

**T**he Love of God was written in 1917 by Frederick Lehman in a citrus packing facility in Pasadena, California. Over the years, the German-born entrepreneur had started and worked several businesses in order to provide for his family while serving as a pastor. But that year, his business fell on hard times, so he got a job packing and moving lemon and orange crates.

Surrounded by abundance yet experiencing great financial loss, Lehman's mind pondered the vast, unending love of God. Years before, Lehman had been impacted by a poem quoted in a sermon he heard. He had written it down on a card that he was using it as a bookmark. The poem read, "*Could we with ink the ocean fill / And were the skies of parchment made / Were every stalk on earth a quill / And every man a scribe by trade / To write the love of God above / Would drain the ocean dry / Nor could the scroll contain the whole / Though stretched from sky to sky.*"

He took those words and used them for a third verse in his hymn, writing two of his own. Those first two verses celebrated God's love revealed through Christ in his atoning death on the cross. Without realizing it, he had just Christianized a thousand-year old Jewish poem—written in the year 1000 by a Rabbi named Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.

Lehman's lyrics reflect John's words in 1 John 4:9—"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son...to be the propitiation for our sins." The One who declared himself as "abounding in steadfast love" (Ex. 34) revealed himself most fully in Christ, the One who came to die so that "the guilty pair bowed down with care" (Adam & Eve/mankind) would live.

Though Lehman would recover from his financial loss and continue successfully in business and ministry, his hymn reflects a trust in the riches of God's love in Christ, which knows no end.

**Scripture to consider:**

Exodus 34:6-7

John 3:16-21

Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalms 136

John 21:25

1 John 4:7-21

Micah 7

Romans 8:31-39

# The Love Of God

Verse 3, original Hebrew lyrics by

Words and Music by  
Frederick Martin Lehman  
Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai

**CHORUS**

♩ = 82

**VERSE**

C F/C C G

1. The love of God is great - er far than tongue or pen can ev - er  
 2. When years of time shall pass a - way and earth - ly thrones and king - doms  
 3. Could we with ink the o - cean fill and were the skies of parch - ment

C F/C C G

tell; It goes be - yond the high - est star, and reach - es to the low - est  
 fall, when men, who here re - fuse to pray, on rocks and hills and moun - tains  
 made, were ev - 'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev - 'ry man a scribe by

C F C G C

hell; The guilt - y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His err - ing  
 call, God's love so sure shall still en - dure, all mea - sure - less and strong; Re - deem - ing  
 trade, To write the love of God a - bove would drain the o - cean dry; Nor could the

F C G C C<sup>7</sup> F

child He rec - on - ciled, and par - doned from his sin. O love of God, how rich and  
 grace to Ad - am's race - the saints' and an - gels' song.  
 scroll con - tain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.

C C/E G C C<sup>7</sup>

pure! How mea - sure - less and strong! It shall for -

F C C/E G C

-ev - er - more en - dure - The saints' and an - gels' song!