

MATT REDMAN

UNBROKEN PRAISE

[THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG]

AT ABBEY ROAD STUDIOS



FLAMES

There are a few songs on this record that have a hymn woven into them. Some are really blatant, but others, like this one, are a little more subtle.

Unless you count the Psalms, the hymn that acted as the springboard for this song was the oldest one I've worked with. It was written in 1683 by a guy called John Mason, and I love the fact that something written not long after the time of Shakespeare can still inspire worship in 2015. I love it when old and new blend together.

Mason's hymn started with the line 'now from the altar of my heart let incense flames arise.' and from the moment I first read it I thought that it was a brilliant picture of our offerings of musical worship, especially as Jonas Myrin, Jason Ingram and I set out create a song that has a clear call to worship at its heart.

That one line led to this song, and it reminds me that you don't always have to take a whole hymn or even a chunk. Sometimes a thought, and angle or just one lyric can be all the springboard you need to write something brand new.