

God Save the King

There are literary arguments that the roots of this hymn go back into the 1500's; arguments I certainly don't have the authority to join. But I can at least report the various lyrics. For a more thorough history, read [THIS BOOK](#).

During the 1745 Jacobite uprising of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', this song was written by an unknown author in support of the king – King George II:

O Lord our God, arise!
Confound the enemies
Of George our King!
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us,
God save the King!

A four-verse version appeared as -

[God save our Lord the King,
God save great George our King,
Long live our noble king,
God save the king.
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the king!

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter his enemies,
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On him our hopes we fix;
God save us all!

The choicest gift in store,
On George be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign;
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
With heart and voice to sing
God save the King!

[God grant that Marshal Wade /
O grant that Cumberland]
My by Thy mighty aid
Victory bring!
May he sedition hush
And like a torrent rush
Rebellious Scots to crush
God save the King!

On the opposing side of the Jacobite rebellion, alternate lyrics were being employed:

God bless the prince, I pray,
God bless the prince, I pray,
Charlie I mean;
That Scotland we may see
Freed from vile Presby'ry,
Both George and his Feckie,
Ever so, Amen.

Another version:

Fame, let thy trumpet sound
Tell all the world around,
Great George is King.
Tell Rome and France and Spain,
Britannia scorns their chain,
All vile arts are vain,
Great George is King.

May Heav'n his life defend,
And make his peace extend,
Wide as his fame.
Thy choicest blessings shed,
By his most sacred head,
And make his foes to dread
Great George's name.

He Peace and Plenty brings
While Rome's deluded kings
Waste and destroy.
This let his people sing,
Long live great George our King

On whom such blessings spring,
Freedom and Joy.

Of William Hickson's alternative (1836) version, only the first, third, and fourth verses have some currency with some as they are appended to the National Anthem in the English Hymnal. The fourth verse was sung after the traditional first verse during the raising of the Union Flag during the closing ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics.

God bless our native land!
May heaven's protecting hand
Still guard our shore:
May peace her power extend,
Foe be transformed to friend,
And Britain's rights depend
On war no more.

O Lord, our monarch bless
With strength and righteousness:
Long may she reign:
Her heart inspire and move
With wisdom from above;
And in a nation's love
Her throne maintain

May just and righteous laws
Uphold the public cause,
And bless our isle:
Home of the brave and free,
Thou land of liberty,
We pray that still on thee
Kind heaven may smile.

Nor on this land alone,
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore:
Lord make the nations see
That men should brothers be,
And form one family
The wide world o'er

A less militaristic version of the song, titled "Official peace version, 1919", was first published in the hymn book "Songs of Praise" in 1925. These

verses were approved by the British Privy Council in 1919. However, despite being reproduced in some other hymn books, it is largely unknown today.

God save our gracious Queen
Long live our noble Queen
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us
God save the Queen!

One realm of races four
Blest more and ever more
God save our land!
Home of the brave and free
Set in the silver sea
True nurse of chivalry
God save our land!

Of many a race and birth
From utmost ends of earth
God save us all!
Bid strife and hatred cease
Bid hope and joy increase
Spread universal peace
God save us all!

Today's Standard Version:

NOTE: the words 'Queen', 'she', and 'her', have been used since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been on the throne. Normally only the first and third verses are sung; they are the only two to appear in the LDS hymnal.

God save our gracious King
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God save the King.
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Happy and glorious,
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O Lord our God arise,
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And make them fall.

Confound their politics,
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