

Lyrics from 'Amazing Grace' written by John Newton

### **Amazing Grace**

**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!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snare,  
We have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord hast promised food to me,  
His word my hope secures!  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.**

**Shall I be wafted through the skies,  
On flowery beds of ease,  
Where others strive to win the prize  
And sail through bloody seas.**

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

#### **Notes:**

Versus 1-4 by John Newton

Verse 5 from *Am I a soldier of the Cross?* By Isaac Watts

Verse 6 by John P Rees (printed in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by Harriet Beacher Stowe)

John Newton (1725-1807). Was himself for a time a slave in Africa and later worked as a slaver. He wrote *Amazing Grace* at Christmas 1772, based on a religious conversion which he experienced during a storm at sea 1748. After his conversion he continued in the slave trade for some years, but later became a clergyman and preached against slavery.

The tune to which *Amazing Grace* was first sung is not known. It was set to *New Britain*, the tune now used, by William Walker, in the USA, in 1837. It is thought that *New Britain* was derived from the tune of *Fair Helen of Kirkconnell*, a Scottish ballad.

Amazing Grace has been adopted by human rights campaigners in many parts of the world.