

1) **Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life, Week 4 of 7**, John Kincaid, Autumn, 2018

2) **Revelation 1:4-6 ESV** 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. →

3) **From everlasting to everlasting.** God's plan of salvation began before creation. It extends beyond the end of time. Before time existed, God set His heart on saving you, before there was time. His love for you will endure after the universe is gone, when time shall be no more. God chose us before creation as His children. God was working in our lives, calling us, *long before He* saved us. Before creation, and *before sin*, God provided the Lamb. →

4) Why did God send His Son? **To save what was lost.** All people rebel against God. Yet God loves all people. He wants them to be saved. Christ is the only way God could offer salvation and remain faithful to His Law. The only way that God could be both just & justifier Ro.3:26 The only acceptable payment for sin was *Messiah's* death. →

5) Mt.20:28 is a great verse to share with unbelievers. It explains why Christ came, what He did for us: He paid our ransom, which indicates that all are sinners. Jesus told his men that He *would* die soon, but not *why*. Ransom means that His death would pay for our life. Jews had sacrificed lambs for centuries. But Jesus was **God's own sacrifice**. God brought *His* lamb to the altar. →

6) **Jesus Paid it All.** Jesus wasn't just *telling* us about the Messiah; He *was* the long-expected Messiah. When He died, the temple curtain was torn, top to bottom. We're no longer *separated* from God; no more sacrifices were needed. Because Christ paid our penalty, the way of access into God's presence was now available for *everyone*, not just the high priest. Christ was the perfect sacrifice. His resurrection proved that God the Father *accepted* Christ's sacrifice. →

7) When someone could not pay their debt, they went to debtors' prison. The Romans wrote a bill of indebtedness & posted it on the debtor's cell. When the debt was paid, they wrote across the bill "paid in full". Jesus said this same Greek word; it was His last word on the cross. **It is finished**, the debt for our sins was paid. Our list of sins was nailed to the cross, in Him. →

8) The death of Christ permanently removed our sins, once for all. God will not remember our sins against us; He won't bring it up again. God threw all our sins into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:19 He will have compassion on us; he will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Heb.8:12 I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will **remember their sins no more** →

9) **Credited to him.** When Jesus died, *my sins* were put on *His* account. When I trusted Him as my Savior, *His righteousness* was added to *my* account. All believers receive credit for Christ's righteousness. J.V. McGee put it this way: "Christ took *our* place in death, but He gives us *His* place in life". There is a beautiful picture in the book of Philemon; verse 17 shows what Christ did for every believer. Paul asked Philemon to forgive his runaway slave Onesimus. The slave sinned against his master; Paul stands on the bridge between them to restore the relationship.

Paul is a picture of Jesus; Philemon is a picture of God the Father, the offended one. As Martin Luther said: All of us are Onesimus. Jesus asked His Father, "I paid his debt; receive him as you

would receive me. Let him come into the family circle.” We have not only forgiveness, but full *adoption with inheritance*. God makes us His child, like His only begotten Son. →

10) Old Testament animal sacrifices were insufficient to remove sins. They temporarily *covered* the sins of 1 nation, *Israel*. Animal sacrifice was an act of obedience. They trusted by faith that God would someday provide permanent cleansing from sin, through the sacrifice of the Messiah. John the Baptist said Behold the Lamb of God, who takes *away* the sins of the *world*. **What can wash away my sin?** Nothing but the blood of Jesus. →

♪ **11) Behold the Lamb of God - John 1:29** Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. →

12) Charles Jennens was **Handel’s poet**. Jennens arranged the Bible verses for the text of Messiah. Instead of looking at the Messiah from a Jewish perspective, he wrote as a Protestant to challenge the Deists. Like the Jews, they did not believe that Jesus is God. So every verse that Jennens chose is screaming “Jesus is God.” Jennens had been a fan of Handel for years, and gave Handel other texts for Handel’s Bible musicals, before and after Messiah. Music historians suspect that Jennens wrote the text for ‘Israel in Egypt’, the story of Exodus. →

13) Handel's Sacred Oratorios: Esther, Israel in Egypt, Saul, Messiah, Joseph, Samson, Belshazzar, Judas Maccabaeus, Joshua, Solomon. This was Handel’s ministry: telling Bible stories with music. Stained glass: The Entrance of Thy Words Giveth Light, Psa.119 →

14) Messiah is divided into **3 sections** about Christmas, Easter & 2nd Coming. The Christmas portion includes the Old Testament prophecies of salvation, the coming of the Messiah, the Virgin Birth and the events surrounding His birth (the angels appearing to the shepherds). Also there are songs and verses about the miracles during His earthly ministry. →

15) The Easter portion focuses on: 1) Christ’s redemptive sacrifice, His suffering at Calvary 2-His sacrificial death, resurrection & ascension; 3-The beginning of evangelism, Gospel to Gentiles; 4-The world and its rulers reject the Gospel; 5. God's ultimate victory over evil →

16) The final section is on the return of Christ: The bodily resurrection of the dead; The day of judgment and general resurrection; The victory over death and sin; eternal glory →

17) Just before Handel wrote Messiah, Jennens had arranged Scripture verses as a poem. He wanted Handel to set these words to music. Jennens wrote a letter to a friend in July 1741: "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.” 6 weeks later, Handel received the poem from Jennens. →

18) Here is the timeline: Handel started work on Aug.22. 6 days later, Christmas was finished. 1 week later, Easter was finished. 6 days later, Part 3 was finished. Then he wrote all the orchestra parts in 2 days. The complete **Messiah was written in 24 days**. During these 3 weeks, Handel was transformed from deep despair to deep peace. →

19) The God of peace will also give *you* the peace of God. The only source of peace is Christ. In this world you will have trouble, but be encouraged that He has overcome the world. The One who is in you (the Holy Spirit) is greater than the one who is in the world (Satan). →

20) Because He Cares. Worrying about our troubles never helps. Instead of being paralyzed by fear, Christ wants us to trust Him. Cast all your anxiety on Him, because he cares for you. The shepherd is responsible to care for His sheep, that's his job. When we are weak and tempted, He understands. Be thankful not worried. Instead of anxiety, pray. To summarize: Replace fear with trust. Replace worry with thanksgiving. Replace anxiety with prayer. →

21) As believers, **hardship is unavoidable,** it is bound to come. We are down behind enemy lines, strangers in this world. We are to be *in* the world, not *of* the world. We are soldiers in a spiritual war, in a foreign land. Satan wants to devour us, but we have God's protection. →

22) The world hates. We share in His sufferings. The world hated *Jesus* before they hated *us*. We don't *belong* to the world. They hate us because God chose us *out* of the world. They persecuted *Jesus*; they will persecute His *followers*. They hate us because we shine a light on sin; sinners hate to be exposed. →

23) When we're suffering, we don't feel like rejoicing. But believers know how the story ends. **We will be with the Lord forever.** Therefore encourage each other with these words. Our suffering only lasts a little while. We know what our circumstances will be for eternity. Our light & momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. →

♪ **24) Isa.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. →

♪ **25) (9:40) 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. →

26) God will provide the Lamb. One of the most powerful scenes in the Old Testament: Abraham took Isaac to be sacrificed on Mt. Moriah. Abraham is a picture of what God the Father did for us. Isaac is a picture of what God the Son did for us.

The father placed the wood on his son, bound him and placed him on the altar. God provided the sacrifice. Before Abraham climbed the mountain, he told his servants: Isaac & I, *we* will come back. Abraham believed that God would resurrect Isaac, to fulfill God's promises. →

27) NIV Bible mentions **the threshing floor** 39 times. 1000 years after Isaac, the altar on Moriah became a threshing floor, where wheat is separated from chaff, dividing what is saved from what is not. When Christ returns, Daniel tells us God's enemies will be blown away like chaff. David bought the property where Isaac almost died. God told David to build an altar to the Lord there: the Temple. →

28) David's great-grandmother Ruth came to the threshing floor to meet her **kinsman redeemer** David's son Solomon built the Jerusalem Temple where Abraham took Isaac.

1000 years after Solomon, it is the place where Christ died. And the place where He will return to destroy the world leader in the end times. Then Christ will reign there on David's throne. →

29) Who killed Jesus? Was it the Jews? The Romans? Satan? All sinners share the blame; it was my sin that held Him there. But it was God's plan to sacrifice Jesus. So God the Father killed Jesus. God loved the world so much that He gave. It was not an accident. God was always in control; no one killed Jesus outside God's will. →

30) Isa.53 is clear that God the Father laid all sin on Jesus. It was the Lord's will to crush Jesus and cause suffering. Why? Jesus suffered for the sin of God's people. After the suffering, Jesus

will live and be satisfied with what was accomplished. Because Jesus died, many believers will love God & give Him glory forever. Jesus died **in bringing many sons to glory**. →

31) The Last Supper – Leonardo da Vinci →

32) Jesus said at the Last Supper that Peter would disown Him 3 times that night. Peter couldn't imagine that this could ever happen. Peter was devastated. He didn't speak again for 5 chapters in John's gospel. And when he finally spoke again, it was his 1st denial of Jesus. Luke 22:61 says when **Peter denied** Jesus and the rooster crowed, Jesus looked at Peter. But we love Peter because we know it was a moment of weakness, not deliberate betrayal as it was with Judas. →

33) A Human Example 7 weeks later, this same Peter preached at Pentecost; 3000 people were saved at that sermon. Peter was eventually crucified. Why? For *refusing* to deny his Lord. Peter was impulsive; he had to learn the hard way. We can all relate to Peter. Dr. Unger reminds us that "Peter's example is very *human* & therefore very *helpful*". Peter was not the only one; all the disciples failed Jesus. Only their love for Christ brought them back together. Here's the practical application: all of *us* fail. Only *our* love for Christ brings us back together. →

34) Peter calls us to follow **The Perfect Example**. 1 Pet.2:21 "Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example" We are to imitate Christ because He suffered for us. In this verse, Peter uses a special Greek word for *example*. It is so rare, we only find it once in Scripture, yet every 1st grader knew it. It was their word for the *top line* in a handwriting book: perfect letters.

We are provided with a blank page, a pencil, and the perfect example to follow. Even when we strive to carefully form our letters, they will not match His. He knows our letters won't match His, but that's ok, He has an eraser. Jesus is able to remove all our sins.

1 Pet.2:23 - When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; Follow His example. when he suffered, he made no threats. Follow His example. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. you were like *sheep* going astray, but now you have *returned* to the Shepherd, the Overseer of your souls. →

♪ **35) And with His stripes** we are healed - **Isaiah 53:5b** →

♪ **36) (2:00)** Isa.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.