

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Verse 1

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

I hear the rolling

Thy Pow'r throughout
The universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul,
"My Savior God, to Thee

How greatThou art!

Thee Yes Great (do all three signs)

How greatThou art!"

Thee Yes Great (do all three signs)

Then sings my soul,

"My Savior God, to Thee

How greatThou art!

Thee YesGreat (do all three signs)

How greatThou art!"

Thee Yes Great (do all three signs)

Verse 2

When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And there proclaim,

"My God, how great Thou art!"

Thee Yes Great (do all three signs)

Repeat Chorus (plus the following 2 more times)

"How greatThou art!"

Thee Yes Great (do all three signs)

Artist: Alan Jackson

How Great Thou Art!

Psalm 29

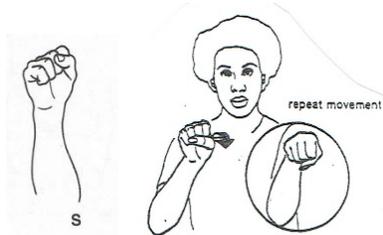
Please join us in signing **Thee**.



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 **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.)

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.)

Sign Source: "[Signing With Your Hands](#)" by Elaine Costello, Illustrated by Lois A. Lehman. pages 207, 4. CCL

Remember, American Sign Language, is the language of the 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



Carl Boberg and some friends were returning home to Mönsterås from Kronobäck, 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 window and saw the bay of Mönsterås 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; 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 the song, 'O Store Gud.’”*

Boberg first published "O Store Gud" in the *MönsteråsTidningen* (Mönsterås News) on March 13, 1886. The poem became matched to an old 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 in 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 Keene 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 Sons 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 first major American recording of *“How Great Thou Art”* was by Bill Carle in a 1958 Sacred Records album.

When the Billy Graham team went to London in 1954 for a Crusade, they were given a pamphlet containing Hine's work. At first they ignored it, but fortunately not for long. They worked closely with Hine to prepare the song for use in their campaigns. The Manna Music version of the song was popularized as the *“signature song”* of the 1950s 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 the 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 dedicated to my Aunt Karla Lind, accomplished pianist and music teacher who inspired us, during her last year of her life, with the history of many hymns - bringing them to life. – Kathy Rickart