

Today's Bible Verses

15 NOVEMBER 2018

These 4 verses, read in order, are the verses that provided the lyrics for Handel's beloved "Hallelujah Chorus" from "Messiah."

Today's verses are dedicated with love to my wife, Adrienne!

a "Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign!
Revelation 19:6 (1 of 4 for Nov 15)

b "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah,
and He will reign forever and ever!"
Revelation 11:15 (2 of 4 for Nov 15)

c "And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD
OF LORDS."
Revelation 19:16 (3 of 4 for Nov 15)

d "Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the rumbling of loud
thunder, saying: Hallelujah!"
Revelation 19:6 (4 of 4 for Nov 15)

(ALL VERSES ARE EXCERPTED FROM THE HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE, HCSB.)

The Bible verses in the box above are this day's verses which I selected for my daily posting on both [FACEBOOK](#) and [TWITTER](#).

SEE ALSO:

ChristOurPassover.org

ADDITIONAL VERSES:

HANDEL'S
Messiah

This special edition of the Daily Verses and Additional Verses
Is dedicated with great love to

My Wife, Adrienne

Welcome to this “*Additional Verses*” Bible study of the text of Handel’s choral masterpiece, *Messiah*.
At the end of his 259-page manuscript of the work, Handel wrote the letters “SDG” — Soli Deo Gloria, “To God alone the glory.”
Let us approach the inspired words and glorious music with this same devotion.

PART ONE

PART 4g Betrayal and Death of Messiah

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Hallelujah!

After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying:

Hallelujah!

Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, because His judgments are true and righteous, because He has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality; and He has avenged the blood of His slaves that was on her hands.

A second time they said:

Hallelujah!

Her smoke ascends forever and ever!

Then the 24 elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying:

Amen! ***Hallelujah!***

A voice came from the throne, saying:

Praise our God,
all His slaves, who fear Him,
both small and great!

Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying:

Hallelujah,

because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign!

Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself.

She was given fine linen to wear,
bright and pure.

For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

REVELATION 19:1-8

We have moved from Isaiah 53 (“The Suffering Servant” or “The Suffering Messiah”) to Revelation (where Christ returns Triumphant!). The progression is astounding, and Handel’s music turns to universal joy and celebration.

“Hallelujah! He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings and Lord of Lords! **Hallelujah!!**”

“Our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign!”

*"Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory."
Can we imagine the "vast multitude" in heaven
saying (singing?) **Hallelujah!** at the top of their
voices?*

*Shout to Yahweh, all the earth;
be jubilant, shout for joy, and sing.
[Psalm 98:4]*

The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying:

***The kingdom of the world
has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of His Messiah,
and He will reign forever and ever!***

The 24 elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God, saying:

We thank You, Lord God, the Almighty,
who is and who was,
because You have taken Your great power
and have begun to reign.
The nations were angry,
but Your wrath has come.
The time has come
for the dead to be judged
and to give the reward
to Your servants the prophets,
to the saints, and to those who fear Your name,
both small and great,
and the time has come to destroy
those who destroy the earth.

God's sanctuary in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared in His sanctuary. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

REVELATION 15:15-19

Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, GOD, has now become our King – and He will be so Forever!

We read of the overwhelming joy at this fact, and are so taken by the response, that maybe it doesn't register with us that there are "24 elders, seated before God on their thrones." Who are they? What is their function? Are they created beings? Have they always been there with God?

But right now is not the time to care about that!
Because our personal Savior and God has assumed the throne over all the earth! And we will be His for eternity.

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on His head. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself. He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will

also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh:

**KING OF KINGS
AND LORD OF LORDS.**

REVELATION 19:11-16

From as far back as Psalm 2 (remember that?), we have been told that God's Messiah – who is also God – will be King and rule righteously from Mount Zion. We have come to call Him Messiah, which means "Anointed One." But anointed why? For what purpose?

He was Anointed to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords! It's there in Psalm 2 and in the Book of Revelation.

The tradition of standing during the performance of Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus was started way back in 1743, when King George II of England rose to his feet as the chorus began. Some say he was so moved by the majesty of the music that he felt he had to stand in honor. Others assert that he had been napping, and mistook the music for the National Anthem. (Did England even have a National Anthem in 1743?) Still others assert he was bothered by gout and had to stand after sitting still listening to music for two hours.

You decide. And stand (or not) based on your own decision.

But will we not all stand in awe and reverence at the actual coronation of our King of Kings? And if we stand now for this piece of music, in honor of our coming King, does it really matter why George II did? Can you imagine witnessing the coming real event of Messiah's coronation, given how powerful John's description of his vision of it was?

He who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."

Come, Lord Jesus!



INFORMATION ON THIS STUDY

One of the most powerful, beautiful, sublime, and Biblically correct works of art is *Messiah* by German-turned-English composer George Friedrich Handel. Composed in a 24-day burst of inspiration in 1741, *Messiah* has become one of the most popular of "classical" music's religious expressions.

Handel's friend Charles Jennens, a wealthy landowner and devout Anglican, created the text for *Messiah*

directly from Scripture. *Messiah* is therefore a rich (and richly Biblical) digest of the life, ministry, death, and future kingdom of Jesus the Christ. In this series of "Additional Verses," we will read (and, if you like, listen to) the original text of Handel's work – **AND** we will mirror them with an expanded, context-laden study of the Scriptures surrounding those Jennens chose and Handel set to music.

We will work our way through the entire text of *Messiah*, day by day. You will find each day's excerpt from Handel's libretto in the left column, and the expanded (but wholly Biblical) context for each of the musical numbers in the right column. (See *above*.) In addition to the Scripture in the right column, **I will add periodic notes and thought questions, which you will always find in this burgundy color.** (I was taught by a truly great man and mentor of mine that true learning and understanding happens best when you are asked the "next question," so that's what I will endeavor to do for you.)

I have designed it so that either column can be read straight down, in order to get the narrative (left column for Handel's message in his music; right column to see that message in magnified Biblical context). I have also put each musical number in its own row, so you may read across the columns for each selection to compare the Handel/Jennens text with the HCSB translation with context.

I have added a special bonus to this series: If you should wish to *listen* to a scintillating performance of the musical number in each day's section of Handel's *Messiah*, there are links in the left column you can use to take you there! I would listen, if I were you. (There is more information on the audio files and *Messiah* below.)

At the end of his 259-page manuscript of *Messiah*, Handel wrote the letters "SDG" — *Soli Deo Gloria*, "To God alone the glory." Let us approach the inspired words and glorious music with this same devotion.

*Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is become
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;
and He shall reign for ever and ever.
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.
Hallelujah!*



ADDITIONAL NOTES ON HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Charles Jennens (*right*) pulled together the OT and NT passages that became the "little book" (Italian: *Libretto*) for his friend, composer **George Friedrich Handel** (*left*) to use in his massive choral work, *Messiah*.

The libretto compiled by Jennens comprises passages from the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible and Psalms from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* (which come

from the poetic 1535 Miles Coverdale translation).

For performance purposes, Handel divided the work into three sections, but to suit our study here, I have chosen to break it up into these five:

1. Messianic Prophecies
2. Birth of Messiah
3. Ministry of Messiah
4. Death of Messiah
5. Resurrection and Triumphal Return

As Christians, we share a belief in the inspiration of Scripture, and so a study of these "Additional Verses" makes perfect sense, I believe, in the context of these daily emails. However, we have the added bonus in this case of the gloriously and sublimely beautiful music associated with our study. Handel's *Messiah* sits among my top five or so favorite musical works – ever. I have attended many live performances of it (notably in Duke Chapel in Durham, NC), and I own and listen to multiple versions of it in my vinyl and CD collections.

I never even come close to tiring of the work, and am always lifted up in both lyrical and spiritual realms by it. If you are not familiar with it (except maybe for the universally loved "Hallelujah" Chorus),



then do yourself a favor and listen to it. If you already know and love it, listen to the recording I've linked to in this study.

*(The links are found in the left column, in the description of each selection. Just click, and it will open your browser, take you to YouTube, and play that selection. **I absolutely encourage you to use good quality headphones!**)*

As a result of the generosity of its publisher who made the recording available online, we have the opportunity to marry our study of the text with one of the greatest, truly classic recordings of *Messiah* of all time. (There is complete information about this recording in the Credits section, at the bottom of this email.)

I would welcome any comments or questions you may have about this (admittedly unusual) form of Bible study. Thank you!

USAGE OF THE NAME OF GOD IN THESE STUDIES

As I do in all my Daily and Additional Verses, whenever an OT passage contains the four-letter Name of God יהוה (transliteration: YHVH or YHWH), I change the translation from The LORD to Yahweh.

I don't do this for reasons of doctrine (*or because I think my prayers won't be heard if I don't pronounce God's name correctly!*) – but simply because in the original Hebrew, **the word is a proper name**. (See Exodus 3:15 below.)

And as such, I believe to read the text in a way that uses a proper name (and not a title, like Lord) conveys more accurate information. Paul told us that “All Scripture is inspired by God,” and so why wouldn't we want to read it the way He inspired it? While it is true that the correct pronunciation of YHWH has been lost, “Yahweh” is probably our era's most commonly used equivalent.

God also said to Moses, “Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.”
[Exodus 3:15]

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable
for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 (HCSB)

The additional verses which are below the Daily Verses will only appear in these emails (which are also posted on some websites). The current series (began 31 October 2018) of these “Additional Verses” takes the Scriptural words from the great choral work *Messiah* by Handel and uses them as a springboard to examine the context of the birth, ministry, character, death, and Kingdom of Jesus the Christ.

If you know of others who would like to receive these Daily Verses emails – free of charge, of course – just have them send me their email address. I will never allow anyone but me to see or to use the email addresses entrusted to me, and I will use them only for the purpose of these Daily Verses. Promise.

–GBP2

How Did All of This Get Started?

In early 2017, I wrote a computer app that “knows” all 66 books and 1189 chapters which the Bible comprises. When run, it selects a totally random chapter in the Bible, and keeps track of the ones that have been selected. That way, I can work my way through all 1189 chapters, without the app ever giving me a duplicate.

I first used this for Bible study, and later decided that choosing one or more verses from each chapter would make a good series of Facebook posts.

I began posting them on December 8, 2017, and have been doing it daily ever since. I later added them to my Twitter account, and am now sending them by email, for those who prefer to get them this way.

TO UNSUBSCRIBE:

If you do not wish to receive these daily emails, please feel free any time to hit “Reply” and tell me. I know that mailbox clutter is greatly annoying, and that is certainly not my intention for this!



Research for this publication was assisted by Faithlife Corporation's [Logos Bible Software 7](#).

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CREDITS:

Portrait of G.F. Handel: attrib. Balthasar Denner (1685-1749); National Portrait Gallery, London (75 x 63 cm).

Portrait of Chas. Jennens: Thomas Hudson (1701-1779); Handel & Hendrix, London (122 x 98 cm).

Messiah: An Oratorio: Handel's autograph manuscript of the title page of *Messiah*, 1741.

Handel: Messiah (recording): L'Oiseau-Lyre (Decca) edition (1991), provided to YouTube by Universal Music Group North America. Judith Nelson, Emma Kirkby, Carolyn Watkinson, Paul Elliott, David Thomas; Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford; The Academy of Ancient Music, Christopher Hogwood, director.