

"You Are My King/Amazing Love" History

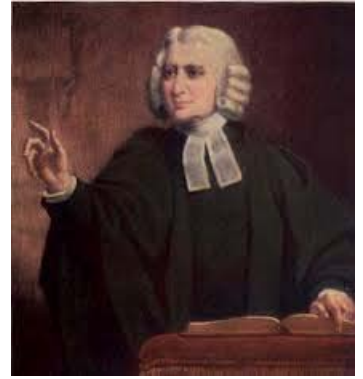
This song's roots are in the hymn "*And Can It Be*" written by Charles Wesley, immediately after his conversion.

In 1735, Charles followed his father and brother, John Wesley, by taking orders with the Church of England. Even while serving Christ, he struggled to find peace. In October, 1735, the brothers traveled to Savannah, Georgia to serve as chaplains and were not well received. August 1736, Charles returned to England.

On May 21, 1738, Charles was at the home of a friend, John Bray, and he was ill. While convalescing he read the book of Galatians. In his diary, he wrote, *"I labored, waited and prayed to feel who loved me, and gave himself for me. I had the continual experience of His power to overcome all temptation, and I confessed the joy and surprise that He was able to do exceedingly abundantly for me, above what I can ask or think. I found myself at peace with God, and rejoice in hope of loving Christ."*

Two days after his conversion, Charles Wesley began to write "*And Can It Be*" celebrating his conversion. He felt renewed strength to spread the Gospel to ordinary people and it was around then that he began to write the poetic hymns for which he would become known. In 1739 he and his brother took to field preaching. Thomas Campbell, a Scottish lawyer, turned poet, wrote the music for the hymn in 1825.

The modern contemporary song "*You Are My King/Amazing Love*," written in 1999 by Billy James Foote, is based on this hymn. The chorus and music of the refrain are the same.



How Can It Be

Verse 1

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain:

**Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

Verse 2

'Tis myst'ry all: th' Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Verse 3

He left His Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Verse 4

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;

Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

Verse 5

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th' eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own

You Are My King/Amazing Love

Verse

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again

Refrain

**Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?**

Amazing love, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do, to honor You

Bridge

You are my King
You are my King
Jesus, You are my King, You are my King.

Charles Wesley wrote over 8,000 hymns by the time of his death on March 29, 1788 in London, England.