

Gabriel grew up on an Iowa farm. He learned music by playing the reed organ in his home. He became one of the most prolific composers of gospel songs of his day. Gabriel's musical activities ranged from teaching in the singing schools that were so popular in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, to authoring texts, composing songs, anthems, and cantatas, and editing song collections.

Though self-trained, he started leading singing school educational events as a teenager. He worked with Grace Episcopal Methodist Church in San Francisco from 1890-1892, and then moved to Chicago where he worked for Homer Rodeheaver's publishing firm.

The words and music of "I Stand Amazed" first appeared in E. O. Excell's collection, *Praises* (1905). The Rev. Carlton R. Young, editor of *The United Methodist Hymnal*, notes: "This song of gratitude and praise for the atoning death of Jesus is a personal and Adventist interpretation of Luke's account of Jesus' sweating blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, a portion of the passion narrative not included in the other Gospels." Luke 22:41-44 reads, "And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (KJV).

The response in the refrain is one of awe:

"How marvelous! How wonderful is my Savior's love to me!"

Although with not the same poetic skill, Gabriel captures some of the same joy as does Charles Wesley in "And Can It Be that I Should Gain" (*UM Hymnal*, No. 363) when he says, "Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

Gabriel is credited with writing tunes for many other texts' writers including Civila Martin's "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" (*The Faith We Sing*, . 2146), and Ada Habershon's "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" This song became a bluegrass favorite.

Dr. Hawn is distinguished professor of church music at Perkins School of Theology. He is also director of the seminary's sacred music program.

Psalm 99

¹ The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!
The Lord sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² **The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.**

³ Let them praise your great and wondrous name!
Holy is the Lord!

⁴ Mighty Ruler, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
**you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.**

⁵ Extol the LORD our God.
Worship at the Lord's footstool!
Holy is the Lord!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among God's priests,
Samuel also was among those who called on God's name.
**They cried to the LORD, who answered them,
who spoke to them in the pillar of cloud.**

They kept God's testimonies,
and the statutes God gave them.

⁸ **O LORD, our God, you answered them;
you were a forgiving God to them,
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

⁹ Extol the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain.
Surely the LORD our God is holy!

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. ³⁰ So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. ³² Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. ³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. ³⁵ And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

2 Corinthians 3:12- 4:2

¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech— ¹³ unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

4 ¹Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

St. Luke 9: 28-36

²⁸ Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became* white *and* glistening. ³⁰ And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. ³³ Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, *that* Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" ³⁶ When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.