

Messiah

A sacred oratorio

Music by G. F. Handel (1685–1759)
Libretto by Charles Jennens (1700–1773)

Part One The prophesy and realization of God's plan to redeem mankind by the coming of the Messiah

1.	Overture	Instrumental
2.	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)	Recitative: Tenor
3.	Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40 : 4)	Air: Tenor
4.	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)	Chorus
5.	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. (Haggai 2:6-7) The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. (Malachi 3:1)	Recitative: Bass
6.	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)	Air: Bass or Alto
7.	And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:3)	Chorus
8.	Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)	Recitative: Alto
9.	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. (Isaiah 40:9; Isaiah 60:1)	Air: Alto Chorus
10.	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)	Recitative: Bass
11.	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)	Air: Bass

12.	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)	Chorus
13.	Pastorale Symphony)	Instrumental
14.	There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. (Luke 2:8)	Recitative: 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)	Recitative: Soprano
15.	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)	Recitative: Soprano
16.	And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: (Luke 2:13)	Recitative: Soprano
17.	Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men. (Luke 2:14)	Chorus
18.	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. (Zecharaiah 9:9-10)	Air: Soprano
19.	Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstoppèd. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)	Recitative: Alto
20.	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)	Air: Alto
	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)	Air: Soprano
21.	His yoke is easy, and his burden is light. (Matthew 11:30)	Chorus

Part Two The accomplishment of redemption by the sacrifice of Jesus, mankind's rejection of God's offer, and mankind's utter defeat when trying to oppose the power of the Almighty

22.	Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)	Chorus
23.	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 the hair. He hid not His face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)	Air: Alto
24.	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)	Chorus
25.	And with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)	Chorus
26.	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)	Chorus
27.	All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying: (Psalms 22:7)	Recitative: Tenor
28.	He trusted in God that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him. (Psalms 22:8)	Chorus
29.	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. (Psalms 69:20)	Recitative: Tenor
30.	Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow. (Lamentations 1:12)	Air: Tenor
31.	He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)	Recitative: Tenor
32.	But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption. (Psalms 16:10)	Air: Tenor
33.	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. (Psalms 24:7-10)	Chorus
34.	Unto which of the angels said He at any time: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? (Hebrews 1:5)	Recitative: Tenor
35.	Let all the angels of God worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6)	Chorus

36.	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. (Psalms 68:18)	Air: Bass
37.	The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers. (Psalms 68:11)	Chorus
38.	How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. (Romans 10:15)	Air: Soprano
39.	Their sound is gone out into all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world. (Romans 10:18/Psalms 19:4)	Chorus
40.	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. (Psalms 2:1-2)	Air: Bass
41.	Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us. (Psalms 2:3)	Chorus
42.	He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; the Lord shall have them in derision. (Psalms 2:4)	Recitative: Tenor
43.	Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalms 2:9)	Air: Tenor
44.	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) Hallelujah!	Chorus

Part Three A hymn of thanksgiving for the final overthrow of death		
45.	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. (I Corinthians 15:20)	Air: Soprano
46.	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. (I Corinthians 15:21-22)	Chorus
47.	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. (I Corinthians 15:51-52)	Recitative: Bass
48.	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. (I Corinthians 15:52-53)	Air: Bass
49.	Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. (I Corinthians 15:54)	Recitative: Alto
50.	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. (I Corinthians 15 :55-56)	Duet: Alto/Tenor
51.	But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15:57)	Chorus
52.	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 us. (Romans 8:33-34)	Air: Soprano
53.	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 5:12-13)	Chorus

Source: <http://www.gfhandel.org/messiahlibretto.htm>