of this fitting farewell](#)

Verse 5

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

Verse 6

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below,
Shall be forever mine.

Snopes.com (<http://www.snopes.com/religion/amazing.htm>) debunks the popular email urban legend that Amazing Grace was penned by a slave trader immediately after he survived a horrific storm at sea, his survival prompting him to forswear his former evil ways and accept God into his life. The truth is less spectacular. Amazing Grace was penned by a former slave trader, but only many decades after he'd left slave trading and seafaring behind and had become a minister of God.

Verse 7

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.