

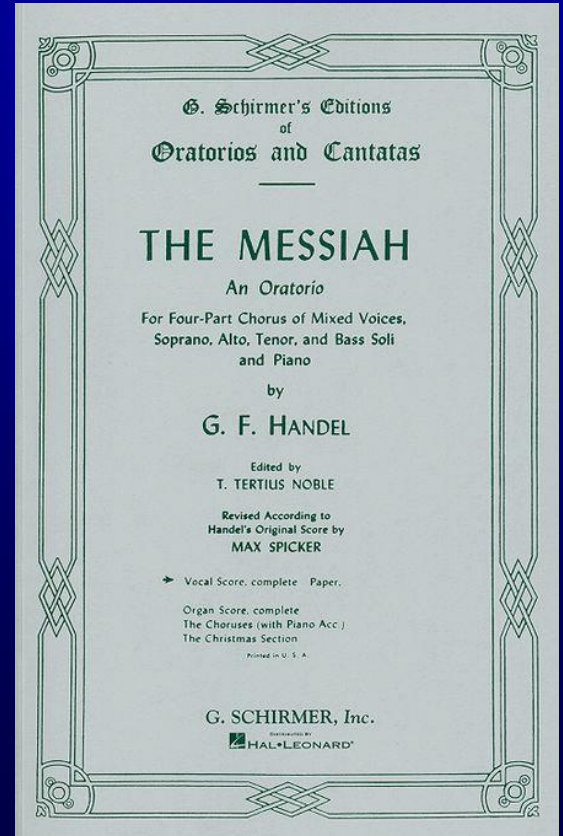
Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life



Week 4 of 7

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Revelation 1:4-6 (English Standard Version)

**Grace to you and peace from him
who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth**

**To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood
and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

From everlasting to everlasting - Psa.90:2, 103:17

- **God's plan of salvation began before creation**
- **It extends beyond the end of time. 2 Pet.3:10-13**
- **God chose us before creation, and predestined us to adoption as His children. Eph.1:4-5, 10, 14**
- **God was at work in our lives, calling us, drawing us to Himself, *long before* our moment of salvation
Rom.8:29; 2 Thes.2:13; John 6:37, 44; 1 Pet.1:2**
- **Even before man was created, and *before sin*, the Lamb was provided. 1 Pet.1:20; Rev.13:8**

To Save What Was Lost – Luke 19:10

- **Why did God send His Son? John 3:16-17**
- **Because all have sinned. Rom.5:6-8, 3:21-26, 6:23**
- **Yet God loves all people; He wants them to be saved**
2 Pet.3:9; Ezek.33:11; Matt 18:14; 1 Tim.2:3-4
- **Christ is the only way God could offer salvation to the lost people He loved. 1 Tim.2:5-6**
- **Only *Messiah's* death could atone for sin**
1 Pet.2:24, 3:18; Heb.9:24-28, 10:10

God's Own Sacrifice

- Matt.20:28 explains *why Christ came* into the world
- The 1st clue that His death would pay our *ransom*
- He had told His men 3 times that He would die soon
Matt.16:21, 17:22-23, 20:18-19
- But He had not yet said the *reason* for His death
- The Greek word for *ransom* means His death is a *payment* to redeem people, to set them free
- The Lamb of God was *God's own sacrifice*.
God brought His only Son to the altar

Jesus Paid it All; All to Him I Owe

- **Jesus wasn't just a prophet talking about Messiah**
- **Jesus was the Messiah, the long-awaited One**
- **When He died, the temple veil was torn. Matt.27:51**
- **No more sacrifices for sin would ever be needed**
- **He was the perfect Lamb without blemish (sinless)**
- **His resurrection proved that God was satisfied**
- **Christ paid our debt in full at Calvary**

It is finished - John 19:30

- The Romans wrote a bill of indebtedness for each prisoner, a certificate of debt. Col.2:13-14 NASB
- The bill remained posted beside the debtor's cell until the debt was paid
- To cancel a debt after it had been satisfied, they wrote across the bill: *tetelestai* (paid in full)
- This was Christ's last word on the cross: *tetelestai*, paid in full, "It is finished"
- The list of all your sins was nailed to the cross

He remembers your sins no more – Isa.43:25

- **“Christ died to carry away our sins so they might never again be seen.” – Warren Wiersbe**
- **“No written accusation stands against us because our sins have been taken away!”**
- **God no longer remembers our sins against us;
God threw all our sins into the depths of the sea.**

Psa.103:12; Isa.43:25, 44:22, 38:17; Jer.31:34;

Lev.16:8-10, 20-22; Micah 7:19; Heb.8:12, 10:17

Credited to him as righteousness – Rom.4:3

- When Jesus died, *my sins* were put on *His* account. He took the punishment I deserved. 1 Pet.2:24
- When I trusted Him as my Savior, *His righteousness* was added to *my* account. Rom.3:21-22, 5:17, 10:4
- His righteousness is imputed (credited) to believers
Gen.15:6 = Rom.4:3 = James 2:23
- Like Philemon 17-18, Jesus asked His Father, “I paid his debt on the cross. Receive him as you would receive me. Let him come into the family circle.”

What can wash away my sin?

- Old Testament animal sacrifices were inadequate
- They were not sufficient to permanently remove sins
- They temporarily *covered* the sins of 1 nation, *Israel*
- But John the Baptist proclaimed the Lamb of God
- He *takes away* the sins of the *world*, once for all
- The old hymn asks, “What can wash away my sin?”
- Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Heb 9:9-10, 22; Rev 1:5b; 7:14



Behold the Lamb of God - John 1:29

Behold the Lamb of God
that taketh away
the sin of the world.

Ecce Agnus Dei (Behold the Lamb of God)
Dieric Bouts, Netherlands, 1462



Handel's Poet

- Charles Jennens, who organized the Scripture texts for Messiah, was a staunch Protestant
- He intended the Messiah text to challenge the deists, who denied Christ's divinity
- He had admired Handel's music for 15 years before Messiah (1741)
- He gave Handel the text for the oratorio 'Saul' (1739) and for Handel's masterpiece 'Belshazzar' (1744)

Handel's Sacred Oratorios (a partial list)

- Esther (1732)
- Israel in Egypt (1738)
- Saul (1739)
- Messiah (1741)
- Joseph, Samson (1743)
- Belshazzar (1744)
- Judas Maccabaeus (1746)
- Joshua (1747)
- Solomon (1749)



Psalm 119:130, stained glass
Shadow Mountain Community Church,
El Cajon, CA

Messiah's 3 Parts

- **Jennens organized the sacred opera into 3 acts telling Christ's birth, death / resurrection, and return**
- **Today we call them Christmas, Easter, 2nd Coming**

Part 1 (Christmas)

- 1. The prophecy of salvation**
- 2. The prophecy of the coming of Messiah**
- 3. The prophecy of the Virgin Birth**
- 4. The appearance of angels to the shepherds**
- 5. Christ's redemptive miracles on earth**

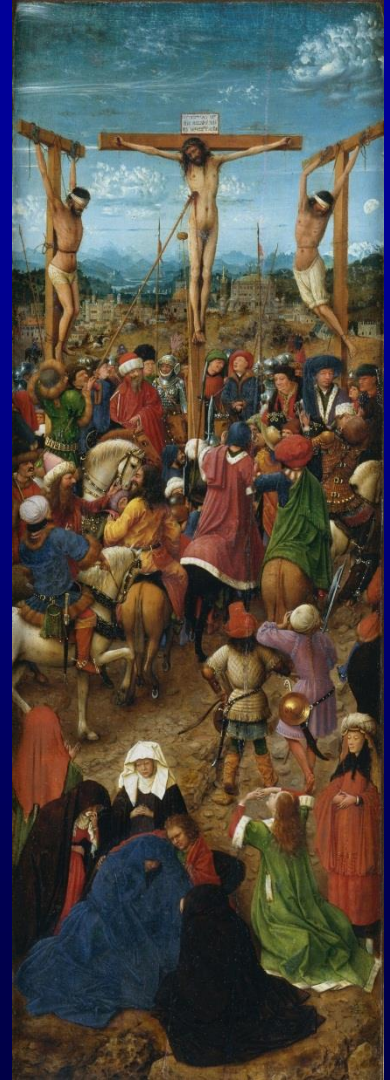
Messiah's 3 Parts

Part 2 (Easter)

1. His sacrifice, His agony at Calvary
2. His death, resurrection & ascension
3. The beginning of evangelism
4. The world rejects the Gospel
5. God's triumph

The Crucifixion

Jan van Eyck; Ghent, Belgium, 1430



Messiah's 3 Parts

Part 3 (2nd Coming)

1. Promise of bodily resurrection
2. The day of judgment
3. The victory over death and sin
4. The glorification of the Messiah

Second Coming of Christ window
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Charleston SC



The Subject excels all others

- **July 10, 1741: Charles Jennens wrote in a letter,
"I hope I shall persuade Handel to set another
Scripture collection I have made for him... I hope he
will lay out his whole genius & skill upon it, that the
composition may excel all his former compositions,
because the Subject excels every other subject.
The Subject is Messiah."**

Messiah Was Written in 24 Days!

- **22 August : Handel begins to compose Messiah**
- **28 August : Completes draft of Messiah Part 1**
- **6 September : Completes draft of Messiah Part 2**
- **12 September : Completes draft of Messiah Part 3**
- **14 September : Completes orchestration of Messiah**
- **Handel's Messiah was composed in 24 days!**

The God of Peace – Heb.13:20

- **The God of peace will give you the peace of God.
Rom.15:33, 16:20; 1 Thes.5:23; Col.3:15**
- **Christ alone is the source of peace. 2 Thes.3:16**
- **In this world you will have trouble. John 14:27, 16:33**
- **But take heart! Christ has overcome the world.**
- **The One who is in you (the Holy Spirit) is greater than the one who is in the world (Satan). 1 John 4:4**

Because He Cares for You - 1 Peter 5:7

- **There is nothing to be gained by worrying. Matt.6:27**
- **Instead of fear, Christ wants us to trust Him**
- **Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you**
- **He sympathizes with our weaknesses;
He has been tempted just as we are. Heb.4:15**
- **God wants us to be thankful not worried. Matt.10:29-31**
- **Don't be anxious about anything. Pray. Phil.4:6-7, 9b**

Hardship is inevitable for believers

2 Cor.4:17, Eph.6:12, John 15:18-20, 16:33

- **We are down behind enemy lines. John 17:15-18**
- **We are strangers in the world.**
Rom.12:2; James 4:4; 1 Pet.2:11-12
- **We are soldiers in a spiritual war, in a foreign land.**
Lk.12:51-53; 1 Jn.4:3-5, 5:19; Rev.12:7-9
- **Satan is seeking us like a prowling lion.**
1 Peter 5:7-9; 2 Tim.4:17
- **But God protects believers.**
Psalm 34:7-10; 2 Cor.10:1-5; Eph. 6:10-18

The world hates the light

Jesus told His followers:

- If the world hates you, remember: it hated me first**
- You don't belong to the world. God chose you out of the world; that's why they hate you**
- If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also**
- The world hates the light that we shine on their sin**

John 15:18-20, 17:14-16, 3:19-21; 1 John 3:13

We will be with the Lord forever

- **In hard times, we don't feel like rejoicing. Ro.12:12**
- **But Christians can see into the future. We don't need a crystal ball, and our Book is always right**
- **We will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thes.4:17-18**
- **Therefore encourage each other with these words**
- **Our suffering is only for a little while. We know what our circumstances will be for eternity. 2 Cor.4:17**



He was despised Isaiah 53:3, 50:6

He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

Man of Sorrows (stained glass)
Peter Hemmel, Strasbourg France, 1480





Surely He hath borne our griefs – Isa.53:4, 5

Surely He hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows!
He was wounded for our
transgressions; He was
bruised for our iniquities;
the chastisement of our
peace was upon Him.

Christ Falling on the Way to Calvary
Raphael, 1516



God will provide the Lamb – Gen.22:8

- **Powerful scene: Abraham taking Isaac to Mt. Moriah**
- **Abraham shows what God the Father did for us. Isaac shows what Christ did for us. Gen.22:2, 5-10**
- **In both cases the father placed the wood on his son, bound his son and laid him on the altar. Gen.22:6, 9**
- **In both cases, God (not man) provided the sacrifice**
- **Abraham said “we will come back” because he believed God would resurrect Isaac, to fulfill God’s promises. Gen. 17:19, 21:8-12; Heb.11:17-19**

The Threshing Floor

- **The altar on Mt. Moriah became a threshing floor, 1000 years after Isaac, in the time of King David**
- **The threshing floor is where wheat is separated from chaff (dividing what is saved from what is not).**
- **Dan.2:35 says that the 2nd Coming of Christ will have that effect on the enemies of God**
- **Mt. Moriah is the land David bought from Araunah, to be the temple site. 1 Chron.21:14-26**
- **God told David to come to the threshing floor and build an altar to the Lord**

Our kinsman redeemer - Ruth 3:2-6

- **Ruth (David's great-grandmother) went to meet her kinsman redeemer at the threshing floor**
- **Mt. Moriah is the location of Solomon's temple, the Jerusalem Temple Mount. 2 Chron.3:1**
- **This place is where:**
 - Christ died for our sins
 - He will return to overthrow the antichrist, 2 Thes.2:4, 8
 - He will reign on David's throne, Isa.9:7; 2 Sam.7:12-16

Who killed Jesus?

- Some people blame the Jews or the Romans
- We all killed Jesus. Rom.3:23-26; 1 Cor.15:21-22
- Yet it was God's plan before creation to sacrifice His only Son to pay for our sins. So God killed Jesus.
- God's Lamb was slain from the creation of the world
1 Jn.2:2; Jn.1:29,11:50-52; Isa.53:5-10; Rev.5:9,13:8
- *God presented him as a sacrifice.* Rom.3:25
- God loved the world so much that He *gave.* Jn.3:16
- God was always in control. Matt.26:53; John 19:11

In bringing many sons to glory - Heb.2:5-18

- **Isa.53:6** *the Lord* laid on him the iniquity of us all
- **Isa.53:10** it was *the Lord's will* to crush him and cause him to suffer. Why?
- **Isa.53:8** for the transgression of my people he was stricken. (He died for our sins)
- **Isa.53:11** After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied
- **Ultimately, He died so that many would be saved**
- **The redeemed will love and glorify God eternally**

The Last Supper



The Last Supper

Leonardo da Vinci, Milan, 1498

Digital Restoration 2009 www.leonardo3.net

Peter's Denial

Mt.26:31-35; Mk.14:29-31; Lk.22:31-34; Jn.13:36-38

- At the Last Supper, Jesus said that Peter would disown Him three times, that very night
- Peter couldn't imagine how he could deny Jesus
- Christ's prediction devastated and silenced Peter
- He didn't speak again until John 18:17, his 1st denial
- But we love Peter because we know it was a moment of weakness, not deliberate (as with Judas Iscariot)

A Human Example

- **7 weeks later, this same Peter preached at Pentecost**
- **Peter would one day follow Christ to the cross, then to heaven. John 21:18-19; 2 Peter 1:12-15**
- **Peter meant well. He was just impulsive**
- **He had to learn about his weakness the hard way**
- **“Peter’s example is very human, and therefore very helpful.” – Merrill Unger**
- **All of the disciples would fail. Only their love for Christ brought them back together.**

The Perfect Example - 1 Pet.2:21

- We are to imitate Christ's character and conduct
- Why? Because He suffered for us
- 1 Pet.2:21 uses a special Greek word for "example"
- It appears only once in the New Testament.
Yet it was a word familiar to every 1st grader
- It was the *top line* in a handwriting book
- Strive to carefully follow His perfect example
- He knows we will slip, but He has an eraser



And with His stripes Isaiah 53:5b

And with His stripes
we are healed.

Ecce homo (Behold the man)
Cigoli, Italian, 1607





All we like sheep Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep
have gone astray;

we have turned
every one to his own way.

And the Lord hath laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

The Crucifixion

Joos van Cleve, Flemish, Antwerp, 1520

