

Today's Bible Verses

11 NOVEMBER 2018

Today's 4 verses, read in order, are David's appeal to God to heal Israel from its hardships.

a "God, You have rejected us; You have broken out against us; You have been angry. Restore us!"

Psalm 60:1 (1 of 4 for Nov 11)

b "You have shaken the land and split it open. Heal its fissures, for it shudders."

Psalm 60:2 (2 of 4 for Nov 11)

c "You have made Your people suffer hardship; You have given us wine to drink that made us stagger."

Psalm 60:3 (3 of 4 for Nov 11)

d "Save with Your right hand, and answer me, so that those You love may be rescued."

Psalm 60:5 (4 of 4 for Nov 11)

(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*

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 4c Betrayal and Death of Messiah

HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE

34. Recitative Tenor

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

35. Chorus

Let all the angels of God worship Him.

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord ridicules them.

Then He speaks to them in His anger
and terrifies them in His wrath:

"I have consecrated My King
on Zion, My holy mountain."

I will declare Yahweh's decree:

He said to Me,

"You are My Son; today I have become Your Father.

Ask of Me,

and I will make the nations Your inheritance

and the ends of the earth Your possession.

PSALM 2:4-8

For to which of the angels did He ever say,

You are My Son; today I have become Your Father,

or again, I will be His Father, and He will be My Son?

When He again brings His firstborn into the world, He says,

And all God's angels must worship Him.

And about the angels He says:

He makes His angels winds,

and His servants a fiery flame,

but to the Son:

Your throne, God,

is forever and ever,

and the scepter of Your kingdom

is a scepter of justice.

You have loved righteousness

and hated lawlessness;

this is why God, Your God,

has anointed You

with the oil of joy

rather than Your companions.

HEBREWS 1:5-9

In Part 1 of *Messiah*, Jennens and Handel used a very few of the huge number of prophecies about the birth of the Christ. (Remember, it took us 57 days of these Bible Verse emails to study 138 such prophecies!)

Now, as Handel's story is moving inexorably toward the death of Messiah, he has stopped for a moment to describe Christ's relationship with God His Father. The Bible verse Jennens chose [Psalm 2:7] sits inside a prophecy of the future destiny of Messiah as Conqueror and King. He says, through the Psalmist:

You are My Son; today I have become Your Father.

In Psalm 2, the author looks forward in time to when Messiah will come (we now understand that it will be for a second time) to bring all of the rebellious and recalcitrant peoples and nations under His rulership. And it is in the context of making "the nation Your inheritance and the ends of the earth Your possession" that God the Father calls Messiah "My Son."

Later, the author of the Book of Hebrews quotes that very passage to make the point that Jesus had been pre-existent prior to His earthly birth, and that He had been

(and now remains) greatly superior to the ones we know as angels.

For unto which of the angels did He [God the Father] ever say, You are My Son; today I have become Your Father?

The passage goes on to give two contrasting pieces of information –

1. what God's message to the angels is and was, and
2. what God the Father said about and to His Son, including this extremely revealing passage:

Your throne, God, is forever and ever.

We thus have clear and inspired testimony from NT Scripture that "this Jesus whom you crucified" was and is ... **God**.

Therefore, we and all the angels are told to worship Him. Instead, do we in our daily lives honor Jesus because we see Him mainly (or only) as a great teacher and a kind, gentle, loving, and giving man?

Or do we also tremble at the thought that human beings, just like ourselves, had the Creator of the entire Universe in their midst, and their response was to kill Him?

Do we consider Him in unspeakable awe, knowing the strength, power, and majesty He (as God) possesses?

Do we honestly (and at the core of our being) believe that He could have asked God His Father, and 12 legions of angels would have been sent to rescue Him?

In the face of all of the above evidence, is our relationship with God the Father and Jesus the Messiah **the most important thing in our lives** – completely, always, and at every moment?

Why not?



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.