

HOW GREAT THOU ART

By Alan Jackson

Verse 1

O Lord my God,
When I, in awesome wonder,
Consider all
The worlds Thy Hand hath made.
I see the stars.

I hear the rolling thunder.

Thy Pow'r throughout
the universe displayed.

Chorus (2 times)

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee

How great Thou art!

Thou Yes Great (do all three signs)

How great Thou art!

Thou Yes Great (do all three signs)

Verse 2

When Christ shall come,
With shouts of acclamation,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration,
"My God, how great Thou art!"

Repeat Chorus

Please join us in signing yes.



YES

Move the right "s" hand, palm facing forward, up and down by bending the wrist with a small repeated movement. (*Nodding the head affirmatively.*)

How Great Thou Art!

Psalm 29

Please join us in signing Thou.



THOU, THEE, THY

Move the right open hand from above the right shoulder a short distance upward, palm angled left and fingertips pointing up. (*This same sign is used for Thee, Thou, Thy.*)

Please join us in signing great.



GREAT

Move both "5" (open hands) forward with a short repeated movement in front of each shoulder, palms facing forward. **Repeat movement.** (*A natural gesture for exclaiming delight.*)

Remember, American Sign Language, is the language of the d/Deaf culture. It is a conceptual language. It is not English Language word for word. The signs, the facial expressions and body language express the context.

HOW GREAT THOU ART!

Reference - Wikipedia

Carol Boberg and some friends were returning home to Monsteras from Kronoback, where they had participated in an afternoon service. Nature was at its peak that radiant afternoon. Presently a thundercloud appeared on the horizon, and soon sharp lightning flashed across the sky. Strong winds swept over the meadows and billowing fields of grain. The thunder pealed in loud claps. Then rain came in cool fresh showers. In a little while the storm was over, and a rainbow appeared.

When Boberg arrived home, he opened the windows and saw the bay of Monsteras like a mirror before him. From the woods on the other side of the bay, he heard the song of a thrush.....the church bells were tolling in the quiet evening. It was this series of sights, sounds, and experiences that inspired the writing of the song.

Carl Boberg said, ***"It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest coloring; and the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared. When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of 'When Eternity's Clock Calling My Saved Soul To Its Sabbath Rest.' That evening, I wrote, 'O Store Gud.'"***

Boberg first published "O Store Gud" in the Monsteras Tigramingen (Monsteras News) on March 13, 1886. The poem became matched to a Swedish folk tune and sung in public for the first known occasion in a church in the Swedish province of Varmland in 1888. It was translated into German in 1907 and in Russian in 1912. The first literal English translation of ***"O Store Gud"*** was by E. Gusta Johnson (1893-1974), then a professor of North Park College, Illinois, British Missionary, Stuart Wesley Keen Hine, first heard the Russian translation of the German version of the song while on an evangelistic mission to Ukraine in 1931. Upon hearing it, Hine was inspired to create his English paraphrase known as ***"How Great Thou Art"*** in 1949. Hine also re-wrote some of the verses -- and new verses -- as events inspired him. James Caldwell, a missionary from Central Africa, introduced Hine's version to the United States when he sang it at a convention in Stony Brook, New York, on Long Island in 1951.

Vernon "Tim" Spencer, a converted cowboy, and former member of ***"The Son's of the Pioneers,"*** who had founded the newly established Manna Music of Burbank, California in 1955 negotiated with Hine for the purchase of the song.

The Manna Music Editors changed "works" and "mighty" in Hine's original translation to "worlds" and "rolling" respectively. According to Manna Music, ***"Presently it is considered, and has been for several years, to be the most popular Gospel song in the world."*** The Manna Music version of the song was popularized as the ***"signature song"*** of the 1950's Billy Graham Crusades by George Beverly Shea and Cliff Barrows. It was first sung at the 1955 Toronto campaign, but it didn't really catch on until Madison Square Garden in 1957. It was sung one hundred times during that campaign because people wouldn't let them stop.

Evangelist Billy Graham said: ***"The reason I like 'How Great Thou Art' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christian's eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honoring song."***

This bit of history is dedicated to my Aunt Karla Lind, accomplished pianist and music teacher who inspired us, during her last year of life, with the history of many hymns - bringing them to life. Kathy Rickart, Hands in Praise ASL Choir Member, Greeley, Colorado.

"Hands in Praise" is an American Sign Language (ASL) Christian choir sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church, Windsor, Colorado. For information, call Director, Elaine Mainwaring, 970-686-5319 or go to

www.bethelwindsor.com - Ministries, click-Hand in Praise

Please feel free to take this praise sheet home with you and share with others.