

# How Marvelous

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To dwell upon the marvelous way that God created the galaxy, the stars, the sun, and the moon with just a simple command is astounding. Then to truly consider how God called into existence our planet with its mountains, canyons, oceans, waterfalls, and rain forests—along with all the life that inhabits this planet—is, again, breathtaking. And at the apex of it all, the fact that He took His time to fashion us in His image and likeness, male and female, and gave all that He had made to us as an expression of His love is truly extraordinary.

But that was just the beginning! There is something even more marvelous that God wanted to show us. “How Marvelous” unpacks the glorious realization of this precious truth—of just how marvelous and how wonderful His love is for us.

## **It is amazing to be in the presence of Jesus.**

Whenever we step up to the edge of the of the Grand Canyon, climb to the top of the Rockies, or watch the sun fade behind a lake’s horizon, we are confronted with two realities. The first is the greatness and grandeur of what is before us. We are left overwhelmed and breathless. Why? Because the second reality that we experience is the realization of just how puny we are amongst all that God has made. And then He whispers, “It’s all for you.”

*“I stand amazed in the presence / Of Jesus the Nazarene / And wonder how He could love me / A sinner condemned unclean”*

The first verse of “How Marvelous” describes that initial experience of being granted the grace to stand in the presence of Jesus Christ. And in His presence, we realize the amazing paradox that we—sinners who rejected God—are not only standing in His perfect presence, but we are loved by Jesus. It seems impossible that we could be loved by this Nazarene of whom it is said “We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment” (Col 1:15-17 MSG).

## **Christ’s love for us cost Him everything.**

*“He took my sins and my sorrows / He made them His very own / He bore the burden to Calvary / And suffered and died alone”*



Christ gave up everything in order to come after those who rejected and turned from His heavenly Father. He left His heavenly throne to enter into the world we broke, full of nothing but suffering and sadness. He gave up everything so that He could come and take on all of our shame, all of our sin, and all of our sorrows. He gave Himself up completely at the cross to suffer the condemnation we deserve and experience the death we are owed (Colossians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:1-11). Toward this great love and incredible sacrifice, we feel a deep and perplexing wonder.

## **We joyfully anticipate worshipping Him for eternity.**

*“When with the ransomed in glory / His face I at last shall see / ‘Twill be my joy through the ages / To sing of His love for me”*

And just as any epic view we might find on this earth is overshadowed by our minuteness in its midst, the ultimate reality is coming soon that will completely overwhelm and overshadow how marvelous we believe God to be today. Today, in this present reality, though we are moved in amazement and wonder at what Jesus has done for us, we still do not see things clearly. It is as if we are looking through a fog, and though we can see Jesus and the sacrificial love He has displayed for us, there is something in the way of fully realizing it. And that something is the suffering that still surrounds us in this present life and the sin we still struggle to crucify in our daily battles.

We are living in a kingdom of the already and the not yet. We have been rescued but are still not home. But there is coming a day when the fog will clear and our vision of Jesus will be full and clear and perfect (1 Corinthians 13:12). There is coming a day when there will be no more sin, no more suffering, no more shame—only His glory and His love. On this day our song will be even louder and it will go on forever, because on this day we will experience our Savior's love in its fullness.

