Today's Bible Verses

14 NOVEMBER 2018

Today's 4 verses, read in order, are more from Elihu's speech to Job about the greatness and power of God.

a "Do you know how God directs His clouds or makes their lightning flash?"
Job 37:15 (1 of 4 for Nov 14)

b "Do you understand how the clouds float, those wonderful works of [God,] who has perfect knowledge?"
Job 37:16 (2 of 4 for Nov 14)

c "The Almighty — we cannot reach Him — He is exalted in power! He will not oppress justice and abundant righteousness."
Job 37:23 (3 of 4 for Nov 14)

d "Therefore, men fear [God]. He does not look favorably on any who are wise in heart."
Job 37:24 (4 of 4 for Nov 14)

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(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 4f Betrayal and Death of Messiah HOLMAN CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE
40. Air (or « Air and Recitative ») Bass Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed. **41. Chorus** Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us. **42. Recitative** Tenor He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall have them in derision. **43. Air** Tenor Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.	*Why do the nations rebel* *and the peoples plot in vain?* *The kings of the earth take their stand,* *and the rulers conspire together* *against Yahweh and His Anointed One:* *"Let us tear off their chains* *and free ourselves from their restraints."* *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. *You will break them with a rod of iron;* *You will shatter them like pottery."* So now, kings, be wise; receive instruction, you judges of the earth. Serve Yahweh with reverential awe and rejoice with trembling. Pay homage to the Son or He will be angry and you will perish in your rebellion, for His anger may ignite at any moment. All those who take refuge in Him are happy. PSALM 2:1-12 _____ You will have recognized by now that we have visited Psalm 2 before. It is a 12-verse poem wholly devoted to prophesying about the second coming of Messiah. All four of the musical selections listed on the left are taken from Psalm 2, indicating that this part of *Messiah* is the bridge between Messiah's first coming and His second. Let's see if there are not some things in this poem that we have not yet considered. First, the opening verses provide the text for three of these musical selections. "Why do the nations rage," "Let us break their bonds," and "He that dwelleth in Heaven shall laugh them to scorn." We are getting a strong view of the Mission of Messiah to be victorious over the people and nations who declare war on Him when He returns. God makes it known here that He has established His King, Messiah, on Mount Zion – and He tells the world that this Anointed One, this Messiah, this King of Kings is **His Son**. God then moves on to talk directly *to His son*, whom we know now came to earth the first time with the name of Jesus of Nazareth, "You are my Son. Today I have become Your Father." He tells His Son that the nations will be His inheritance and the ends of the earth His possession. We remember the statement of Jesus to His disciples that "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." *[Matthew 28:18]*

It will first become necessary, it seems, for Christ to break the rebellious people "with a rod of iron," after which the Victorious Christ will judge all nations.
Closing with a breath of comfort, the last line of Psalm 2 tells us that "all those who take refuge in Him are happy."
I have heard and read people say that they believe in the gentle, peace-loving, kind Jesus of the New Testament, but that they have no love or regard or belief in the "violent, blood-thirsty" God of the Old Testament. How does it make you feel when you read passages such as Psalm 2 or the Book of Revelation, and discover that Scripture describes Christ's duty upon His return is to fight against the rebelling peoples of the earth? Does it ring true to your vision of Jesus hat ***death*** will be part of what He brings with Him? Or that, apparently, God will laugh at the hubris and the fate of those Christ will fight against, and that He will ridicule them ("have them in derision")?
Can each of us know for sure which side we will be on when the avenging, punishing Jesus returns?
Is it as each to love ***that God*** as deeply and dearly as we love the baby Jesus in the manger, or the healer of the blind, or the gentle, humble shepherd of His people? 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 (begun 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.