

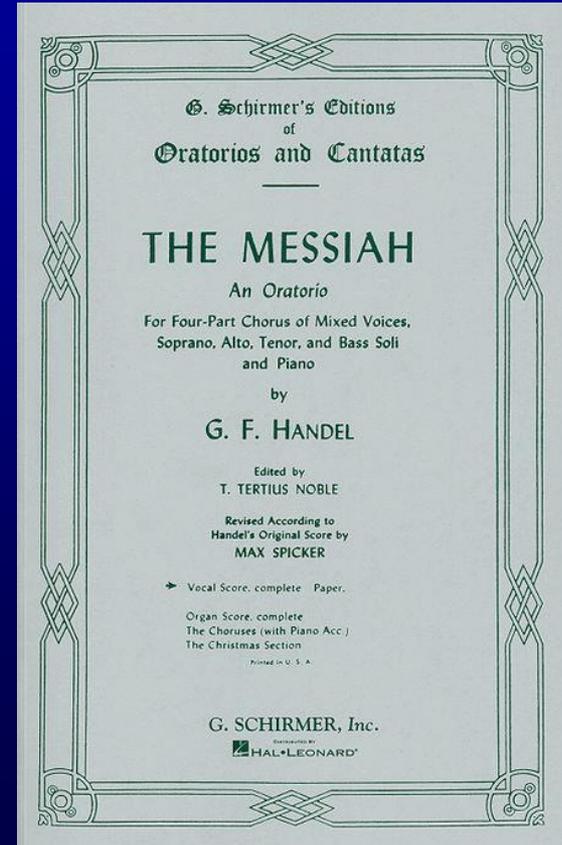
# Handel's Messiah: Bringing Scripture to Life



**Week 5 of 7**

**John Kincaid**

**Autumn, 2018**



## **God's Circle of Protection – Titus 2:14**

- **The believer is God's treasured possession forever  
Rom.8:16; 1 Cor.6:19-20; Deut.7:6; 1 Pet.2:9; Eph.1:14**
- **Christ gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people**
- **The Greek word translated *peculiar* means that God is *around* His people, like a circle around dots**
- **No temptation, no sorrow can reach you unless it passes through God's circle first**
- **God lets some of Satan's arrows through, then He gives you the grace to bear it, while He comforts you**

# God's Grace is Sufficient for You – 2 Cor.12:8-10

- Unbelievers laugh and scoff at God. 2 Pet.3:3-4
- Paul said he delighted in weaknesses. Why?
- *God's power is made perfect in our weakness*
- In our weakness, others see Christ more clearly in us
- We have this treasure (the Gospel) in jars of clay (our fragile bodies). Why? to show that this all-surpassing power is from *God* and not from us. 2 Cor.4:7

## The Purpose of Suffering - 2 Tim.3:10-12

- God uses hardship to draw us closer to Him
- Paul said to Timothy, “You know about my sufferings, Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.”
- *Rescued* means that Jesus drags us to Himself
- God’s main purpose is not to deliver us from danger; His main purpose is to *draw us closer to God*

## **The God of Hope – 1 Peter 1:3-9; Rom.15:13**

- **Suffering enables believers to demonstrate their faith**
- **Without trials we wouldn't have reason to use our faith**
- **A Christian's suffering ultimately produces hope**
- **Our inheritance is in heaven; we are heirs of God**
- **Have great endurance & patience; joyfully give thanks**
- **Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance**

**1 John 3:1; Rom.8:17; Col.1:5, 11-12; Eph.1:14,18**

# **Our Response to Suffering**

- **God is glorified by our faith response to hardship**
- **Trials strengthen our faith. James 1:2-4; Rom.5:3-5**
- **They force us to the end of our resources, so that we can only cling to God. Psalm 63:8, 101:3; Jer.8:5; Jonah 2:8; Rom.12:9; Phil.4:8**
- **God will not give us more than we can endure if we rely on His strength. Phil.4:13; 1 Cor.10:13; Psa.46:1**
- **If you see no way out, it means that God Himself has judged your faith is strong enough to continue**

## God permits trials

- Don't ask: "Why is God doing this to me?"
- Instead ask: "Why is God doing this to me?"
- During trials, we learn and grow the most
- God permits trials, but *not* so that God can determine if our faith is genuine (He already knows)
- The testing demonstrates to *us* whether we are ready to do God's will

# **Choose this day whom you will serve - Josh.24:15**

**When we choose God, regardless of circumstances:**

- God is glorified; Satan the tempter is defeated;**
- Believers around us are encouraged;**
- Unbelievers are drawn to our source of strength;**
- Angels and demons can see God's wisdom being worked out in humanity;**
- and we are changed into the likeness of Christ.**
- In *all* things God works for the *good* of those who love him. Rom.8:28**



## **All they that see him - Psalm 22:7**

**All they that see him  
laugh him to scorn:**

**they shoot out their lips,  
and shake their heads, saying:**

**He trusted in God      Psalm 22:8 = Matt.27:43**

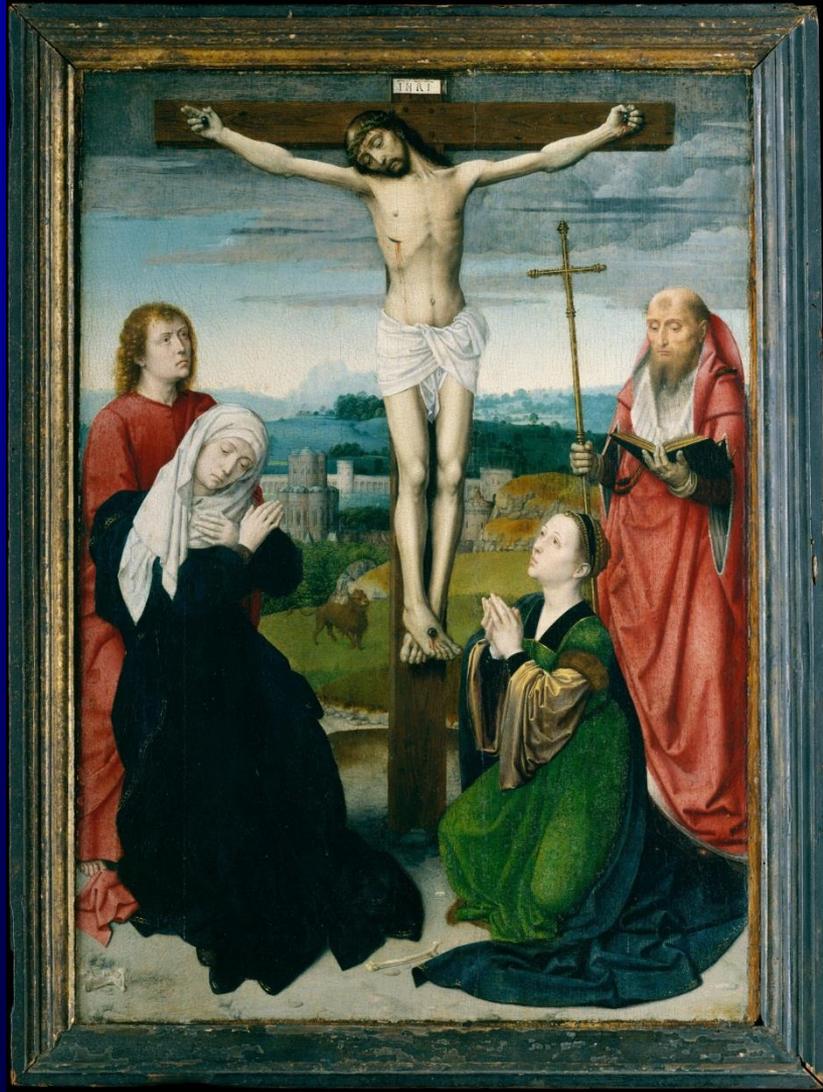
**He trusted in God that he would deliver him:  
let him deliver him, if he delight in him.**



# Thy rebuke hath broken His heart – Psa.69:20

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.

The Crucifixion  
Gerard David, Belgium, 1495





## **Behold, and see - Lamentations 1:12**

**Behold, and see  
if there be any sorrow  
like unto His sorrow.**

## **He was cut off - Isaiah 53:8b**

**He was cut off out of the land of the living;  
for the transgressions of Thy people  
was He stricken.**



**But Thou didst not leave  
Psa.16:10 = Acts 2:27**

**But Thou didst not  
leave His soul in hell;  
nor didst Thou suffer Thy  
Holy One to see corruption**

**Deposition of Christ  
Agnolo Bronzino, 1545**



## **Slide to the middle**

- **Messiah was conceived and 1st performed for the Easter season, not Christmas**
- **On April 8, 1742 there was a public rehearsal, 5 days before the 1st performance in Dublin**
- **It was the 1st time anyone heard Handel's Messiah**
- **News spread like wildfire; a large crowd was expected**
- **To provide more seating, newspaper ads asked ladies to refrain from wearing hoops under their skirts, and men to leave their swords at home**

# Surprise

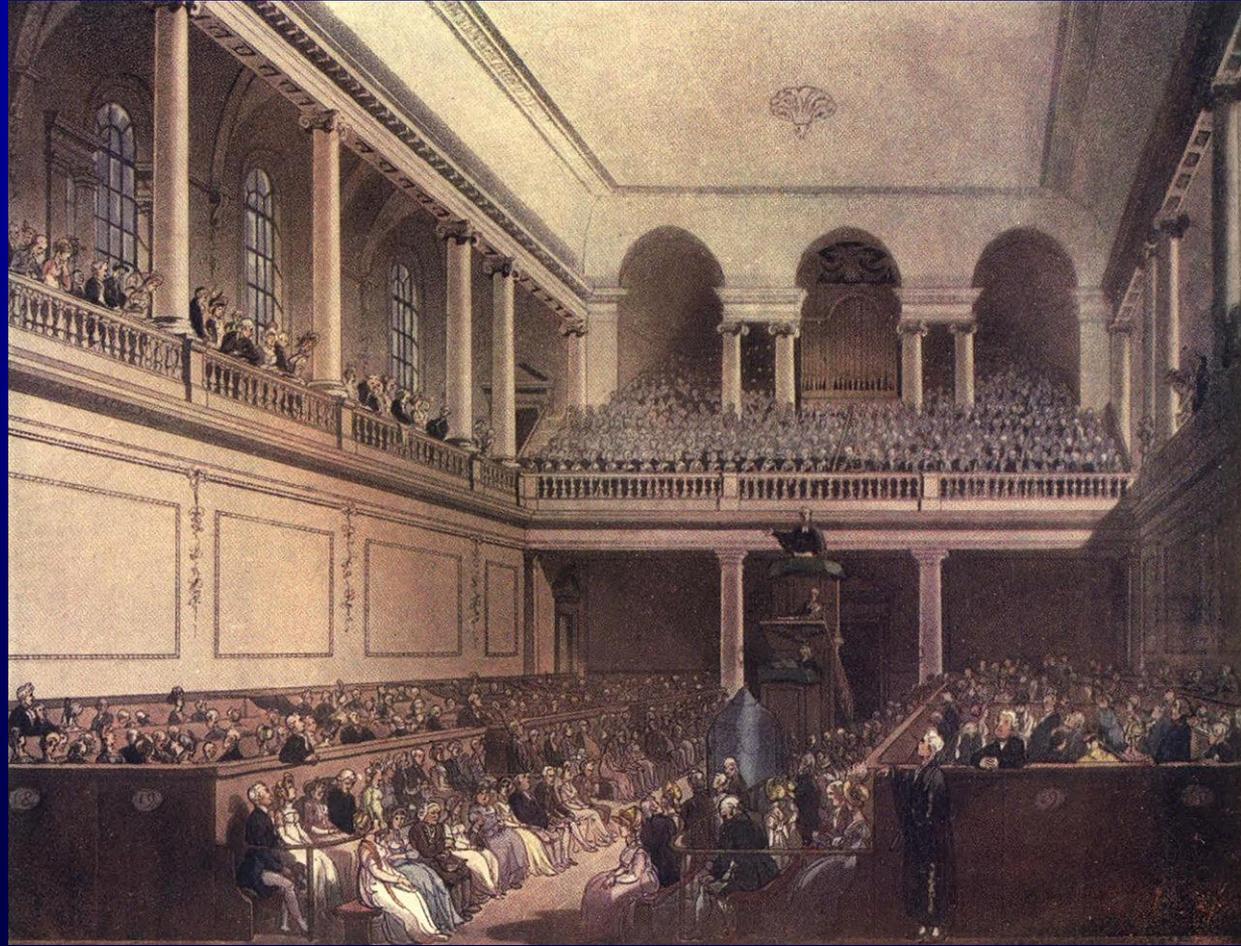
- Handel at age 25 was a court composer in Germany
- In 1712, he got permission for a short trip to London
- But he never came back. 2 years later, his former employer became King George I of England
- Handel was reconciled with his king through music
- Handel wrote a piece to be played as a surprise for the king's boating party on the Thames in 1717
- This piece was called "Water Music"

## **Doing brings the blessing – James 1:22-25**

- **Handel was known as a devout follower of Christ**
- **He gave over 30 charity performances of Messiah**
- **“Handel, throughout his life, manifested a deep sense of religion. He frequently declared the pleasure in setting the Scriptures to music.” - Sir John Hawkins**
- **Handel comforted his brother-in-law on the death of Handel’s mother: “It pleased the Almighty, to whose Holy Will I submit myself with Christian submissions.”**

# Handel's Favorite Charity

**Foundling Hospital  
Orphanage in London  
Chapel Service, 1809  
drawn by  
Thomas Rowlandson &  
Augustus Charles Pugin**



## **He died as he lived**

- **James Smyth visited, hours before Handel's death**
- **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"**
- **Christians are the aroma of Christ. 2 Cor.2:14-16**
- **During Handel's finest moments, his neighbors caught the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ**

# Handel's House



Handel House Museum

Handel House Museum

ENTRANCE AT  
REAR IN  
LANCASHIRE COURT



**Westminster Abbey**  
**Founded 960 AD**



## **My joy knows no bounds – 2 Cor.7:4**

- **Warren Wiersbe on God's amazing formula:  
great affliction & poverty *plus grace* = abundant joy**
- **2 Cor.8:1-2 Example of the Macedonian churches**
- **In the most severe trial, they had *overflowing* joy**
- **Joy does not depend on our circumstances**
- **Peter was threatened, imprisoned and crucified**
- **But Peter never lost the joy he found when he  
confessed by faith that Jesus is Lord. John 16:22**

## **I am in you – John 14:20**

- Peter was the 1st to confess that Jesus was Messiah  
Jesus replied that Peter was *blessed*. Matt.16:17
- Happiness results from *God dwelling in you*  
1 Cor.6:19, 2:9-16; John 4:14; 7:37-39, 14:17; Rom.5:5
- We can't bear fruit without Him. Jn.15:5; Gal.5:22-23
- Because of Him, you are fully satisfied. Phil.4:11-13
- We're filled with inexpressible & glorious joy. 1 Pet.1:8
- Christ endured the cross, for the *joy* set before Him.  
Heb. 12:2; Isa.53:11-12; 1 Thes.2:19

## **His glory will be our light – Rev.21:23**

- **Christ is crowned with glory *because He suffered death*. He brings many sons to glory. Heb.2:5-10**
- **As heirs of God we share in Christ's glory. Rom.8:17**
- **Christ is the light of the world. John 8:12; 2 Cor.4:4-6**
- **You are the light of the world. Matt.5:14; Eph.5:8, 2:22**
- **The Word made his dwelling among men. John 1:14  
In eternity, God will dwell with us. Rev.21:3, 23; 22:5**
- **We will not need the sun or the moon - the glory of God will be our light; the Lamb will be our lamp**



## **Lift up your heads - Psalm 24:7-10**

**Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in**

**Who is this King of Glory?**

**The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

**Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in**

**Who is this King of Glory?**

**The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.**



**Unto which of the angels  
Hebrews 1:5 = Psalm 2:7**

**Unto which of the angels  
said He at any time,  
Thou art My Son,  
this day have I begotten Thee?**

**Let all the angels – Heb.1:6b**

**Let all the angels of God  
worship Him**

Virgin & Child with Young St John the Baptist  
François Boucher, Paris, 1765





**Thou art gone up  
Psalm 68:18 = Eph.4:8**

**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.**

**The Resurrection of Christ  
Raphael, 1502**



## **The Sons of Noah - Gen.10:1**

- **Noah's sons: Ham, Shem, and Japheth. Gen.10:1**
- **In Acts 7, we read the death of Stephen, the 1st martyr**
- **Persecution scattered the believers from Jerusalem**
- **In Acts 8, 9, 10 we find 3 remarkable conversions:**
  - the Ethiopian eunuch (Cush), a son of Ham. Gen.10:6
  - Saul of Tarsus, a Jew, a son of Shem. Gen.10:21
  - Cornelius, a Roman, a son of Japheth. Gen.10:2-5
- **The Gospel extends to all branches of the human race**

## **To the ends of the earth – Acts 1:8, 13:47**

- **The Gospel goes forth to the ends of the earth**
- **God wants the whole world to hear the Gospel**  
**Matt.28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Rev.7:9, 5:8-10**
- **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**  
**1 Cor.15:21-22, 45**
- **“Red & yellow, black & white, they are precious in His sight.” All humans are “one blood”. Acts 17:26 KJV**

## **The Gift of God – Eph.2:8-10**

- **God does all the work in salvation**
- **Now we are His ambassadors. 2 Cor.5:18-21**
- **We deliver His message of reconciliation. Luke 8:11**
- **God's Word will accomplish His purposes. Isa.55:11**
- **It is not our job to save people. Our job is:**
  - to be a witness. 2 Tim.1:8; 1 Pet.4:16; Rom.1:16
  - to tell the truth about what Christ has done for us
  - to be a living testimony of *His* ability to save

Acts 1:8, 20:24; Rom.12:1; Eph.4:15; John 3:19-21

## Who do you say I am? – Matt.16:15-16

- Each person must answer this question about Jesus  
This is life's most important question. Matt.27:22
- Jesus came to save; this implies that people are lost  
Luke 19:10; Rom.3:23, 6:23
- Each person needs to understand this crucial fact:  
*they are eternally lost without Christ*
- Each person has a *desperate need* for salvation
- Christ is the *only* way. Acts 4:12; John 14:6

## **But You Know Him - John 14:17**

- **Unbelievers live as if they are oblivious to God. But they know they are sinners. Jn.3:19-21, Rom.1:18-20**
- **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 face eternal death**
- **The world *can't* see the Holy Spirit**
- **The unsaved world *doesn't know* the Holy Spirit**
- **But we do. John 14:17; 1 John 2:20**

## **That the world may know – John 17:23**

- **Paul Revere warned his neighbors. Matt.22:39**
- **Imagine our history if he had ignored the signal**
- **What if he decided to go back to sleep instead?**
- **We have spiritual discernment; we know the truth. Our unbelieving neighbors don't. 1 Cor.2:14**
- **They desperately need to know the truth**
- **If we don't tell them, who will?**



# The Lord gave the word Psalm 68:11

The Lord gave the word,  
great was the company  
of the preachers

Psalm LXVIII (68)

Limbourg Brothers, Bourges France, 1414





**How beautiful are the feet  
Rom.10:15 = Isaiah 52:7**

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

**The Apostles Going Forth to Preach  
Limbourg Brothers, Bourges France, 1414**





**Their sound is gone out  
Rom.10:18 = Psalm 19:4**

**Their sound is gone out  
into all lands,  
and their words unto  
the ends of the world**

**David Foresees the Preaching of the Apostles  
Limbourg Brothers, Bourges France, 1414**

