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Hymn has important meaning

Hands up all those who remember singing 'Praise my soul the king of heaven' in school assembly. We seem to sing it often and it became implanted on my memory.

The words of this hymn were written in the 1800s by HF Hyte and was based on Psalm 103 which is about 'God's great love for us'. Thinking about the third line of this hymn: 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven...' what does it really mean?

- A ransom was the price paid to release a slave from bondage. God ransomed us from the bondage of sin and emptiness, but the price he paid was that of his son Jesus.
- Jesus healed every kind of disease and illness as he went throughout the region of Galilee. He is still able to heal people today and healing shows his concern for our wholeness.
- God's great harvest of you is coming - this is restoration. Only God is able to bring good out of tragedy. When burdened by sorrow and sadness, know that your time of grief will end.
- Jesus is the perfect standard of what is right and good. He can free us from sin and self-deception and breaks its power over our lives. Forgiveness is ours for the asking. It is then that we can begin a special journey and become the people God really meant us to be.