Side Notes: This hymn text was written by Reginald Heber, an Anglican clergyman who lived from 1783-1826. He worked for many years serving in church leadership roles. This is one of his most popular hymns, but he is credited for writing 57 others, many of which are still used in hymn books around the world today. Heber is known for introducing his congregation to some of the modern church music of his day, including John Newton's, Amazing Grace. The tune for this song was called "Nicaea" and was written by John Dykes. It is interesting how after 200 years or more, some of the only things that can be remembered include music. I'm sure Reginald Heber and John Newton had no idea their music would continue to be shared for such a long time. I hope that when you play these old classic hymns, it might encourage you to write stories about things you remember so that in 200 years, a person may still be able to learn from you and know better where he or she came from.

