

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness: Tom O Chisholm (1923)<sup>1</sup>

**Visualisation:** TD1 worship & gratitude.

**Analysis:** The obvious issue is archaism, appropriate to its days, not ours. *Manifold* might be replaced, but the term still has some currency. I think *shadow of turning* (Geneva: Jas.1:17) may also remain, but perhaps not for long: it probably has the idea of Light himself not being subject to change or to eclipse.<sup>2</sup> Once archaism is sorted, we basically will have restored the song to how it would have been to its early C20 singers. In order to avoid Jesusism, avoiding the idea that our lord is our father, the term *lord* is better replaced. To prefix this song by its tie-in to the power of Lm.3:22f., enforces the power of this song, and its connection to Yahweh, not Jesus. Its Heb. term *enumah* also has a tie-in to covenant faithfulness/commitment, which helps define *changest not* as keeping faith, loyalty to covenant, rather than what within the timeline could be burial into the past, or a lack of dynamism. Mainly, if not exclusively, reflecting on how one person blesses another (*blessings all mine*), it could easily allow a wider reflection on all covenant beneficiaries, by defining peace as keeping us.

**Suggestions:** Replace *thy, by your, thee, by you, thou changest not, by you do not change, hast by have, thine, by your, endureth, by will keep us.*

**Chorus:** Replace *hath, by have; lord unto, by father to.*

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G <sup>1,2</sup>	H <sup>1,2</sup>	I	J <sup>1,2,3</sup>	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	A-

Great is your faithfulness, O God my father  
 There is no shadow of turning with you.  
 You do not change, your compassions, they fail not  
 As you have been, you forever will be.  
**Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning new mercies I see all I have needed your hand/hands has/have provided**  
**Great is your faithfulness, father to me!**  
 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
 join with all nature in manifold witness  
 to your great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
 Pardon for sin, and a peace that will keep us,  
 your own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/g/r/e/greatif.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps contrasting the mutable created heavens to the “original light, which knows no change, no shadow, or decline” (Daniel Mace’s *The New Testament* (1729))—though Mace seems to have treated the general NT text as rather too changeable.

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)