

December 22, 2024

# Merry Christmas

- 1-4 Moses—Burning Bush, “Take off your shoes”
- 5-11 Moses—Pharaoh, “Let my people go!”
- 12-13 Moses—First Passover, “When I see the *BLOOD*”
- 1 Luke—Angel Gabriel to Mary**

Luke 1:30-31 – Angel Gabriel said to her,  
“Do not be afraid, Mary.  
You have found favor with God.  
You will conceive and  
give birth to a son, and  
you are to call him **Jesus.**”



*The Annunciation*, by Murillo, 1655–1660  
Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of His father David, <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever. His kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> Angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age ... is in her sixth month.

<sup>37</sup> FOR NO WORD FROM GOD WILL EVER FAIL."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Then the angel left her.

***The Annunciation***  
**by Murillo, 1655–1660**  
**Hermitage Museum,**  
**Saint Petersburg**





Associated Press reported Friday on Saturday—yesterday—that

“crowds of pagans, druids, hippies, & tourists head to Stonehenge in Britian”

- ✓ Celebrate Winter Solstice
- ✓ Shortest Day & Longest Night



Uther Pendragon, center, holds up his staff as he takes part in ceremony by the ancient stone circle of Stonehenge [Read more](#)

CST, December 19, 2024

) — It's that time of year when crowds of druids, hippies and tourists head to Stonehenge in Britain to celebrate the [winter solstice](#), the [shortest day and the longest night in the Northern Hemisphere](#).

are expected on Saturday at the Stonehenge monument on a plain in southern England as the sun breaks through the giant stones that form one of the world's most famous prehistoric

# Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

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God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

**28** The angel went to her and said,  
"Greetings, you who are highly favored!  
The Lord is with you."

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Born in Germany ... settled in London in 1712

Handel's *MESSIAH* premiered in Dublin on  
April 13, 1742, at Easter

Britannica names 1600-1750

"Golden Age of Oratorio" – *musicals with sacred*

Dec 22, 2 pm, Wortham Theater, Houston

*as of last night*

*Messiah*  
*an Oratorio*



Orchestra Center | Row B

Lowest Price

You'll be seated together  
2 Tickets

\$149 ea

Select

Grand Tier | Row D

Zone seating  
2 Tickets

\$269 ea

Select



**FIRST** recorded full performance of Handel's *Messiah* was in 1927, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham In the Methodist Central Hall in London featuring the BBC Chorus



First Scripture of *Messiah* Pt 1 is Isaiah 40:1-3:

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.



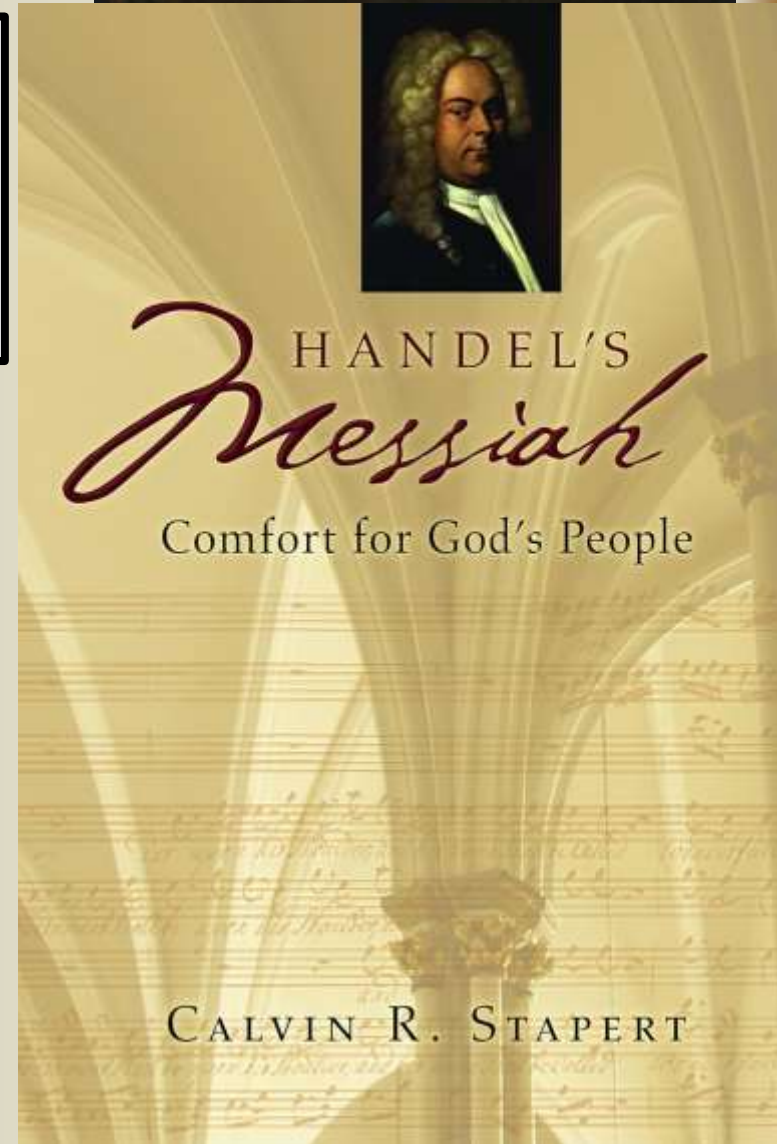
Calvin R. Stapert,  
Professor Emeritus of Music  
at Calvin College, Grand Rapids.

*Handel's Messiah:  
Comfort for God's People* (2010).



Stapert said Handel's oratorios were usually performed by an orchestra of about 35 people and a choir of 20

**"The *Messiah* phenomenon has no parallel in music history. No work of music has survived, let alone thrived, on so many performances, good, bad, and indifferent, by and for so many people, year after year, for such a long time"**



Handel's musical masterpiece,  
original score is over 200 pages

Messiah



THE MESSIAH  
(1741)

Edited by  
PERCY GOETSCHUS, Mus. Doc.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL  
(1685 - 1759)

PART I  
No 1 - OVERTURE

Grave (♩ = 60)  
2d time p

PIANO  
or  
ORGAN

The image shows a page from a musical score for George Frideric Handel's 'The Messiah'. The page is titled 'THE MESSIAH (1741)' and is edited by Percy Goetschius. It is identified as 'PART I No 1 - OVERTURE'. The tempo is marked 'Grave (♩ = 60)' and the dynamics are '2d time p'. The score is for 'PIANO or ORGAN' and features two staves of music. The first staff is the treble clef and the second is the bass clef. The music is in G major and 3/4 time. The page number '1' is visible in the top right corner.



George Frideric Handel, c. 1736  
by Thomas Hudson  
in the Foundling Museum, London



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

- 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
- 30 But the angel said to her,  
“Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God.

12th Scripture in *Messiah* is Isaiah 9:6:

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.



*Messiah*  
an Oratorio

Calvin R. Stapert,  
Professor Emeritus of Music  
at Calvin College, Grand Rapids.

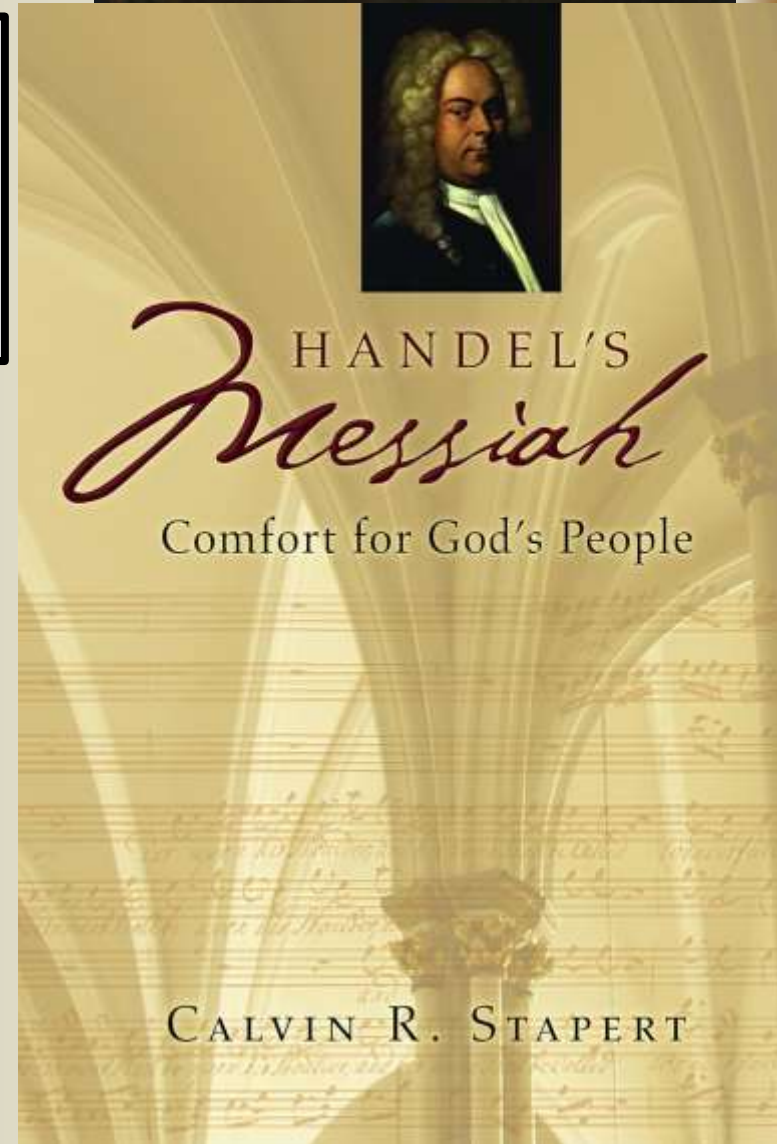
*Handel's Messiah:  
Comfort for God's People* (2010).



Stapert noted,

“Since its first performance in Dublin in 1742,  
there has been no year in which it hasn't been  
performed”

“There is no way that anyone can listen to  
*Messiah*, especially a believer, and not find  
heart, and mind, and soul literally cresting  
and rising exhilarated by the music”





## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

- 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary.  
You have found favor with God.
- 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son,  
and you are to call him Jesus.
- 32 He will be great and will be called the  
Son of the Most High.

17th Scripture in *Messiah* is Luke 2:14:  
**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.**



*Messiah*  
an Oratorio

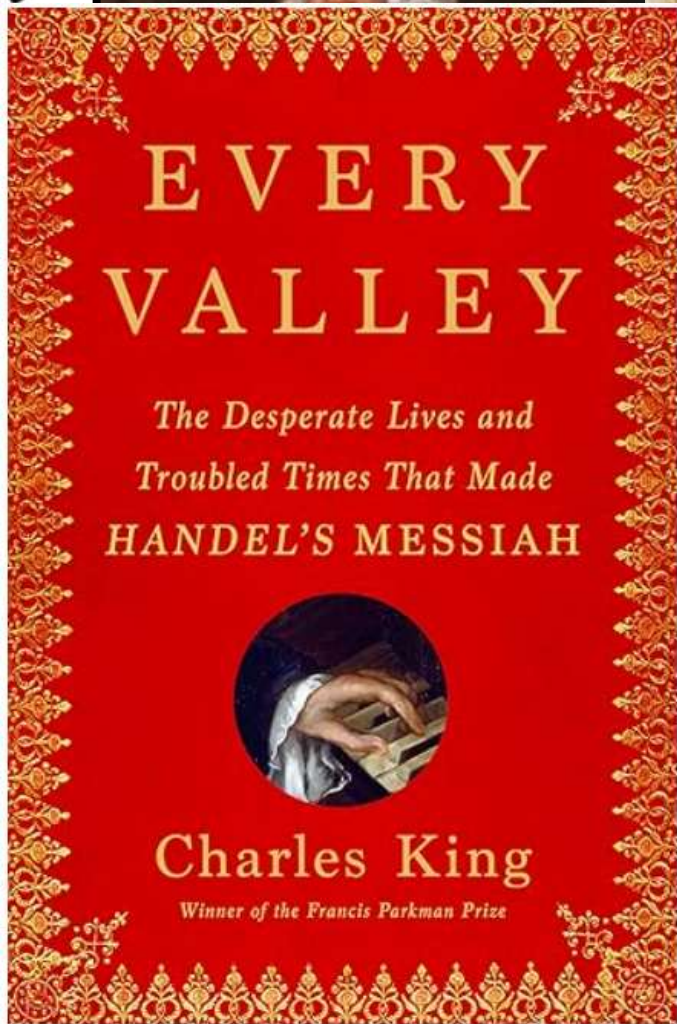
Charles King  
Professor of International Affairs and  
Government at Georgetown University

*Every Valley: The Desperate Lives and  
Troubled Times That Made Handel's  
Messiah* (2024)

King said in his introduction,

“The work of music we now call Handel’s  
*Messiah* has a good claim to being the  
greatest piece of participatory art ever  
created.”

“It is heard and sung by more people every  
year than arguably any other piece of the  
classical repertoire orchestras and choirs....”





***The Annunciation***  
**by Johann Christian**  
**Schröder, c. 1690**



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

- 32 He will be great and will be called the  
Son of the Most High.  
The Lord God will give him the  
throne of His father David,
- 33 and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever.  
His kingdom will never end."

The 22nd Scripture in *Messiah* is John 1:29

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



*Messiah*  
an Oratorio



**Jenny Uglow**

**Author of many prize-winning bios  
and culture histories**

**Chairperson of the Royal Society of Literature  
from 2014 to 2016**

**In “The New York Review of Books” (12-19-24),  
in reviewing Prof. King’s *Every Valley: The  
Desperate Lives and Troubled Times That  
Made Handel's Messiah* (2024)**

**Jenny Uglow noted that**

**“Across the English-speaking world, thousands  
... are looking forward to Handel’s *Messiah* at  
Christmas—booking tickets,  
rooting out scores, or preparing to sing ‘the  
*Messiah* from scratch’ for the first or fiftieth time.”**

*Messiah  
an Oratorio*



**George Frideric Handel  
(1685–1759)**

**George Frideric Handel, c. 1736  
by Thomas Hudson  
in the Foundling Museum, London**

Handel churned *Messiah* out in 24 days,  
from Aug 22 to Sept 14, 1741

Handel used the text supplied by  
Charles Jennens, a wealthy supporter,  
in three collections of Scriptures

1. O.T. Prophecies of the Messiah's Birth
2. N.T. Birth of Christ, Death, His Resurrection
3. Judgment Day, with the final chorus  
from the Book of Revelation.

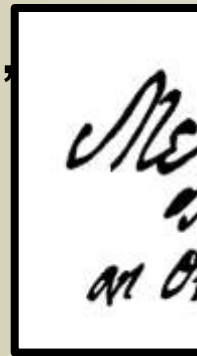
73 Verses Used in All  
43 from OT ~ 30 from NT

53-56 songs, depending upon arrangement.

Part 1: 21 songs

Part 2: 23 songs

Part 3: 9 songs



Charles Jennens by Thomas Hudson  
c. 1740, in the Handel House Museum



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

33 and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever.

His kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel,  
"since I am a virgin?"

35 Angel answered,  
"The Holy Spirit will come on you ...."

45th Scripture in *Messiah* is Job 19:25-26

I know that my redeemer liveth,  
And that he shall stand at the  
latter day upon the earth:



*Messiah*  
an Oratorio

**In 1784, honoring Handel's 100th birthday  
Though born in 1685 ...**

**Westminster Abbey presented with**

**60 sopranos, 48 countertenors,**

**83 tenors, 84 basses, 6 flutes, 26 oboes,**

**26 bassoons, 1 contrabassoon, 12 horns,**

**12 trumpets, 6 trombones, 157 strings,**

**assorted percussion, and an organ.**

*Messiah  
an Oratorio*



**George Frideric Handel  
(1685–1759)**

**George Frideric Handel, c. 1736  
by Thomas Hudson  
in the Foundling Museum, London**



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

35 Angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you,  
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.  
The Holy One to be born will be called the  
**Son of God.**

36 Even Elizabeth ... is going to have a  
child in her old age  
... is in her sixth month.

47th Scripture in *Messiah* is 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

**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 trump**



*Messiah*  
*an Oratorio*



***Annunciation* (c. 1472–1475) is thought to be Leonardo da Vinci's earliest complete work**



## Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-38

36 Even Elizabeth ... is going to have a child in her old age  
... is in her sixth month.

37 FOR NO WORD FROM GOD WILL EVER FAIL.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.

“May your word to me be fulfilled.”

Then the angel left her.

Last Scripture in *Messiah* is Revelation 5:12, 9, 13-14:

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and  
hast redeemed us to God by thy blood ...

to receive power, and riches, and wisdom,  
and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Blessing, Honour, Glory, and Power,  
be unto him that sitteth upon the throne,  
and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. . . . Amen.



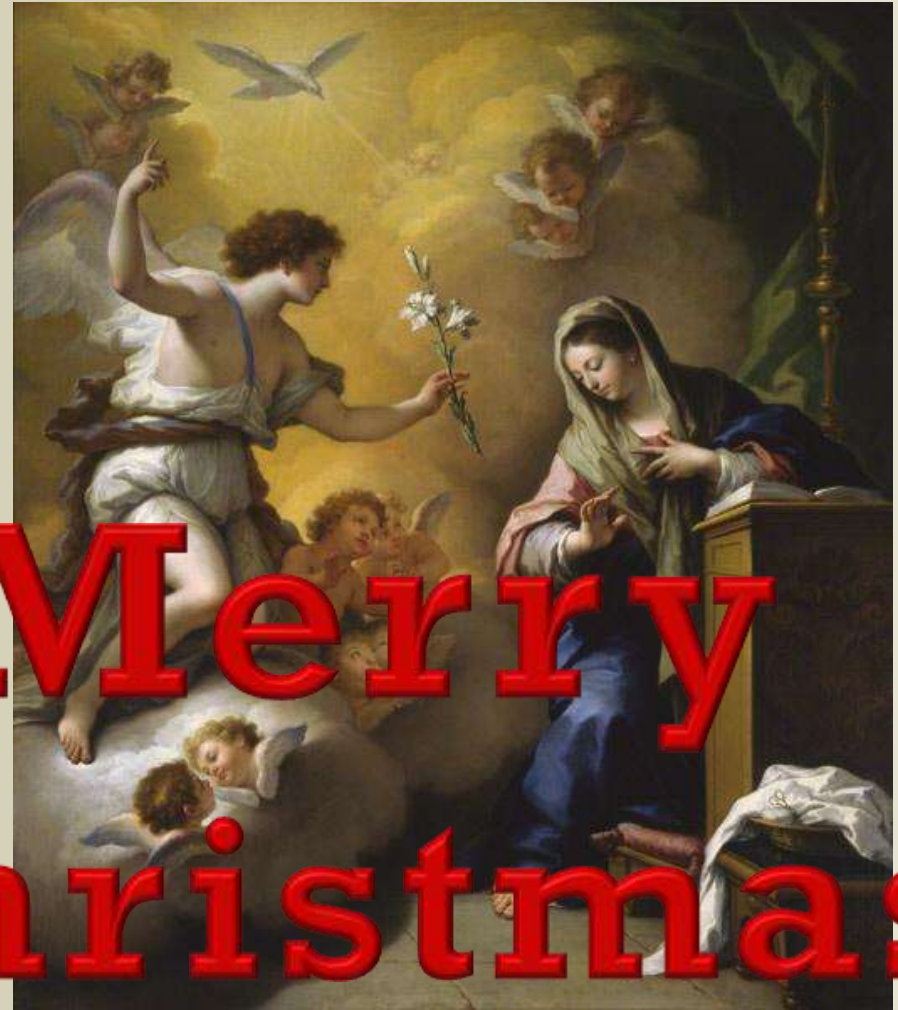
*The Annunciation*  
by Paolo de Matteis, c. 1712  
Saint Louis Art Museum

White Lily in the  
angel's hand is  
symbolic of  
Mary's purity



End of Part 2 of *Messiah*  
is from Revelation 19:6  
perhaps the most famous  
part of Handel's *Messiah*

**Hallelujah!**  
**for the Lord God**  
**omnipotent reigneth**



**Merry**  
**Christmas**