

# THE LORD GAVE THE WORD

*The Bible Through the Eyes of Jennens and Handel*

## **Messiah** Libretto Organized in Biblical Order

All quotations from the Common English Bible

### [1] Overture

#### [45] Air: ***I know that my Redeemer liveth***

*But I know that my redeemer is alive  
and afterward he'll rise upon the dust.  
After my skin has been torn apart this way—  
then from my flesh I'll see God...*

Job 19:25-26

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died.*

1 Corinthians 15:20

#### [40] Air: ***Why do the nations so furiously rage together?***

*Why do the nations rant?  
Why do the peoples rave uselessly?  
The earth's rulers take their stand;  
the leaders scheme together  
against the Lord and  
against his anointed one*

Psalms 2:1-2

#### [41] Chorus: ***Let us break their bonds asunder***

*"Come!" they say.  
"We will tear off their ropes  
and throw off their chains!"*

Psalms 2:3

#### [42] Recitative: ***He that dwelleth in Heaven***

*The one who rules in heaven laughs;  
my Lord makes fun of them.*

Psalms 2:4

#### [43] Air: ***Thou shalt break them***

*"You will smash them with an iron rod;  
you will shatter them like a pottery jar."*

Psalms 2:9

#### [32] Air: ***But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell***

*...because you won't abandon my life to the grave;  
you won't let your faithful follower see the pit.*

Psalms 16:10

**[39] Chorus: *Their sound is gone out***

*...but their sound extends throughout the world;  
their words reach the ends of the earth.*

Psalm 19:4a

*But I ask you, didn't they hear it? Definitely! Their voice has gone out into the entire earth, and their message has gone out to the corners of the inhabited world.*

Romans 18:10

**[33] Chorus: *Lift up your heads, O ye gates***

*Mighty gates: lift up your heads!  
Ancient doors: rise up high!  
So the glorious king can enter!  
Who is this glorious king?  
The LORD—strong and powerful!  
The LORD—powerful in battle!  
Mighty gates: lift up your heads!  
Ancient doors: rise up high!  
So the glorious king can enter!  
Who is this glorious king?  
The LORD of heavenly forces—  
he is the glorious king!*

Psalm 24:7-10

**[27] Recitative: *All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn***

*All who see me make fun of me—  
they gape, shaking their heads:*

Psalm 22:7

**[28] Chorus: *He trusted in God***

*"He committed himself to the LORD,  
so let God rescue him;  
let God deliver him  
because God likes him so much."*

Psalm 22:8

**[37] Chorus: *The Lord gave the word***

*My Lord gives the command—  
many messengers are bringing good news:*

Psalm 68:11

**[36] Air: *Thou art gone up on high***

*You ascended the heights,  
leading away your captives,  
receiving tribute from people,  
even from those who rebel  
against the Lord God's dwelling there.*

Psalm 68:18

**[29] Recitative: *Thy rebuke hath broken His heart***

*Insults have broken my heart.  
I'm sick about it.  
I hoped for sympathy,  
but there wasn't any;  
I hoped for comforters,  
but couldn't find any.*

Psalm 69:20

**[8] Recitative: Behold, a virgin shall conceive**

*Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel.  
(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

Matthew 1:23

**[11] Air: The people that walked in darkness**

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.*

Isaiah 9:2

**[12] Chorus: For unto us a child is born**

*A child is born to us, a son is given to us,  
and authority will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

**[19] Recitative: Then shall the eyes of the blind**

*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.  
Then the lame will leap like the deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless will sing.*

Isaiah 35:5-6a

**[2] Accompagnato: Comfort ye my people**

*Comfort, comfort my people!  
says your God.  
Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended,  
that her penalty has been paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins!  
A voice is crying out:  
"Clear the LORD'S way in the desert!  
Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!"*

Isaiah 40:1-3

**[3] Air: Every valley shall be exalted**

*Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.  
Uneven ground will become level,  
and rough terrain a valley plain.*

Isaiah 40:4

**[4] Chorus: And the glory of the Lord**

*The LORD'S glory will appear,  
and all humanity will see it together;  
the Lord's mouth has commanded it."*

Isaiah 40:5

**[9] Air: O thou that taltest good tidings to Zion**

*Go up on a high mountain,  
messenger Zion!  
Raise your voice and shout,  
messenger Jerusalem!  
Raise it; don't be afraid;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"*

Isaiah 40:9

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

**[20] Air (or Duet): He shall feed His flock; Come unto Him**

*Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;  
he will gather lambs in his arms  
and lift them onto his lap.  
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.*

Isaiah 40:11

*"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.  
Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves.*

Matthew 11:28-29

**[23] Air: He was despised**

*He was despised and avoided by others;  
a man who suffered, who knew sickness well.  
Like someone from whom people hid their faces,  
he was despised, and we didn't think about him.*

Isaiah 53:3

*Instead, I gave my body to attackers,  
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.  
I didn't hide my face  
from insults and spitting.*

Isaiah 50:6

**[38] Air: How beautiful are the feet**

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of a messenger  
who proclaims peace,  
who brings good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God rules!"*

Isaiah 53:3

*And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written,  
How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

Romans 10:15

**[23] Air: He was despised**

*He was despised and avoided by others;  
a man who suffered, who knew sickness well.  
Like someone from whom people hid their faces,  
he was despised, and we didn't think about him.*

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*Instead, I gave my body to attackers,  
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.  
I didn't hide my face  
from insults and spitting.*

Isaiah 50:6

**[24] Chorus: Surely He hath borne our griefs**

*It was certainly our sickness that he carried,  
and our sufferings that he bore,  
but we thought him afflicted,  
struck down by God and tormented.  
He was pierced because of our rebellions  
and crushed because of our crimes.  
He bore the punishment that made us whole;*

Isaiah 53:4-5a

**[25] Chorus: And with His stripes we are healed**

*by his wounds we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5b

**[26] Chorus: All we like sheep have gone astray**

*Like sheep we had all wandered away,  
each going its own way,  
but the Lord let fall on him all our crimes.*

Isaiah 53:6

**[31] Recitative: He was cut off out of the land of the living**

*He was eliminated from the land of the living,  
struck dead because of my people's rebellion.*

Isaiah 53:8b

**[9] Air: O thou that taltest good tidings to Zion**

*Go up on a high mountain,  
messenger Zion!  
Raise your voice and shout,  
messenger Jerusalem!  
Raise it; don't be afraid;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"*

Isaiah 40:9

*Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.*

Isaiah 60:1

**[10] Recitative: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth**

*Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the LORD will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.  
Nations will come to your light  
and kings to your dawning radiance.*

Isaiah 60:2-3

**[5] Recitative: Thus saith the Lord**

*This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says:  
In just a little while, I will make the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land quake.  
I will make all the nations quake.  
The wealth of all the nations will come.  
I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of heavenly forces.*

Haggai 2:6-7

*Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me;  
suddenly the LORD whom you are seeking will come to his temple.  
The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,  
says the LORD of heavenly forces.*

Malachi 3:1

**[18] Air: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion**

*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion.  
Sing aloud, Daughter Jerusalem.  
Look, your king will come to you.  
He is righteous and victorious.  
~~He is humble and riding on an ass,  
on a colt, the offspring of a donkey.~~  
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the warhorse from Jerusalem.  
The bow used in battle will be cut off,  
he will speak peace to the nations.  
His rule will stretch from sea to sea,  
~~and from the river to the ends of the earth.~~*

Zechariah 9:9a&b, 10b

**[5] Recitative: Thus saith the Lord**

*This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says:  
In just a little while, I will make the heavens, the earth, the sea, and the dry land quake.  
I will make all the nations quake.  
The wealth of all the nations will come.  
I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of heavenly forces.*

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suddenly the LORD whom you are seeking will come to his temple.  
The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,  
says the LORD of heavenly forces.*

Malachi 3:1

**[6] Air: But who may abide the day of His coming?**

*Who can endure the day of his coming?  
Who can withstand his appearance?  
He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap.*

Malachi 3:2

**[7] Chorus: And He shall purify**

*He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.  
He will purify the Levites  
and refine them like gold and silver.  
They will belong to the LORD,  
presenting a righteous offering.*

Malachi 3:3

**[8] Recitative: Behold, a virgin shall conceive**

*Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
And they will call him, Emmanuel.  
(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

Matthew 1:23

**[20] Air (or Duet): He shall feed His flock; Come unto Him**

*Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;  
he will gather lambs in his arms  
and lift them onto his lap.  
He will gently guide the nursing ewes.*

Isaiah 40:11

*“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.  
Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves.*

Matthew 11:28-29

**[21] Chorus: His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light**

*“My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.”*

Matthew 11:30

**[13] Pifa: (Pastoral Symphony)**

**[14 a] Recitative: There were shepherds abiding in the field**

*Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night.*

Luke 2:8

**[14 b] Accompagnato: And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them**

*The Lord’s angel stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified.*

Luke 2:9

**[15] Recitative: And the angel said unto them**

*The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 2:10-11

**[16] Accompagnato: And suddenly there was with the angel**

*Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said,*

Luke 2:13

**[17] Chorus: Glory to God**

*“Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”*

Luke 2:14

**[22] Chorus: Behold the Lamb of God**

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,  
“Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”*

John 1:29b

**[52] Air: If God be for us**

*So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

Romans 8:31

*Who will bring a charge against God’s elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God’s right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.*

Romans 8:33-34

**[38] Air: How beautiful are the feet**

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of a messenger  
who proclaims peace,  
who brings good news,  
who proclaims salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God rules!"*

Isaiah 53:3

And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written,  
*How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

Romans 10:15

**[39] Chorus: Their sound is gone out**

*...but their sound extends throughout the world;  
their words reach the ends of the earth.*

Psalms 19:4a

*But I ask you, didn't they hear it? Definitely! Their voice has gone out into the entire earth, and their message has gone out to the corners of the inhabited world.*

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**[45] Air: I know that my Redeemer liveth**

*But I know that my redeemer is alive  
and afterward he'll rise upon the dust.  
After my skin has been torn apart this way—  
then from my flesh I'll see God...*

Job 19:25-26

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. He's the first crop of the harvest of those who have died.*

1 Corinthians 15:20

**[46] Chorus: Since by man came death**

*Since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came through one too. In the same way that everyone dies in Adam, so also everyone will be given life in Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

**[47] Recitative: Behold, I tell you a mystery**

*Listen, I'm telling you a secret: All of us won't die, but we will all be changed—in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the final trumpet.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-52a

**[48] Air: The trumpet shall sound**

*The trumpet will blast, and the dead will be raised with bodies that won't decay, and we will be changed. It's necessary for this rotting body to be clothed with what can't decay, and for the body that is dying to be clothed in what can't die.*

1 Corinthians 15:52b-53

**[49] Recitative: Then shall be brought to pass**

*And when the rotting body has been clothed in what can't decay, and the dying body has been clothed in what can't die, then this statement in scripture will happen:*

*Death has been swallowed up by a victory.*

1 Corinthians 15:54

**[50] Duet: O death, where is thy sting?**

*Where is your victory, Death?  
Where is your sting, Death?  
(Death's sting is sin, and the power of sin is the Law.)*

1 Corinthians 15:55-56



**[51] Chorus: *But thanks be to God***

*Thanks be to God, who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

1 Corinthians 15:57

**[34] Recitative: *Unto which of the angels said He at any time***

*After all, when did God ever say to any of the angels:*

*You are my Son.*

*Today I have become your Father?*

Hebrews 1:5a

**[35] Chorus: *Let all the angels of God worship Him***

*But then, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said,*

*All of God's angels must worship him.*

Hebrews 1:6b

**[53] Chorus: *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain***

*They said in a loud voice,*

*"Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb  
to receive power, wealth, wisdom, and might,  
and honor, glory, and blessing."*

*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea—I heard  
everything everywhere say,*

*"Blessing, honor, glory, and power  
belong to the one seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb  
forever and always."*

*Then the four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshipped.*

Revelation 5:12b, 13b, 14b

**[44] Chorus: *Hallelujah***

*And I heard something that sounded like a huge crowd, like rushing water and powerful thunder.*

*They said,*

*"Hallelujah! The Lord our God, the Almighty,  
exercised his royal power!"*

Revelation 19:6b

*Then 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 his Christ,  
and he will rule forever and always."*

Revelation 11:15

## Jennens's Scenic Structure for *Messiah*

from *Messiah: The Composition and Afterlife of Handel's Masterpiece* by Jonathan Keates

### Part 1

'The prophecy and realization of God's plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah'

#### Scene 1:

'Isaiah's prophecy of salvation' (movements 2-4)

#### Scene 2:

'The prophecy of the coming of Messiah and the question, despite (I), of what this may portend for the World' (movements 5-7)

#### Scene 3:

'The prophecy of the Virgin Birth' (movements 8-12)

#### Scene 4:

'The appearance of the Angels to the Shepherds' (movements 13-17)

#### Scene 5:

'Christ's redemptive miracles on earth' (movements 18-21)

### Part 2

'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' (movements 22-30)

#### Scene 2:

'His sacrificial death, His passage through Hell and Resurrection' (movements 31-32)

#### Scene 3:

'His ascension' (movement 33)

#### Scene 4:

'God discloses his identity in Heaven' (movements 34-35)

#### Scene 5:

'Whitsun, the gift of tongues, the beginning of evangelism' (movements 36-39)

#### Scene 6:

'The world and its rulers reject the Gospel' (movements 40-41)

#### Scene 7:

'God's triumph' (movements 42-44)

### Part 3

'A hymn of Thanksgiving for the final overthrow of Death'

#### Scene 1:

'The promise of bodily resurrection and redemption from Adam's fall' (movements 45-46)

#### Scene 2:

'The Day of Judgement and general Resurrection' (movements 47-48)

#### Scene 3:

'The victory over death and sin' (movements 49-52)

#### Scene 4:

'The glorification of the Messianic victim' (movement 53)

*Messiah*  
A Sacred Oratorio  
Words by Charles Jennens

## PART ONE

### 1. Sinfonia (Overture)

### 2. Accompagnato

*Tenor*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

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.

*(Isaiah 40: 1-3)*

### 3. Air

*Tenor*

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

*(Isaiah 40: 4)*

### 4. Chorus

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.

*(Isaiah 40: 5)*

### 5. Accompagnato

*Bass*

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.

*(Haggai 2: 6-7)*

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

*(Malachi 3: 1)*

### 6. Air

*Alto or soprano*

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

*(Malachi 3: 2)*

### 7. Chorus

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

*(Malachi 3: 3)*

## 8. Recitative

*Alto*

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

*(Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23)*

## 9. Air and Chorus

*Alto*

○ thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. ○ 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!

*(Isaiah 40: 9)*

Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

*(Isaiah 60: 1)*

*Chorus*

○ thou that tellest. . . etc.

## 10. Accompagnato

*Bass*

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.

*(Isaiah 60: 2-3)*

## 11. Air

*Bass*

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.

*(Isaiah 9: 2)*

## 12. Chorus

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, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*(Isaiah 9: 6)*

## 13. Pifa ("Pastoral Symphony")

### 14a. Recitative

*Soprano*

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

*(Luke 2: 8)*

### 14b. Accompagnato

*Soprano*

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.

*(Luke 2: 9)*

## 15. Recitative

*Soprano*

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."

(Luke 2: 10-11)

## 16. Accompagnato

*Soprano*

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

(Luke 2: 13)

## 17. Chorus

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

(Luke 2: 14)

## 18. Air

*Soprano*

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.  
Rejoice greatly. . . *da capo*

(Zechariah 9: 9-10)

## 19. Recitative

*Alto*

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

(Isaiah 35: 5-6)

## 20. Air (or Duet)

*(Alto &) soprano*

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.

(Isaiah 40: 11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him 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.

(Matthew 11: 28-29)

## 21. Chorus

His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

(Matthew 11: 30)

## PART TWO

### 22. Chorus

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

*(John 1: 29)*

### 23. Air

*Alto*

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

*(Isaiah 53: 3)*

He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off His hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting.

*(Isaiah 50: 6)*

### 24. Chorus

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.

*(Isaiah 53: 4-5)*

### 25. Chorus

And with His stripes we are healed.

*(Isaiah 53: 5)*

### 26. Chorus

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

*(Isaiah 53: 6)*

### 27. Accompagnato

*Tenor*

All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

*(Psalm 22: 7)*

### 28. Chorus

"He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him."

*(Psalm 22: 8)*

### 29. Accompagnato

*Tenor*

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.

*(Psalm 69: 20)*

### **30. Arioso**

*Tenor*

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

*(Lamentations 1: 12)*

### **31. Accompagnato**

*Soprano or tenor*

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

*(Isaiah 53: 8)*

### **32. Air**

*Soprano or tenor*

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

*(Psalm 16: 10)*

### **33. Chorus**

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.

*(Psalm 24: 7-10)*

### **34. Recitative**

*Tenor*

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

*(Hebrews 1: 5)*

### **35. Chorus**

Let all the angels of God worship Him.

*(Hebrews 1: 6)*

### **36. Air**

*Alto or soprano*

Thou art gone up on high; Thou hast led captivity captive, and received gifts for men; yea, even from Thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

*(Psalm 68: 18)*

### **37. Chorus**

The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers.

*(Psalm 68: 11)*

### **38. Air (or « duet and Chorus »)**

*Soprano or alto (or soprano, alto and Chorus)*

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

*(Isaiah 52: 7; Romans 10: 15)*

### 39. Chorus (or air for tenor)

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

*(Romans 10: 18; Psalm 19: 4)*

### 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

*(Psalm 2: 1-2)*

### 41. Chorus

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

*(Psalm 2: 3)*

### 42. Recitative

*Tenor*

He that dwelleth in Heav'n shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall have them in derision.

*(Psalm 2: 4)*

### 43. Air

*Tenor*

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

*(Psalm 2: 9)*

### 44. Chorus

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

*(Revelation 19: 6)*

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ;  
and He shall reign for ever and ever.

*(Revelation 11: 15)*

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

*(Revelation 19: 16)*



## PART THREE

### 45. Air *Soprano*

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.  
And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

*(Job 19: 25-26)*

For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

*(1 Corinthians 15: 20)*

### 46. Chorus

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.

*(1 Corinthians 15: 21-22)*

### 47. *Accompagnato*

*Bass*

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

*(1 Corinthians 15: 51-52)*

### 48. Air

*Bass*

The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.  
For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality.  
The trumpet. . . *da capo*

*(1 Corinthians 15: 52-53)*

### 49. Recitative

*Alto*

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

*(1 Corinthians 15: 54)*

### 50. Duet

*Alto & tenor*

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.

*(1 Corinthians 15: 55-56)*

### 51. Chorus

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

*(1 Corinthians 15: 57)*

## **52. Air**

*Soprano alto*

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

*(Romans 8: 31)*

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

*(Romans 8: 33-34)*

## **53. Chorus**

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 power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*(Revelation 5: 12-14)*

# *Messiah* Libretto Hebrew Bible Texts that Are Quoted in the New Testament

Ordered by movement,

from *Tainted Glory in Handel's Messiah: The Unsettling History of the World's Most Beloved Choral Work*  
by Michale Marissen

Citations in plaintext represent clear quotations or references, *italics* indicates that the Hebrew Bible text is alluded to but not directly referenced or quoted, and **boldface** indicates that the quoted/referenced Hebrew Bible Text and the accompanying New Testament text are both cited by Jennens.

	Hebrew Bible Text Used	Citations of New Testament Quotations / References / Allusions
[2]	Isaiah 40:1-3	Matthew 3:3b; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4b; John 1:23
[3]	Isaiah 40:4	Luke 3:5
[4]	Isaiah 40:5	Luke 3:6
[5]	Haggai 2:6-7	Hebrews 12:25-26
	Malachi 3:1	<i>Matthew 3:3; 11:10; Mark 1:2-3; Luke 1:76; 7:27</i>
[6]	Malachi 3:2	<i>Revelation 6:16-17</i>
[7]	Malachi 3:3	Hebrews 7:5, 11-12
[8]	Isaiah 7:14	<b>Matthew 1:22-23</b>
[9]	Isaiah 40:9	<i>Hebrews 12:22-24</i>
	Isaiah 60:1	<i>John 8:12</i>
[10]	Isaiah 60:2-3	Revelation 21:24
[11]	Isaiah 9:2	Matthew 4:16; Luke 1:79
[12]	Isaiah 9:6	<i>Luke 1:32</i>
[18]	Zechariah 9:9-10	Matthew 21:5; John 12:15
[19]	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 11:5; Mark 7:37; Luke 7:22
[20]	Isaiah 40:11	<i>John 10:11</i>
[23]	Isaiah 53:3	<i>Matthew 8:17; Mark 9:12</i>
	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67, 27:26
[24]	Isaiah 53:4-5a	Matthew 8:10-12,17
[25]	Isaiah 53:5b	1 Peter 2:24
[26]	Isaiah 53:6	1 Peter 2:25
[27]	Psalms 22:7	Matthew 27:39-40
[28]	Psalms 22:8	Matthew 27:43
[32]	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:27,31; 13:35
[36]	Psalms 68:18	Ephesians 4:7-8

[38]	Isaiah 52:7,9	Romans 10:15
[39]	Psalms 19:4	Romans 10:18
[40]	Psalms 2:1-2	Acts 4:24-28
[43]	Psalms 2:9	Revelation 2:27-28; 12:5; 19:15

## *Messiah* Libretto New Testament Texts that Quote the Hebrew Bible

Ordered by movement,  
from *Tainted Glory in Handel's Messiah: The Unsettling History of the World's Most Beloved Choral Work*  
by Michale Marissen

Citations in plaintext represent clear quotations or references, *italics* indicates that the Hebrew Bible text is alluded to but not directly referenced or quoted, and **boldface** indicates that the quoted/referenced Hebrew Bible Text and the accompanying New Testament text are both cited by Jennens.

	New Testament Text Used	Citations of Hebrew Bible Quotations / References / Allusions
[14a]	Luke 2:8	<i>Psalms 78:70</i>
[15]	Luke 2:10-11	<i>Isaiah 9:6</i>
[20]	Matthew 11:28-29	Jeremiah 6:16
[22]	John 1:29	<i>Isaiah 53:7</i>
[34]	Hebrews 1:5	Psalms 2:7
[35]	Hebrews 1:6	Psalms 97:7
[38]	Romans 10:15	Isaiah 52:7,9
[39]	Romans 10:18	<b>Psalms 19:4</b>
[44]	Revelation 11:15	Exodus 15:18
[46]	1 Corinthians 15:21-22	<i>Daniel 12:2</i>
[48]	1 Corinthians 15:52b-52	<i>Joel 2:1</i>
[49]	1 Corinthians 15:54	Isaiah 25:8
[50]	1 Corinthians 15:55-56	Hosea 13:14
[52]	Romans 8:31	<i>Psalms 118:6</i>
	Romans 8:33-34	Isaiah 50:8-9a; Psalms 110:1

## *Messiah* Libretto Texts That Do Not Reference Other Scripture

Ordered by movement,  
from *Tainted Glory in Handel's Messiah: The Unsettling History of the World's Most Beloved Choral Work*  
by Michale Marissen

### Text Used

- |       |                         |
|-------|-------------------------|
| [14b] | Luke 2:9                |
| [16]  | Luke 2:13               |
| [17]  | Luke 2:14               |
| [21]  | Matthew 11:30           |
| [29]  | Psalms 69:20            |
| [30]  | Lamentations 1:12       |
| [31]  | Isaiah 53:8             |
| [33]  | Psalms 24:7-10          |
| [37]  | Psalms 68:11            |
| [41]  | Psalms 2:3              |
| [42]  | Psalms 2:4              |
| [44]  | Revelation 19:6         |
| [45]  | Job 19:25-26            |
|       | 1 Corinthians 15:20     |
| [47]  | 1 Corinthians 15:51-52a |
| [51]  | 1 Corinthians 15:57     |
| [53]  | Revelation 5:9,12-13    |

## Recommended Resources for Further Study

### Books

Every Valley: Advent with the Scriptures of Handel's Messiah  
Compiled by Jessica Miller Kelley

Westminster John Knox Press ISBN-13: 978-0-664-25998-3

Tainted Glory in Handel's *Messiah*: The Unsettling History of the World's Most Beloved Choral Work

by Michael Marissen

Yale University Press ISBN: 978-0-300-19458-6

Messiah: The Composition and Afterlife of Handel's Masterpiece

by Jonathan Keates

Basic Books ISBN 978-1-5416-9735-5

Messiah: The Little-Known Story of Handel's Beloved Oratorio

by Tim Slover

Silverleaf Press ISBN-13: 978-1-92439-305-5

Messiah: The Gospel according to Handel's Oratorio

by Roger A. Bullard

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. ISBN 0-8028-0125-0

### Recordings

[messiah-guide.com/recordings.html](http://messiah-guide.com/recordings.html)

John Eliot Gardiner (conductor)

Phillips CD 434297

Sir Thomas Beecham (conductor)

RCA Victor O9026-61266-2

Stephen Layton (conductor)

Hyperion CDA67800

René Jacobs (conductor)

Harmonia Mundi HMC 901928

John Butt (conductor)

Linn CKD 285

### Videos

Atlanta Symphony Chorus

Starz/Anchor Bay VHS ASIN: 6302550580

Theater An Der Wien

C Major Entertainment ASIN: B003UIGZM6

### YouTube Playlist

[Messiah: Biblical Order](#)