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THE ENDURING POWER OF PRAISE: EXPLORING THE LYRICS TO MY GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD

Few songs in contemporary Christian music have achieved the status of a modern hymn quite like **My God Is An Awesome God**. Written by the late, great Rich Mullins, this song has been sung in churches, summer camps, and youth groups for decades. But what is it about the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God that resonates so deeply with believers? It is more than just a catchy chorus; it is a theological declaration wrapped in accessible, poetic language. This article explores the origins, meaning, and lasting impact of this beloved worship anthem, examining each line to uncover the rich scriptural truths it contains.

THE ORIGINS OF A WORSHIP CLASSIC

To fully appreciate the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God, one must first understand their context. Rich Mullins was not your typical Christian music artist. A graduate of Cincinnati Bible College, Mullins was a deeply thoughtful theologian and a gifted storyteller. He wrote the song in the late 1980s, inspired by a phrase from the traditional "Prayer of Saint Patrick" ("I bind unto myself today"). Mullins took the ancient

prayer's line about the "power of God to hold and lead" and transformed it into a contemporary declaration of faith. He paired these deep thoughts with a simple, memorable melody that children could sing and adults could mean. The song first appeared on the 1988 album *Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth* and quickly became a defining track of his career.

A VERSE-BY-VERSE EXPLORATION OF THE LYRICS

The beauty of the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God lies in their simplicity and depth. Each verse builds on the central theme of God's majesty, moving from general praise to specific attributes.

The First Verse: A Revelation of Majesty

The song opens with a sweeping vision of the Creator: "When He rolls up His sleeves, He ain't just puttin' on the ritz." This colloquial language is deliberately disarming. It paints a picture of a God who is not distant or disinterested but actively involved in His creation. The line "Our God is an awesome God / He reigns from heaven above / With wisdom, power, and love" sets the theological foundation. The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God immediately establish

that God's power is not arbitrary; it is perfectly balanced by wisdom and motivated by love. This opening stanza invites the listener to look at the world and see the fingerprints of a magnificent Creator.

The Second Verse: The Heavens Declare

"And when the sky is starless / On a rainy Sunday morn." This line grounds the song in human experience. We don't always see the glory of God in spectacular sunsets or starry nights. Sometimes He is present in the quiet, gray moments. The verse continues, "And when the thunder rolls / He is still the King of glory." The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God remind us that God's sovereignty is not dependent on our circumstances. Whether the day is bright or stormy, His position as King remains unchallenged. This is a powerful reminder of God's immutability—His unchanging nature.

The Third Verse: The Constant Presence

"And when the spirit sings / And the mountains are removed." This verse speaks to the power of faith. Mullins echoes the words of Jesus in Matthew 17:20 about faith moving mountains. However, he connects this power not to human effort, but to the Holy Spirit. The line "My God is an awesome God / He

reigns from heaven above / With wisdom, power, and love" is repeated, anchoring the song in its central proclamation. The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God suggest that our ability to overcome obstacles comes only from the source of that awesome power.

The Bridge: The Mystery of the Trinity

The bridge is arguably the most theologically dense part of the song. "Our God is an awesome God / He reigns from heaven above / With wisdom, power, and love / Our God is an awesome God." This simple repetition serves as a meditative affirmation. It is a creedal statement that can be sung by an entire congregation. The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God do not try to explain the Trinity or the nature of God; they simply proclaim it. This is the heart of worship—declaring who God is, not just what He has done.

THEOLOGICAL DEPTH IN SIMPLE WORDS

One might dismiss the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God as simple children's song lyrics, but doing so would be a mistake. Mullins packed significant theology into a singable package. The word "awesome" itself has been debated. In modern English, it is often overused to describe a pizza or a movie. But in the biblical context, "awe" refers to the profound reverence and fear one feels in the presence of the holy. When the song declares God is "awesome," it is using the word in its original, powerful sense. The lyrics point to the

numinous—the overwhelming sense of the divine presence that makes us tremble. This is the God who spoke the universe into existence, yet also knows the number of hairs on our heads.

IMPACT ON MODERN WORSHIP AND CULTURE

A Bridge Between Generations

The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God have served as a bridge between the older hymn tradition and the modern worship movement of the 1990s. While it uses a contemporary sound, the lyrics are deeply rooted in Scripture. It is a song that grandparents can sing with their grandchildren. Its simple structure makes it accessible, but its message is profound enough for a lifetime of meditation. This cross-generational appeal is rare in Christian music and accounts for the song's longevity.

Use in Youth Ministry and Summer Camps

Perhaps no group has embraced the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God more than youth groups. The song's upbeat tempo and easy-to-remember chorus made it a staple at summer camps and retreats. For many young people, this song was their first introduction to worship that felt joyful and energetic. It helped them

understand that praising God could be fun without being irreverent. The hand motions that often accompany the song (rolling up sleeves, pointing to the sky) became a cultural touchstone for an entire generation of evangelical Christians.

The Song's Legacy After Rich Mullins

Rich Mullins tragically died in a car accident in 1997. Since then, the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God have taken on a new layer of meaning. Mullins lived a life that sought to embody the humility and love he sang about. He gave away much of his money, lived simply on a Navajo reservation, and wrestled publicly with his own faith. His death at 41 sealed his status as a prophet-like figure in Christian music. The song is now a memorial to a man who truly believed the words he wrote. It continues to be covered by artists across genres, from Michael W. Smith to country bands, proving the timeless nature of its message.

HOW TO USE THE LYRICS IN PERSONAL AND CORPORATE WORSHIP

For Personal Devotion

If you are looking for lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God for personal use, consider using them as a starting point for prayer. Take each line and turn it into

a conversation with God. For example, when you sing "He reigns from heaven above," take a moment to thank God for His sovereignty over your specific situation. Use the song as a tool for meditation on God's attributes. Let the lyrics remind you of the wisdom, power, and love that are available to you through Christ.

For Church Services

Many churches still use this song as a call to worship or a celebratory anthem. When leading it, emphasize the contrast between God's grandeur and His closeness. The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God work well when paired with Scripture readings from the Psalms, particularly Psalm 104 or Psalm 145. Consider using the song as a response to a sermon about God's sovereignty or creation. Its repetitive structure makes it easy for congregations to learn and sing with confidence, even if they are hearing it for the first time.

For Teaching Children

The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God are an excellent tool for teaching children about the character of God. The simple language and vivid imagery ("rolls up His sleeves," "king of glory") are concrete enough for young minds to grasp. You can use the song to introduce concepts like God's omnipotence (all-powerful), omniscience (all-knowing), and love. Children can memorize the chorus easily, giving them a theological declaration they can carry with them

into adulthood.

ANALYZING THE SONG'S STRUCTURE AND LANGUAGE

The Use of Colloquialism

Mullins' genius is evident in his use of everyday language. "He ain't just puttin' on the ritz" is a deliberately informal phrase that makes God feel accessible. It stands in stark contrast to the formal language often used in hymns. This choice reflects Mullins' belief that God is not a distant deity but a personal Father. The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God prove that theological depth does not require complex language.

The Repetition of the Chorus

The song's chorus is repeated multiple times, but it never feels tedious. Repetition in worship music serves a spiritual purpose. It allows the truth to sink from the head into the heart. The lyrics "Our God is an awesome God / He reigns from heaven above / With wisdom, power, and love" become a mantra. They are a declaration of faith that the singer internalizes through repetition. This is a classic technique in both hymnody and contemporary worship, and Mullins executed it masterfully.

THE SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LYRICS

The lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God are saturated in Scripture. Let us connect the dots:

- **"He rolls up His sleeves"** – This evokes the image of God as a warrior, as seen in Isaiah 52:10: "The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations." It is a picture of power in action.
- **"He reigns from heaven above"** – A direct reference to Psalm 47:8: "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne."
- **"With wisdom, power, and love"** – These three attributes appear together throughout Scripture. Proverbs 3:19 speaks of God founding the earth by wisdom. Jeremiah 10:12 speaks of His power. 1 John 4:8 declares that God is love.
- **"King of glory"** – This phrase comes from Psalm 24, a psalm of ascension that asks, "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."
- **"Mountains are removed"** – A direct allusion to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 17:20 about faith that can move mountains.

Understanding these connections enriches our appreciation of the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God. This is not just a catchy song; it is a mosaic of biblical truth.

WHY THE SONG ENDURES

Decades after its release, the song remains popular. Why? Because the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God speak a truth that never grows old. In a world that is constantly changing, the declaration that God is awesome—that

He is worthy of our awe, reverence, and praise—is an anchor. The song works for a child learning to sing and for an adult facing a terminal illness. It works in a mega-church with a full band and in a small house church with just a guitar. Its simplicity is its strength. The lyrics do not try to do too much; they simply point to a God who is bigger than our problems, our understanding, and our imagination.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LYRICS

Many people search online for the lyrics to My God Is An Awesome God, and they often have specific questions. Here are some of the most common:

- **Are the lyrics in the Bible?** While the specific phrasing is not found in the Bible, the concepts are thoroughly biblical. The song is a paraphrase of many scriptural truths.
- **Is this a hymn?** It is often referred to as a modern hymn because of its doctrinal content and congregational use, though it is technically a contemporary worship song.
- **Did Rich Mullins write it?** Yes, he wrote the lyrics and music.
- **Is there a longer version?** The song is relatively short, but many live versions include extended worship moments or additional repetitions of the bridge.

A TIMELESS MESSAGE FOR A NEW GENERATION
