

# My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

## Scripture Allusions (Bible References), and Story for the Favorite Hymn, “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

All scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version (Ref. 1) unless marked otherwise. Page 7 provides the lyrics for the verses and refrain.

### Scripture Allusions and Lyrics -- Verse 1 and Refrain

*“My hope is built on nothing less”*

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.”

-- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

*“Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness”*

“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.”

-- Romans 5:8-9

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ...” -- Ephesians 1:7

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” -- 2 Corinthians 5:21 NASB (Ref. 2)

*“On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand” (Refrain)*

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not

act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell -- and great was its fall!" -- Matthew 7:24-27

The Greek word for "rock" in this passage is "petra." "Petra" is a huge mass of solid, connected rock rising up through the earth, such as a projecting cliff (Ref. 3).

## Scripture Allusions and Lyrics -- Verse 2

*"When darkness veils his lovely face"*

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." -- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

"For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." -- 2 Corinthians 4:6

*"I rest on his unchanging grace"*

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast." -- Ephesians 2:8-9

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." -- Hebrews 13:8

*"My anchor holds within the veil"*

"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split." -- Matthew 27:50-51 NASB

"In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul**, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." -- Hebrews 6:17-20 (NASB, emphasis added)

### Scripture Allusions and Lyrics -- Verse 3

*“His oath, his covenant, his blood”*

‘I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” ’ -- Genesis 9:11-13

‘Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” ’ -- Matthew 26:27-28

*“He then is all my hope and stay”*

Refer to Hebrews 6:19 above where the author describes hope as an anchor for the soul.

Merriam Webster (Ref. 4) defines a “stay” (noun) as a large, strong rope usually of wire used to support a mast. The term, “stay,” is Middle English, dating to before the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The hymn writer makes the point that Jesus Christ not only is our hope, but also our “stay,” providing support and stability through all of life’s storms.

### Scripture Allusions and Lyrics -- Verse 4

*“When he shall come with trumpet sound”*

“For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16

*“Dressed in his righteousness alone”*

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.” -- Isaiah 61:10

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’ -- Matthew 22:11-14

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” -- Galatians 3:27

*“Faultless to stand before the throne”*

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw -- the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.” -- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

“For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.” -- 2 Corinthians 5:10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.” -- John 5:24

As believers in Jesus Christ, we will not be judged for our sins (John 5:24). However, we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive reward and praise for our works -- works done with pure motives that bring glory to Jesus, that further the gospel, and minister to others in Christ’s name. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

## **Background**

**Edward Mote** (1797-1874) was a pastor and hymn writer (Ref. 5). Mote falls into the rare category of hymn writers who grew up without religious training.

Mote's parents were pub owners. He was apprenticed at a young age by his parents to a cabinetmaker, but found faith when he heard the preaching of John Hyatt at the Tottenham Court Road Chapel in London at age 15 (Ref. 6).

Living near London, he established a successful cabinet-making enterprise and became a Baptist minister in 1852, at 55 years of age. Reverend Mote ministered for 21 years at Strict Baptist Church in Horsham, Sussex (Ref. 6).

It was during his career as a cabinetmaker that "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" came into being. One morning in 1834 as he was walking to work, it entered his mind to write a hymn. By the time he got to work, he had the chorus. He wrote four more verses over the course of that day and two additional verses before he was finished (Ref. 7).

The hymn was published anonymously in several hymn collections before first being attributed to Mote in a collection of approximately 100 of his hymns published in 1837. Mote's original title for the hymn in this collection was "The Immutable Basis of a Sinner's Hope." The tune "Solid Rock" to which Mote's words are most commonly set was composed by William B. Bradbury for this text in 1863. An alternative tune sometimes used is "Melita" by John B. Dykes, to which the hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" is commonly sung (Ref. 7).

**William B. Bradbury** (1816-1868) composed the tune, "Solid Rock" for Mote's text in 1863. Bradbury was a beloved American gospel song composer (Ref. 8). In addition to the tune for "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," Bradbury is well-known for composing the tunes for "Jesus Loves Me," "He Leadeth Me," "Just as I am, Without One Plea," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us."

## Prayer

Thank you, Father, that because of your love for us, that you gave your Son, Jesus, as the perfect final sacrifice for our sins. We thank you that because of Christ, and our trust in him, that we are clothed in his righteousness and will stand faultless before your throne. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Link to "My Hope is Built" Music Video

I invite you to watch and sing along with the music video: "My Hope is Built - 4/4 Time." Go the following link and then click on "My Hope is Built."  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJbcUsgCRWyxvysgTkdpOxQ>

## References

1. New Revised Standard Version, <http://www.biblestudytools.com/>
2. New American Standard Bible, <http://www.biblestudytools.com/>
3. <http://biblehub.com/greek/4073.htm>
4. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stay>
5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_Mote](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Mote)
6. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-my-hope-is-built>
7. <https://faithalone.org/journal/1998i/Ward.html>
8. <https://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/biorpbradbury.html>
9. Lyrics are provided by <https://hymnary.org/hymn/UMH/368>
10. The traditional score are lyrics are provided by [https://hymnary.org/text/my\\_hope\\_is\\_built\\_on\\_nothing\\_less](https://hymnary.org/text/my_hope_is_built_on_nothing_less)
11. The <http://www.whitneytunes.com> website provides the attached two-page SATB singers score. For instrumentalists, the <http://www.whitneytunes.com> website also provides a three-page accompaniment score including keyboard accompaniment and chord symbols.

Mr. Whitney V. Myers is a church pianist, music composer and arranger, as well as a devotion and Bible Study writer. Mr. Myers has over 50 years' experience playing hymns for congregational singing and worship. He has created and published over 30 choral arrangements, hymns, and songs on the [www.whitneytunes.com](http://www.whitneytunes.com) website. He also has published hymn and song videos on the [Whitneytunes YouTube Channel](#). Mr. Myers is a graduate of Gettysburg College (B.A.), George Washington University (M.S.), and the University of Maryland (MBA, with honors).

## Lyrics and Scripture References for the Hymn, “My Hope is Built”

Verse 1:

**My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Verse 2:

**When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Verse 3:

**His oath, his covenant, his blood  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Verse 4:

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne!  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Scripture References:

Verse 1 and Refrain -- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 1:7, 2 Corinthians 5:21,  
Matthew 7:24-27

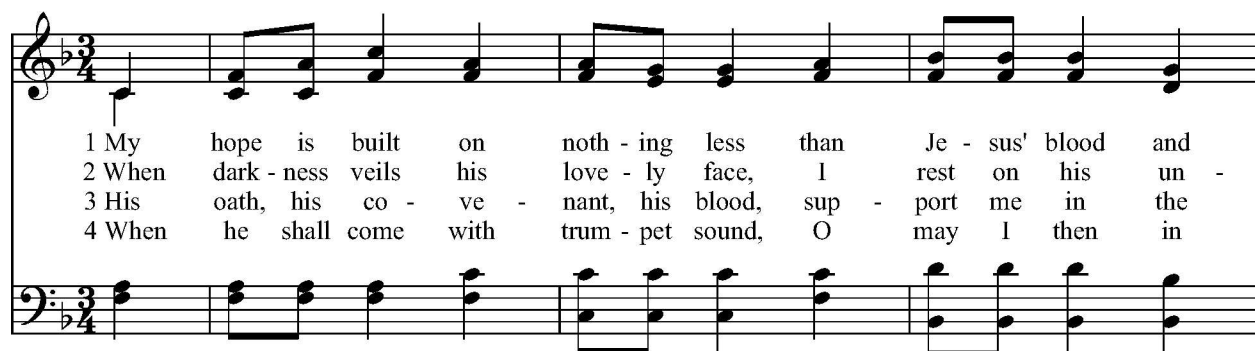
Verse 2 -- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 13:8,  
Matthew 27:50-51, Hebrews 6:17-20

Verse 3 -- Genesis 9:11-3, Matthew 26:27-28, Hebrews 6:19

Verse 4 -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Isaiah 61:10, Matthew 22:11-14, Galatians 3:27,  
1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, John 5:24

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# My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

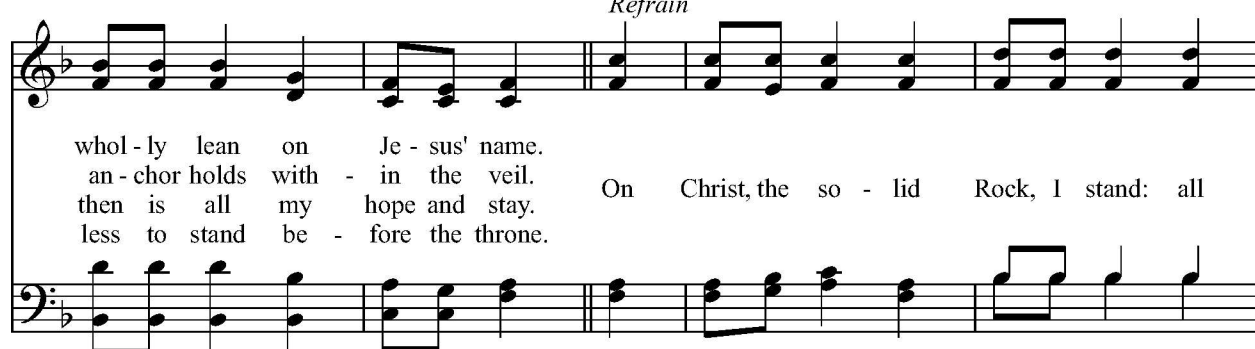


1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -  
3 His oath, his co - ve - nant, his blood, sup - port me in the  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

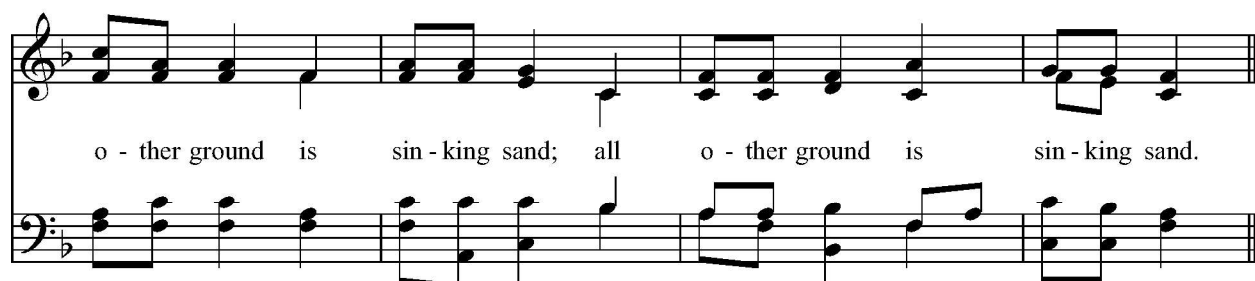


right - eous - ness: I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but  
chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and stor - my gale, my  
whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he  
him be found: dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

*Refrain*



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the so - lid Rock, I stand: all  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be - fore the throne.



o - ther ground is sin - king sand; all o - ther ground is sin - king sand.

Text: Edward Mote (1797-1874)  
Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)



LM Refrain  
SOLID ROCK  
[www.hymnary.org/text/my\\_hope\\_is\\_built\\_on\\_nothing\\_less](http://www.hymnary.org/text/my_hope_is_built_on_nothing_less)



# My Hope Is Built

Edward Mote

Original music by William B. Bradbury  
Arranged by Whitney V. Myers

♩ = 116



4

*mf*

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus' blood and  
2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on His un -  
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood, Sup - port me in the  
4. When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I then in

*mf*

8

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, But  
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, My  
whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, He  
Him be found; Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault -

11

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
an - chor holds with in the veil.  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be - fore the throne.

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REFRAIN

12

*f*

On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, All

*f*

17

1, 2, 3. (*Acc.*)

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

1, 2, 3.

21

*mf*

4. (*Acc.*)

2. When sand.  
3. His  
4. When

*mf*

4.

An accompaniment version is available on the [www.whitneytunes.com](http://www.whitneytunes.com) website.

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