

Amazing Grace

Words by John Newton
(play Judy Collins – Amazing Grace)

Amazing Grace – written by John Newton



- Born:
 - August 4, 1725
Wapping, London, England
- Married
 - February 1, 1750 to Mary Catlett
- Died:
 - December 21, 1807 (aged 82)
 - London, England

Amazing Grace - Origins

- Written by John Newton
 - 2nd half of December 1772 – indicated by his diaries and sermon notes
 - Accompanied sermon delivered on January 1, 1773
 - 1 Chronicles 17:16-17 – *King David's Prayer*
 - *Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said:*
“Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, my God, you have spoken about the future of the house of your servant. You, Lord God, have looked on me as though I were the most exalted of men.
 - 1779 - First published in *Olney Hymns* on page 53 & 54 under the title *“Faith's Review and Expectation”*
- Guinness Book of Word Records – most recorded song

Amazing Grace – Original 1st & 2nd Verse

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

Amazing Grace – Original 3rd & 4th Verse

- Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
- The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Amazing Grace – Original 5th & 6th Verse

- Yes, when this flesh and hear shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.
- The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But GOD, who called me here below,
Will be for ever mine.

Amazing Grace – African American Verse

- *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852) first recorded a verse passed down orally by African American communities. Frequently replaces Newton's 4th verse.
- 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 first begun.

Amazing Grace – More Verses

- How long, dear Savior, oh how long
Have I on earth to stay?
Roll on, roll on, ye wheels of time
And bring that joyful day.
- How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds
And drives away his fear.

Amazing Grace – More Verses

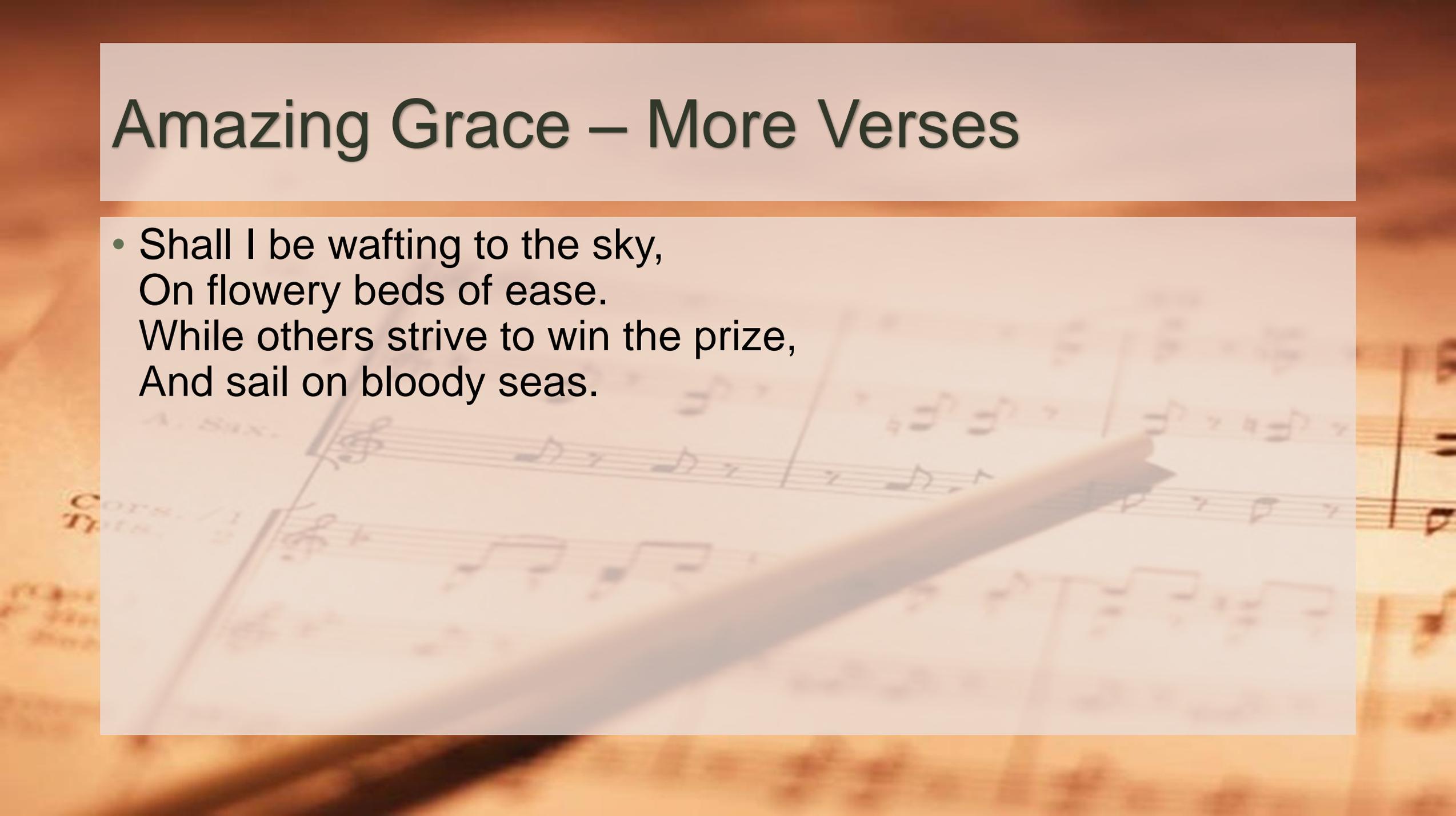
- Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone
And there's a cross for me.
- We lay our garments by
Upon our beds to rest
'Though death may soon disrobe us all
Of what we now possess.

Amazing Grace – More Verses

- Amazing grace has set me free
To touch, to taste, to feel
The wonders of accepting love
Have made me whole and real.
- The world shall soon to ruin go
The sun refuse to shine
But God, who called me here below
Shall be forever mine.

Amazing Grace – More Verses

- Shall I be wafting to the sky,
On flowery beds of ease.
While others strive to win the prize,
And sail on bloody seas.



Amazing Grace – the Music?

- Andy Andrews
<https://youtu.be/2cINrWlfCPI>
- Over 20 different tunes have been published with this song
- But wait

Amazing Grace – Almost Didn't Happen!

- John Newton had a troubled home life
 - Elizabeth Newton (mother) died on July 11, 1732 when he was almost 7 years old. While sick with tuberculosis, the Newton family stayed with the Catlett family – where he first met his future wife, Mary.
 - John Newton Sr. (father) quickly remarried, and John, Jr. was sent to boarding school for 2 years.
 - Went to sea with his father, Captain Newton, when he was 11 years old
 - Didn't return to England until he was 13 years old

Amazing Grace – Almost Didn't Happen!

- John Newton was a trouble maker
 - While in boarding school, he was now “permitted to mingle with careless and profane children, and soon began to learn their ways.”
 - As a sailor, he was distinguished himself as a deserter and mutineer.
 - As an early indication of his prolific hymn writing, he would frequently write vulgar songs about the Officers he served under.
 - Such behavior resulted in his being left on Plantain Island, near the coast of Sierra Leone
 - Following his usual behavioral tendencies, he himself became a slave.

Amazing Grace – Almost Didn't Happen!

- John Newton almost died
 - He was late for the departure of a small boat which subsequently capsized and everyone on board drowned.
 - As a sailor, he was ordered to come down off a rope ladder. The person that replaced him was immediately washed overboard.
 - While on Plantain Island, he contracted malaria and nearly died.
 - While returning to England, his ship was nearly destroyed by a storm.
 - Before leaving on his 4th voyage as the Captain of a slave ship, he became ill and was replaced. During the voyage, the Captain was killed during a slave uprising.

Amazing Grace – Almost Didn't Happen!

- John Newton almost didn't become a priest
 - He did not have a university education
 - He published a 25,000 word spiritual autobiography
 - Lord Dartmouth (namesake of Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH), was entitled to select the clergy for the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.
 - Church of England law held that nothing but metrical psalms (KJV of Psalms adapted to song meters) should be sung within the sanctified buildings.

Amazing Grace – So What Music?

- Wintley Phipps
https://youtu.be/DMF_24cQqT0

“Amazing Grace” returning back to the United Kingdom

- Celtic Women (over 24 million views on YouTube.com)
https://youtu.be/HsCp5LG_zNE
- Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
<https://youtu.be/jkLXOWimMY8>