

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Charles Wesley · 1738 · Tune: Sagina (Thomas Campbell)
Meter: 8.8.8.8.8.8

Verse 1

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour'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?

Verse 2

'Tis mystery all! The 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 quickening 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 the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

History

Written by Charles Wesley within days of his evangelical conversion on 21 May 1738. The hymn's third stanza ('Long my imprisoned spirit lay... my chains fell off, my heart was free') reflects his own experience of release from spiritual bondage. The tune 'Sagina' was composed by Thomas Campbell in 1825.

Scripture References (KJV)

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Acts 12:7

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Philippians 2:7

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.