



250th anniversary

1 January 1773 – 1 January 2023

*Olney . 1773
New Years morning
1 Chron. 17. 16, 17.*

Amazing Grace

Faith's review and expectation

1 Chronicles 17:16,17

for New Year's Day 1773

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 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.

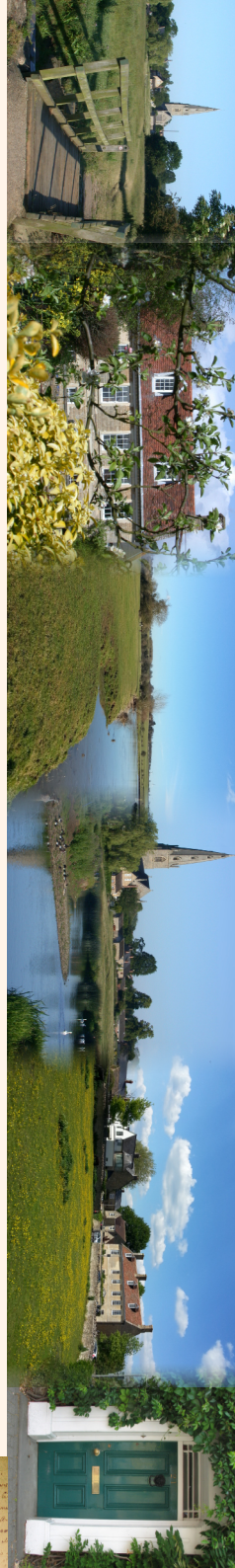
Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

The original (and only) words by John Newton
Olney Hymns, Book 1, Hymn 41

*John
Newton*

*poet, minister & father beyond
Oh, amazing grace!*



SOME BACKGROUND

Amazing Grace – ‘Faith’s review and expectation’

On **Friday 1 January 1773** Newton wrote in his diary:

‘I preached this forenoon from 1 Chronicles 17:16,17.’

Newton explained that he would adapt these verses from King David’s life ‘to our own use as a proper subject for our meditations on the entrance of a new year.’

‘They lead us to a consideration of **past mercies** and **future hopes** and intimate the frame of mind which becomes us when we contemplate what the Lord has done for us.’

PAST MERCIES – ‘FAITH’S REVIEW’:

*Amazing grace that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

1 Ch 17:7: *Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep...*

Newton: ‘We were miserable, rebellious... Blinded by the god of this world... When He knocked at the door of our hearts [we] endeavoured to shut Him out till He overcame us by the power of His grace.’

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come.
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far.*

1 Ch 17:8: *I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you.*

1 Ch 17:16: *‘Who am I, O Lord God... that you have brought me thus far?’*

Newton: ‘let us look back... His providential care preserving us from a thousand seen, millions of unseen dangers, when we knew him not.’

FUTURE HOPES – ‘AND EXPECTATION’:

*The Lord has promised good to me.
[God] Will be forever mine.*

1 Ch 17:26: *you have promised this good thing to your servant*

1 Ch 17:12, 14, 22, 23, 24, 27: (8 times!) *forever*

Newton: ‘He has spoken for a great while to come, even to Eternity... We are travelling home to God. We shall soon see Jesus, and never complain of sin, sorrow, temptation or desertion any more.’

NEWTON’S SUMMARY: ‘From hence infer: love, gratitude, obedience; trust and confidence; patience. Yet a little while and we shall be at home.’

For more about *Amazing Grace* see www.johnnewton.org/amazinggrace

CREDITS: Princeton University Library; Lambeth Palace Library MS 2940; Harvard University MS Eng 1317; ESV Bible; CMS

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