

YOUR GRACE
STILL
AMAZES ME

A Musical for Easter

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

by Nan Allen

“HALLELUJAH TO THE KING”

The word “Hallelujah” is sometimes spelled “Alleluia,” but they mean the same thing: God be praised!

The word came out of a Hebrew word “hallel,” which literally means “a song of praise.” The Levites (the priestly tribe of ancient Israel) were given the special assignment of singing these praise songs. The “Hallel” is now a Jewish prayer that is a verbatim recitation of Psalms 113-118. Look up the following verses and find out the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW God may be praised.

- Psalm 113:3 (when?)
- Psalm 114: 7 (how?)
- Psalm 115: 1 (why?)
- Psalm 116: 13 (what?)
- Psalm 117: 1 (who?)
- Psalm 118: 26 (where?)

“GLORIOUS DAY (LIVING HE LOVED ME)”

This song pretty much tells the whole gospel story.

Now read one of the biblical accounts of His death, burial, and resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Read these verses and see how the first verses in the song correspond to the Scripture.

Later in that same chapter, Paul tells “the rest of the story.” Read it in 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,52. Now read the last verse of the song and compare the accounts.

Thank God for all of those “glorious days” that provide for our salvation.

“CHRIST AROSE”

Look at the lyrics* to this beloved Easter song:

Verse 1

“Low in the grave He lay—Jesus, my Savior!

Waiting the coming day—Jesus, my Lord!”

(What day is He waiting for? Read about it in Matthew 28:1.)

Verse 2

“Vainly they watch His bed—Jesus, my Savior!

Vainly they seal the dead—Jesus, my Lord!”

(To whom does “they” refer? Find out in Matthew 27:66.)

Verse 3

“Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus, my Savior!

He tore the bars away—Jesus, my Lord!”

(What does this mean? Read about it in I Corinthians 15:54-57.)

Refrain

“Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o’er His foes.

He arose a victor from the dark domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign.

He arose! He arose!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

(The words to the refrain are some of the sweetest words ever sung.

Read about the saints in Ephesians 2:14-22.)

*Lyrics written by Robert Lowry

“GRACE”

with “GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN”

He was called the “Prince of Preachers,” and it is estimated that he preached to over 10 million people in his lifetime. Charles Spurgeon, born in Essex, England, in 1834, was 15 years old when he stepped into a church on a snowy day. He heard and received the gospel that day. The Scripture that spoke to him the loudest was Isaiah 45:22.

Read this Scripture passage and ask God to help you understand and absorb its power.

“YOUR GRACE STILL AMAZES ME”

In Romans, Paul quotes King David. Find them in Romans 4:7-8. Now read the Psalm from which it came—Psalm 32:1. See how God showed His amazing grace by using a covering to blot out our sins?

Read these other passages that speak of God’s amazing grace:
Ephesians 2:8-9

1 Corinthians 15:10

2 Corinthians 12:9

“MY HEART IS FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS”

This great “new hymn,” written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, expresses thanks for many things that Christ did for us.

Look at the lyric and make a list of those things.

Can you think of others not mentioned in this lyric?

Read Colossians 2:6-7 and be thankful for all God has done through His Son.

“AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)”

The author, John Newton, lived much of his life as a hardened slave trader. But one day he recognized and accepted the undeserved favor of God. It forever changed his life, as well as those of us who have read his story and sung his songs.

In his final years, Newton was considering retirement from the pastorate that he held many years in a church in London. Finally, in failing health, he is reported to have said: “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior.”

Many years later, Chris Tomlin added a beautiful chorus to this song. The word “chains” has true power, especially if you remember John Newton’s testimony of being a slave trader. What other words in the chorus express God’s power?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and rejoice in what God has done to buy us back from our own sin.