

1) Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life, Week 5 of 7 John Kincaid, Autumn, 2018 →

2) God's Circle of Protection. Every Christian belongs to God. We are God's treasured possession forever. In Titus 2:14, Christ gave Himself for us: 1st, to redeem us from all iniquity, and also, to *purify* unto Himself a peculiar people. The Greek word for peculiar in KJV means God is around His people. This Greek word came into English as perimeter. Imagine a circle around dots. Christian believers are inside God's circle. No temptation, no sadness can touch you without going through God's circle. When Satan shoots his fiery darts at believers, God allows some of those to pass through. But then He gives you the grace to bear it, while He comforts you. When we *trust* Him during these trials, He gets glory. →

3) God's Grace is always sufficient for our suffering. Unbelievers mock God and His Son, His Word, His people. But Paul said he delighted when he was weak, ridiculed, suffering various trials. Why? *God's power* is made perfect in *our weakness*. The weaker we are, the more clearly others see Christ in us. We have this treasure in jars of clay. We carry the priceless Gospel in our fragile bodies. Why? It shows that this all-surpassing power is from *God* and not from us. →

4) What is the purpose of suffering? In 2 Tim.3, Paul said God rescued him from all his suffering. The Greek word means that Jesus drags us to Himself. The rescuer delivers the victim by drawing the victim toward the rescuer, even if that means He has to pull us thru fire. God's main purpose is not to deliver us from danger; His main purpose is to *draw us closer to God* →

5) The God of Hope enables us with faith while suffering. He gives us the strength & hope & courage to endure. Without trials, we would never have reason to *use* our faith. Our suffering produces hope, which is stored up in heaven. As a child of God, we have an inheritance. Until heaven, the Holy Spirit is our guarantee. He encourages us to be patient & give thanks in all circumstances with joy. The Greek word for *guarantee* is still used today. It is their word for an engagement ring. We are the bride of Christ; until the wedding in heaven, we wear His ring →

6) How should we respond to suffering? God receives glory when we respond with strong faith. We keep trusting Him, even when life hurts. He uses our response as a powerful witness to others. Trials cause our faith to grow. Trials force us to the end of our rope. The only thing we can do is cling to God. Handel had reached this point when he began writing the Messiah.

God won't give us more than we can endure if we depend on His strength. God promises to provide a way out before the trial becomes too great. Sometimes in the midst of trials, we cry out "I think my faith is too weak to go on." If you see no way out, it means that God Himself has judged your faith is strong enough to continue. →

7) God permits trials, they are under His control, to serve His purposes. When we are in the midst of a trial, we have a tendency to ask Why is God doing this to me? I don't deserve *this* – I've been a good boy this week! We need to put the emphasis on the first word instead: Why is God doing this to me? What is He trying to teach me? We learn and grow more during our trials than at any other time. God permits trials, but *not* so that God can determine if our faith is genuine (He already knows). He doesn't have to wait for the test results. The testing shows *us* whether we are ready to do God's will. It shows *us* how strong our faith is. →

8) Choose this day whom you will serve. When we make the right choice, no matter how difficult our circumstances: God is glorified; Satan is defeated (he fails to tempt us). Other Christians are encouraged to see our faith proved genuine. Shelves at Christian bookstores are

filled with inspirational books about people who chose to serve God in hard places. Missionaries, Muslim countries, voices of the martyrs.

Unbelievers are drawn to our source of strength; they want what we have. They recognize that we have a source of strength that enables us to get through some terrible tragedy. Angels & demons see God's wisdom being worked out in our lives. And believers are gradually conformed to the image of Christ, as God refines us in His process of sanctification. In *all* things, *even this*, God works for the *good* of those who love him. →

♪ **9) All they that see him** laugh him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying: **He trusted in God** that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he delight in him. →

♪ **10) Thy rebuke hath broken His heart;** He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort Him. →

♪ **11) (2:04) Behold, and see** if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow. **He was cut off (Isa.53:8b)** out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken. →

♪ **12) (3:42) But Thou didst not leave** His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption →

13) We associate Handel's Messiah with Christmas, but it was 1st performed for Easter in 1742. The rehearsal in Dublin, Ireland was open to the public. It was the 1st time people outside the musicians had ever *heard* Handel's Messiah. The word spread; they told everyone "You *have* to hear this concert!" Anticipating an overflow crowd, newspaper ads asked women not to wear hoop skirts, and men not to wear swords, to provide more seating, and **slide to the middle** of the pews. That's a good problem to have: so many people thirsty to hear God's Word. →

14) 30 years earlier Handel took a job as a royal composer in Germany. His employer permitted Handel to visit London. But Handel never came back to work. He thought he would never see his employer again. God had a **surprise** for Handel – 2 years later, his old boss became King George of England, and moved to London, the city where Handel lived.

Their 1st meeting must have been awkward, but their relationship was restored through music. Handel composed a new piece of music to honor the king. To this day, Handel's Water Music remains his most *popular* work, next to Messiah. →

15) James: Don't merely *listen* to God's Word. *Do* what it says. Handel performed Messiah over 30 times in his last 17 years for Christian charities (hospitals, orphanages). John Hawkins wrote that Handel showed a lifelong deep sense of religion & often talked about his pleasure in setting the Bible to music. Handel realized that God gave him a great gift. Luke 12:48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. Handel yielded *his* will to God. →

16) The Foundling orphanage opened March, 1741, 2 weeks before Handel expected to go to debtors prison. But God had other plans; Handel wrote Messiah. Handel often performed Messiah to benefit this orphanage, and served as their governor. This drawing shows a chapel service there, 50 years after Handel's death. The orphanage operated over 200 years until England started placing children in families (adoption & foster homes). →

17) Handel's friend James Smyth visited, hours before Handel died. Smyth wrote, "**He died as he lived** - a good Christian, with a true sense of his duty to God and man, and in perfect charity with all the world." Handel's epitaph: "The most excellent musician any age ever produced". The world has seen many gifted musicians and composers. What was it about Handel that made

such a deep and lasting impression? Christians are the aroma of Christ. During Handel's finest moments, his neighbors caught the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ.

18) This is the **house** where **Handel** lived from 1723-59 at 25 Brook Street, Mayfair, London, now a Museum. This is where he wrote most of his great Christian music, including Messiah.

19) Handel's testimony continues today at **Westminster Abbey**. Thousands of visitors see his grave each day, where his statue proclaims that his redeemer lives, and points every visitor to Jesus as the Messiah. Handel was not the first person or the last person to glorify God at this church. The Abbey was **founded** in the year **960 AD**. There has been *daily* worship here for over 1000 years. The joy of Handel's salvation, & his concern for others, lives on.

20) Wiersbe described God's amazing formula: affliction & poverty (like Handel experienced) + God's *grace* = abundant joy. The Macedonian churches (Philippians, Thessalonians, Bereans) suffered harsh persecution & poverty. They were beggars with no money, and no *hope* of getting money. Yet they were generous, with overflowing joy.

21) Peter was the 1st to confess that Jesus was Messiah. Jesus replied that Peter was *blessed*. Happiness comes from *God dwelling in you*. We can't bear fruit without Him. Because of Him, we are fully satisfied. Contentment comes from our relationship with God. Years later, Peter put it this way: We are filled with an inexpressible & glorious joy. We have this joy today, in this life on earth, and joy awaiting us in heaven. Christ endured the cross, for the *joy* set before Him.

22) **His glory will be our light**. Christ is crowned with glory; He brings many sons to glory. As God's children, we share in His glory. Christ is the light of the world. He made *His light* shine in *our hearts*. Now you are the light of the world. Here is the Christmas story in John's Gospel: The Word made his dwelling among men. God will dwell with us for all eternity. We won't need the sun or the moon – God's glory will be our light; the Lamb will be our lamp.

♪ **23)** **Lift up your heads** O ye gates & be ye lift up ye everlasting doors & the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong & mighty the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads O ye gates & be ye lift up ye everlasting doors & the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is King of Glory →

♪ **24)** **(3:02) Unto which of the angels** said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee?
(3:24) Let all the angels – **Heb.1:6b** Let all the angels of God worship Him →

♪ **25)** **Thou art gone up** on high; Thou hast led captivity captive and received gifts for men, yea, even for Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. →

26) **Noah had 3 sons:** Ham, Shem, & Japheth. The human race split into these 3 branches after the Flood. In Acts 7, Stephen became the 1st martyr of the church. God used even *this* to spread the Gospel. All the believers fled from Jerusalem (only the apostles stayed). When you blow on a dandelion, the seeds scatter in every direction. Then the seeds take root, and produce more dandelions. The persecution backfired on Satan – it fanned the flames of the Gospel.

In Acts 8-9-10 there are 3 dramatic salvations: 1) the Ethiopian eunuch (a son of Ham) came to Christ. 2) Saul (a son of Shem) was saved on the Damascus Rd. 3) Cornelius (a son of Japheth) came to Christ. The Gospel went out to all 3 branches of the human race.

27) The Gospel goes forth **to the ends of the earth**. God wants the whole world to hear. Rev.7:9 - there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people & language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

There are many people-groups and cultures, but only 1 race: the human race. In Adam, all die. In Christ, all will be made alive. This is the only distinction that matters to God.

“Red & yellow, black & white, they are precious in His sight.” All humans are “one blood”.

28) Salvation is **the gift of God**; God does all the work. He made us His ambassadors; we deliver His message. We plant seeds. In the parable of the sower, the seed is God’s Word. God’s Word will not return to Him void; it will accomplish His purposes. It is not our job to save people. Our job is to testify truthfully about what Jesus did for me & *His* ability to save.

29) Jesus asked, **Who do you say I am?** Each person must answer this question about Jesus. This is the most important question in life. Salvation is God’s answer for your greatest need. Each person needs to understand this crucial fact: they will be *eternally lost without Christ*. Each person has a *desperate need* for salvation; Christ is the *only* way.

30) Unbelievers live as if they are unaware of God. But they know they are sinners. Unbelievers know they have a serious problem. They are desperately looking everywhere for a solution. Unbelievers can’t see God, but they see *us*; what they see in us is often what they *believe* about God. *We* know that the Lord could return at any moment. *We* know that the unsaved are facing eternal death. The world can’t *see* the Holy Spirit (just as radio waves all around us go unnoticed without a radio). The unsaved world doesn’t *know* the Holy Spirit. But *we* do.

31) In the American Revolution, Paul Revere made a famous ride to warn his neighbors. Can you imagine how different our history might have been if he ignored the signal? What if Paul Revere had decided to go back to sleep, instead of sounding the alarm?

We have spiritual discernment; we know the truth. Our unbelieving neighbors don’t. They desperately *need* to know the truth. If *we* don’t tell them, who *will*?

♪ **32)** **The Lord gave the word**, great was the company of the preachers

♪ **33)** **How beautiful are the feet** of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things

♪ **34)** **(2:13)** **Their sound is gone out** into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world