

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday July 7, 2026 - I Peter 1: 8-9

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls..

Read I Peter 1 for meditation and inspiration.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

I will turn this weekly edition of our: “Message In The Bottle” over to Katherine Lee Bates author of the lyrics below:

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!

**God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country love
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

**Oh beautiful for halcyon skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the enameled plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
Till souls wax fair as earth and air
And music-hearted sea!**

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
Till paths be wrought through wilds of thought
By pilgrims foot and knee!**

**Oh beautiful for glory-tale
Of liberating strife,
When once and twice for man's avail
Men lavished precious life!**

**America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
Till selfish gain no longer strain
The banner of the free!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
Till nobler men keep once again
Thy whiter jubilee!**

by Katherine Lee Bates, (1859-1929) Inspired by a trip to Pikes Peak in 1893, Katherine Lee Bates wrote the poem America the Beautiful. Her poem first appeared in print on July 4, 1895 in The Congregationalist, a weekly journal. Ms. Bates revised the lyrics in 1904 and again in 1913.

God's Beautiful Gift our land "America"!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger