



How does one define a hymn?
It's hard to say, but most hymns are characterized by theologically rich lyrics, symmetrical meter in the verses, and a tune that congregations find easy to sing. At the heart of hymnwriting is a desire to create a song

Inspired by the hymn writers of the past, we've written 14 new hymns for this album. Some songs are old lyrics set to new tunes. For others, we used the thematic structure of a hymn as the basis for an entirely new song.

that will endure for generations.

And in some cases we've written completely new hymns that attempt to communicate the inexhaustible riches of God's word and the gospel through the simple elements of words and melodies.

Above each lyric, different songwriters have shared thoughts on the background or meaning of the song. We hope you enjoy their stories. More importantly, we hope these songs open your heart and mind to the song that never changes from age to age: the song of the redeemed to their matchless Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

GREAT THINGS

The Fanny Crosby hymn "To God Be the Glory" was a favorite in our church when we were growing up. The first verse is a summary of the gospel and served as the foundation for "Great Things." Scripture often uses that phrase to describe God and His works. He is the God "who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number" (Job 5:9). Psalm 126:3 declares, "The Lord has done great things for us," and in Luke 1:49 Mary says, "He who is mighty has done great things for me." We hope this song will remind you of the great things God has done for us in providing salvation through Jesus Christ.

— Steve & Vikki

VERSE

To God be the glory, great things He has done So loved He the world that He gave us His Son Who yielded His life, an atonement for sin And opened the life-gate that all may go in

VERSE 2

To God be the glory for wisdom and grace That chose us and made us the heirs of His name He justified freely His daughters and sons And gave us His Spirit, the seal of His love

CHORU

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Through our Savior Jesus Christ He has raised us up to a glorious hope Rejoice, you ransomed ones Great things He has done

VERSE:

To God be the glory, He joined us with Christ We share in His death and we're hid in His life We stand in His righteousness, never our own And sit with Him now on His heavenly throne

Verse one from "To God Be the Glory" by Fanny J. Crosby (1875) music and additional words by Steve & Vikki Cook © 2012 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)







OUR SONG FROM AGE TO AGE

The idea for this song came while brainstorming titles for this album. Christians have been singing about Jesus since the beginning of the church and will be singing about Him from now to eternity. Psalm 79:13 was the inspiration for the chorus and overall theme of the song: "But we Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise." I wrote the chorus quickly and then wrote the four verses a few weeks later at a Sovereign Grace Music songwriting retreat. The verses cover creation, the fall, God's promised redemption, and God's faithfulness to keep those He's saved until we finally see His face. — Joel

VERSE

Oh God of power, living Word
The One who made the stars
Who with Your glory filled the earth
From dust made beating hearts
You loved us when we fell away
Poured mercy on our souls
And promised grace would come to save
To loose death's iron hold

CHORUS

You are our song from age to age Our voices unite to recount Your praise Again and again

VERSE!

Oh God of promises fulfilled The God who took on flesh Who did all that the Father willed Was humbled unto death You bore our cross of sin and shame Endured our agony With gladness we now bear Your name And worship at Your feet

CHORUS 2

You are our song from age to age Our voices unite to recount Your praise Again and again You are our song from age to age We will proclaim Your pow'r to save Again and again

VFRSF 3

Oh God, who surely guides our steps Through tempests and through trials Our Shepherd King, Your way is best Though tears now veil our eyes Your steadfast love, our perfect hope Our eyes are fixed on grace We have no doubt You'll lead us home To finally see Your face

VERSE 4

Oh God of all of history
Enthroned in realms of light
What eyes of faith have strained to see
Will one day fill our sight
With all the saints we'll lay our crowns
Before the Savior's feet
And sing as all the heav'ns resound
For all eternity

Music and words by Joel Sczebel
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ABBA, FATHER

In his *Dictionary of Hymnology*, John Julian describes James Deck's hymns as "marked by directness of aim, simplicity of language, and great earnestness. The rhythm is good, and an expressive tenderness pervades many of them." That's certainly true of "Abba, Father." I wrote the music to enable a celebrative response that's appropriate for those who, through the atoning death of Jesus Christ, have been forever adopted into God's family. — *Joel*

VFRSF

Abba, Father! we approach You In our Savior's precious name We, Your children, here assembled Now Your promised blessing claim From our sins His blood has washed us Now we can draw nigh By the power of Your Spirit "Abba, Father" now we cry "Abba, Father" now we cry

VERSE!

Once as prodigals we wandered Hating what was all our need But Your grace o'er sin abounding Rescued us from misery You the prodigals have pardoned Kissed us with Your love Spread the feast and now You've called us E'er to dwell with You above E'er to dwell with You above

BRIDGE

You have found Your once lost children They now live who once were dead "It is right," we hear You saying "For my people to be glad"

VERSE 3

Abba, Father! all adore You Shout Your praise in Heav'n above While in us they learn the wonders Of Your wisdom, grace, and love Soon before Your throne assembled Gladly we'll proclaim: "Glory, everlasting glory Be to God and to the Lamb! Be to God and to the Lamb!"

Original words by James G. Deck (1841), music and additional words by Joel Sczebel

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O MY SOUL, ARISE

Hebrews 9:11–14 assures us that Christ has achieved a perfect redemption for us through His blood that purifies even our very consciences. Charles Wesley's hymn, "Arise, My Soul, Arise," is an encouragement to apply those verses to our souls. I set the song in a minor key, aware that the battle to remember the scriptural truths contained in these verses is a battle! But how sweet it is to contend with our souls knowing that the object of our trust is Jesus Christ. He is our unique and perfectly qualified Great High Priest, and our assurance that we do not fight alone. — *Eric*

VERSE

Arise, my soul, arise Shake off your guilty fears The bleeding sacrifice On my behalf appears Before the throne my surety stands Before the throne my surety stands My name is written on His hands

VFRSF 2

He ever lives above
For me to intercede
His all redeeming love
His precious blood to plead
His blood atoned for every race
His blood atoned for every race
And sprinkles now the throne of grace

CHORUS

O my soul, arise Behold the risen Christ Your Great High Priest Your spotless sacrifice O my soul, arise God owns you as His child Shake off your guilty fears My soul, arise

VFRSF 3

Five bleeding wounds He bears Received on Calvary They pour effectual prayers They strongly plead for me: "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry "Forgive him, O forgive," they cry "Don't let that ransomed sinner die!"

VFRSF 4

My God is reconciled His pard'ning voice I hear He owns me as His child I can no longer fear With confidence I now draw nigh With confidence I now draw nigh And "Father, Abba, Father," cry

Verses by Charles Wesley (1742), music and additional words by Eric McAllister © 2012 Sovereign Grace Worshin (ASCAP)

HOW GREAT YOU ARE

The hymn "How Great Thou Art" was the inspiration for this song. Because the original lyrics are still under copyright, we worked together to write new lyrics while keeping the same concepts as the original verses. The chorus is meant to be a response to the glory of God on display as seen in creation, redemption, and the second coming of Christ. In response to those realities, we must sing to God, "How great You are!" — Pat

VERSE

Our God is great
The Father of creation
His splendor fills the earth
The lightning crash
The thunder sings His praises
The galaxies can't help but shout His worth

CHORUS

My soul must sing to You an offering How great You are My soul must sing, oh, let the heavens ring How great You are Oh, how great You are

VFRSF

The Word made flesh
God's promise to the fallen
He came with pow'r to save
The light of life was crushed for our rebellion
He died our death and rose up from the grave

VERSE

Our King will come With trumpet blasts resounding To claim His blood-washed bride He'll rend the skies, descending in His glory And in an instant faith will turn to sight

Inspired by "How Great Thou Art" by Stuart Hine (1949), music and words by Joel Sczebel and Pat Sczebel
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GLORIOUS CHRIST

This song came about as I reflected on the popularity of Chris Tomlin's "How Great Is Our God." I wanted to write a similar song that focused on God's greatness, but especially as He's revealed Himself to us in Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says that God "has shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Paul preached the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 2:7) and spoke of the "immeasurable riches of His grace... in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:8). Even in eternity, we will never exhaust the praises of the glorious Christ, who is the image of the invisible God and the only Savior. — *Bob*

VFRSF

The radiance of the Father
Before the dawn of time
You spoke and all creation came to be
The molecules and planets
Reveal Your great design
And every one was made so we could see
So we could see

CHORU

You are the glorious Christ
The greatest of all delights
Your power is unequaled
Your love beyond all heights
No greater sacrifice
Than when You laid down Your life
We join the song of angels
Who praise You day and night
Glorious Christ

VERSE

You left the air of heaven
To breathe the dust of earth
And dwell among the outcast and the poor
You came to be forsaken
And died to take our curse
So You could be our joy forevermore
Forevermore

BRIDGE

You're seated now in heaven
Enthroned at God's right hand
You've shattered death and freed us
From our fears
And though we cannot see You
You're coming back again
And all will be made right when You appear
And all will be made right when You appear

Music and words by Bob Kauflin © 2012 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)





SEE. HE COMES

This song began with a melody written by Zach. As we looked for hymn lyrics to fit the tune, Charles Wesley's "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" seemed to be the perfect fit. The lyrics reference a theme not often found in modern worship songs: the glorious—and, for some, terrifying—return of Christ. As believers, we long for that day, but are sobered by the reality that the Judge of all the earth will vanquish all evil. "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so, Amen" (Revelation 1:7). — *Rich*

VERSE

See, He comes upon the clouds Jesus Christ, our King appears All the saints bought by His blood Will rise to meet Him in the air Earth and sea shall flee away All creation waits and groans For the Lord Redeemer comes To take His longing exiles home

CHORUS

Hallelujah, hallelujah Come, O Lord, on earth to reign Hallelujah, hallelujah We await the coming day

VERSE

Those who mocked and scorned His name Pierced and nailed Him to the tree Deeply wail, in sorrow grieve When they the true Messiah see Every eye will see the Lord Dressed in dreadful majesty Every knee shall bow before The Judge of all eternity

VERSE 3

Still He bears the holy scars
Evidence of saving grace
All the saints bought by His blood
Shall then rejoice to see His face
Yes, amen, let all adore
Christ on His eternal throne
All the pow'r and might are Yours
Come, claim the kingdom as Your own

Based on "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending", words by John Cennick (1752) and Charles Wesley (1758), music and additional words by Rich Gunderlock and Zach Sprowls © 2019 Sovereign Grace Worshin (ASCAP)

NOTHING THAT MY HANDS CAN DO

I didn't actually have this album in mind when I wrote this song. I was simply trying to grow in my song writing by mining a hymnal for some fresh lyrical ideas. As I flicked through the pages I came across Horatius Bonar's "Not What My Hands Have Done." The first two lines read, "Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul." They stood out to me as a needed reminder of the gospel. Nothing I can do will ever make me fit for God's presence. But through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has accomplished everything necessary to insure my complete and eternal acceptance before God. — *Matt*

VERSE

There's nothing that my hands can do
To save my guilty soul
I cannot cleanse my fiithy stains
Or make my spirit whole
For nothing but the blood of Christ
Can all my sins erase
I dare not claim my righteousness
But hide within His grace
'Tis Christ who saved me from the depths
God's pardon I've received
I'm washed within His precious blood
My heart is sprinkled clean

VERSE 9

I'll praise the God of holiness
Of justice, truth, and might
Who guides me by His mighty hand
To walk within His light
While Satan weaves his shallow lies
God speaks to me in love
Reminding me His only Son
Has bought me with His blood
And Christ dispels my every doubt
Through Him I am redeemed
I love because He loved me first
I live because He lives

VERSE 3

My life is but a fleeting sigh A tear within the sea But You are everlasting, Lord And You've predestined me To leave this fading world behind Not fearing death will come For then I'll look on Jesus Christ And to His arms I'll run And when I see Him face to face What glory that will be To look upon my Savior's scars And know they were for me

Original words by Horatius Bonar (1861), music and alternate words by Matt Richley © 2012 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)

MY REDEEMER'S LOVE

I wrote the verse lyrics to this song with Romans 8:37–39 in mind. Nothing brings us more comfort and strength in our trials than to remember that Jesus loves us with an everlasting love and nothing can ever separate us from His love. He loved us from eternity past. He loved us when He hung on the cross as our substitute. He loves us every second of our lives. He will love us when we go through the valley of the shadow of death, and He'll continue to love us forever. Jordan came up with the verse melody and the chorus is Joel's, adapted from a song he had written previously. — Mark

My Redeemer's love is deeper Than the depths of sin and hell He who was enthroned in glory Came to bring us to Himself My Redeemer's love is wider Than the breach my sins had made He reached down into my darkness He alone has pow'r to save

Deeper than the rolling seas Higher than the mountain peaks Your love is all I need

My Redeemer's love is stronger Than my fiercest enemies He will hold me in the tempest Through the flood He carries me My Redeemer's love will lead me Through the deepest valley here He will shepherd me and guide me He will ever keep me near

Deeper than the rolling seas Higher than the mountain peaks Your love is all I need Stronger than the rushing wind Shattering the power of sin Your love is all I need

My Redeemer's love grows sweeter As eternity draws near I'll enjoy His love forever At His throne for endless years My Redeemer's love will fill me On the day I see His face I will love Him back forever And forever sing His praise

Music and words by Mark Altrogge, Jordan Kauflin, and Joel Sczebel

FATHER. HOW SWEET

This hymn is a meditation on the eternal, infinite love between God the Father and Jesus, His Son, Before time, their love was perfect and complete in joy, so it is amazing they would invite wicked rebels like us to share their love. It's incredible that the Father would suffer the pain of watching his Son's agonies on the cross. It's astounding the Son would give up His experience of His Father's love to know the darkness of being forsaken by His Father when He bore our sins on Calvary. And it is astounding, that because we have been joined to Christ, the Father looks upon us with the same love and affection He has for Jesus. — Mark

Father, how sweet must be the pleasure You find in Your eternal Son For long before You made the heavens Both You and He rejoiced as one And long before You formed the angels Before You made the day and night Jesus exulted in Your presence And He was all of Your delight

Father, what love You've shown to rebels That You would send Your Son so dear Into this world of grief and trouble To bring unworthy sinners near We'll never fathom how it pained You When You supplied the offering To rescue those who had disdained You To watch Your dear Son suffering

Jesus, it fills our hearts with wonder That You would leave Your heavenly place To take on flesh to thirst and hunger To save the ones who spurned Your grace You came to forfeit every mercy To die that mercy we would find And then You hung alone in darkness So in our hearts Your grace would shine

Jesus, in glory You've ascended Never again to leave Your throne Because of You we are befriended Received and welcomed as God's own Father, how sweet now is Your pleasure In us, Your daughters and Your sons We will delight in You forever In Jesus You have made us one

MIGHTY FORTRESS

This song is a blending of Psalm 42 with Martin Luther's classic hymn, "A Mighty Fortress," set to new music. Our hope in writing the song was to create a fresh treatment of eternal truths that we so often need to preach to ourselves. No one and no thing is more powerful than God and He is for us. Though the world, Satan, and our own sinful nature work against us we have a great hope in a great God who is strong and strong to save. — Steve & Vikki

VERSE

A mighty fortress is our God A shield that never fails Amid the flood of mortal ills His power will prevail Our ancient foe is cruel and armed with hate Yet with one word he'll bow to Jesus' reign

CHORUS

Hope in God, O my soul He is strong and He is strong to save Hope in God He's a rock and your hiding place He's a mighty fortress

VERSE

We dare not trust in our own hand Or all would be in vain Our confidence is in the One Who holds the worlds in place He fights for us, the sovereign Lord of hosts From age to age the triumph's His alone

Inspired by "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Martin Luther (circa 1528 music and words by Steve & Vikki Cook









IMMOVABLE OUR HOPE REMAINS

When I first came across this ten verse Augustus Toplady hymn "Immovable Our Hope Remains," I was significantly affected by the confident faith the lyrics expressed. I rearranged, rephrased, and trimmed down the hymn into four verses. Later on, my dad came across my lyrics on our piano and set them to a melody that tries to capture the triumph of the words. No matter how we feel, no matter how hopeless or unsure our future appears, no matter what lies Satan uses to weaken our hearts, our hope is immovable. Jesus is already in heaven, and we are in Christ! — *Brittany*

VERSE

Immovable our hope remains
Though shifting sands before us lie
The One who washed away our stains
Shall bear us safely to the skies
The floods may rise, the winds may beat
Torrential rains descend
Yet God His own will not forget
He'll love and keep us till the end
You'll love and keep us till the end

VERSE

This is eternal life: to know
The living God and Christ, the Son
The Savior will not let us go
Until His saving work is done
Our debt was great, as was our need
But now the price is paid
Who can behold Immanuel bleed
And doubt His willingness to save?
We trust Your willingness to save

VERSE

The Lord acquits, who can condemn? Though Satan's accusations fly His pow'r can never reach our names To blot them from the Book of Life The Son has surely made us free His Word forever stands And all our joy is knowing we Are graven on His wounded hands We're graven on Your wounded hands

VFRSE 4

Built into Christ, secure we stand For with His Spirit we've been sealed By grace we'll see the promised land Where every sorrow shall be healed To God who gave His only Son To Jesus Christ, our Lord To God the Spirit, Three-in-one Be songs of praise forevermore We'll sing Your praise forevermore

Original words by August Toplady (1812), music and alternate words by Bob Kauflin and Brittany Kauflir © 2012 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)





ALL IS WELL

We wrote this song to bring comfort and hope in the midst of trials as we remind ourselves of God's great love. A number of scriptures were in our thoughts as we wrote the song, including 1 John 4:9, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Romans 8:31–39, and John 16:33. Our sovereign God, who loves each of us in Christ, is working good in everything, and though we don't always see the good, we can always trust Him. — Steve & Vikki

VFRSE :

The sun beams on behind the clouds
And in the dark still grace abounds
All is well because of God's great love
The road of disappointment runs
Where unseen mercies wait for us
And all is well because of God's great love

CHORUS

How brightly shines the love of the Father In our Savior, Jesus Christ With faithful hands He fulfills every promise He will never leave our side

VERSE!

He feels our weakness, knows our need And for our good He intercedes All is well because of God's great love Through every failure, every fear The Lord of comfort draws us near And all is well because of God's great love

VERSE 3

His coming soon will fill the sky
And all that's wrong will be made right
With newborn eyes we will behold
The glory of the risen Lord
All will be well because of God's great love
Yes, all is well because of God's great love

Music and words by Steve & Vikki Cook © 2012 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)







GLADLY WOULD I LEAVE BEHIND ME

In 2009, I remember stumbling upon the first verse of Ann Griffith's hymn in a book and immediately thinking I'd found a gem. Her simple devotion resonated in my soul. As Christians, the desire to lay aside everything in order to gain Christ is a thought that should echo in everything we think and do. Ann's words capture that thought beautifully. I wrote additional lyrics to more fully express the gladness we experience as we long to glorify our Savior in life or by death. — *Doug*

VFRSF

Gladly would I leave behind me All the pleasure I have known To pursue surpassing treasures At the throne of God the Son Worthy of unending worship Love and loveliness is He By His precious death were millions From the jaws of death set free

VERSE

Gladly would I give to Jesus
All affection, everything
For the washing of His mercy
Makes my ransomed heart to sing
"Holy, holy!" is the chorus
Rising up from those who see
Christ exalted, bright and burning
Full of pow'r and purity

CHORU

Where else can I go? Jesus, You're the One That I was made to know What else can I do? Jesus, You're my all I gladly run to You

VERSE 3

Gladly would I flee temptations For their troubles fill my life Turn and seek my God and Savior For His goodness satisfies Earthly treasures, all are passing Thieves break in and rust destroys But in God are awesome splendor Love, and everlasting joys

TAG

Gladly would I give to Jesus All affection, everything For the washing of His mercy Makes my ransomed heart to sing

erse one by Ann Griffiths (1805), music and additional words by Doug Plani 2012 Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP)

Prelude **Great Things** Our Song from Age to Age Abba, Father O My Soul, Arise How Great You Are Glorious Christ See He Comes Nothing That My Hands Can Do My Redeemer's Love Father, How Sweet 11 12 Mighty Fortress Immovable Our Hope Remains 13 14 All Is Well Gladly Would I Leave Behind Me 15

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Creative Team: Bob Kauflin, Joel Sczebel, Steve Cook

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