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Händel

# MESSIAH

For unto us,  
a child is  
born

VOCAL FABRIC

# **TEXTS**

## **GEORG FRIEDRICH HÄNDEL MESSIAH, HWV 56**

**PART I:  
THE PROPHECY AND REALISATION**

**PART II:  
THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REDEMPTION**

**PART III:  
A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

# **PART I: THE PROPHECY AND REALISATION OF GOD'S PLAN TO REDEEM MANKIND BY THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH**

## **Scene 1: Isaiah's prophecy of salvation**

### **Comfort ye my people**

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

### **Ev'ry valley shall be exalted**

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

### **And the glory of the Lord**

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

## **Scene 2: The prophecy of the coming of Messiah and the question, despite of what this may portend for the World**

### **Thus saith the Lord of hosts**

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts: “Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.” “The Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, ev'n the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come,” saith the Lord of Hosts.

### **But who may abide the day of His coming**

But who may abide the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire.

### **And he shall purify the sons of Levi**

And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

## **Scene 3: The prophecy of the Virgin Birth**

### **Behold, a virgin shall conceive**

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, "God with us."

### **O thou that tellest good things to Zion**

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid, say unto the cities of Judah: "Behold your God!" O thou that

tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, good tidings to Jerusalem, arise, say unto the cities of Judah: "Behold your God! Behold, the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

### **For behold, darkness shall cover the earth**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

### **The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light**

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

## **For unto us a child is born**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called:

“Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

## **Scene 4: The appearance of the Angels to the Shepherds**

### **There were shepherds abiding in the fields**

And there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

### **And lo, the angel of the Lord**

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.

### **And the angel said unto them**

And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born

this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

**And suddenly there was with the angel**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heav'nly host, praising God, and saying:

**Glory to God in the highest**

"Glory to God, glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

**Scene 5: Christ's redemptive miracles on earth**

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

**Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd**



Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

### **He shall feed his flock like a shepherd**

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Come unto Him all ye that labour, come unto Him all ye that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take His yoke upon you and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

### **His yoke is easy**

His yoke is easy, His burthen is light.

**PART II: THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF  
REDEMPTION BY THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST,  
MANKIND'S REJECTION OF GOD'S OFFER, AND  
MANKIND'S UTTER DEFEAT WHEN TRYING TO  
OPPOSE THE POWER OF THE ALMIGHTY**

**Scene 1: The redemptive sacrifice, the  
scourging and the agony on the cross**

**Behold the Lamb of God**

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the  
sin of the world.

**He was despised and rejected of men**

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of  
sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His  
back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that  
plucked off the hair. He hid not His face from  
shame and spitting.

**Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our  
sorrows**

Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

**And with His stripes we are healed**

And with His stripes we are healed.

**All we, like sheep, have gone astray**

All we, like sheep, have gone astray, we have turned ev'ry one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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

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**

“He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him.”

## **Thy rebuke hath broken His heart**

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.

## **Behold and see if there be any sorrow**

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

## **Scene 2: His sacrificial death, His passage through Hell and Resurrection**

### **He was cut off**

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 his soul in hell**

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

## **Scene 3: His ascension**

### **Lift up your heads, O ye gates**

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.

## **Scene 5: Whitsun, the gift of tongues, the beginning of evangelism**

### **Thou art gone up on high**

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.

## **How beautiful are the feet**

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

## **Their sound is gone out**

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

## **Scene 6: The world and its rulers reject the Gospel**

### **Why do the nations so furiously rage together**

Why do the nations so furiously rage together?  
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 His anointed.

### **Let us break their bonds asunder**

Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

## **He that dwelleth in heaven**

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision.

## **Scene 7: God's triumph**

### **Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron**

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron. Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

## **Hallelujah**

Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah! 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. And He shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!

## **PART III: A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE FINAL OVERTHROW OF DEATH**

### **Scene 1: The promise of bodily resurrection and redemption from Adam's fall**

**I know that my Redeemer liveth**

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And tho' worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

**Since by man came death**

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

### **Scene 2: The Day of Judgment and general Resurrection**

**Behold, I tell you a mystery**



Behold, I tell you a mystery: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be chang'd in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet."

## **The trumpet shall sound**

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be rais'd incorruptible, and we shall be chang'd. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

## **Scene 3: The victory over death and sin**

### **Then shall be brought to pass**

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallow'd up in victory."

### **O death, where is thy sting?**

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

### **But thanks be to God**

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather that is risen again; who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

## **Scene 4: The glorification of the messianic victim**

### **Worthy is the Lamb**

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Amen

Amen.