



Hallelujah

By Jeff Bedwell on November 18, 2021

READING: Revelation 19

In his commentary on Revelations, Kendell H. Easley writes, “In 1712, the brilliant hot-tempered German composer George Frederic Handel moved to London, where he lived until his death in 1759. He achieved great fame as a composer of Italian opera, but abandoned opera for the oratorio in 1741. The oratorio originated as a musical drama to be played without staging in an 'oratory' or meeting room. Principal singers represented biblical characters or saints from Christian history, with a chorus interpreting the events.

Handel began to work on *Messiah* in 1741, using words from Scripture compiled by his friend Charles Jennens. He composed the music for all fifty-three numbers in an unbelievable twenty-four days. Handel conducted the first public performance for *Messiah* in Dublin on April 13, 1742. He gave his last presentation the day before he died.

The thrilling 'Hallelujah' Chorus is Handel at his best, and the tradition of the audience standing while it is sung began in Handel's own lifetime. He brilliantly divided the choir into two groups that sing different themes. *Messiah* has remained the most frequently performed and highly regarded oratorio ever written. While audiences in the United States associate it with Christmas, in Handel's day *Messiah* was an Easter presentation, for the 'Hallelujah' Chorus is really not about Christmas but about Christ's final victory. Jennens' words were taken directly from the only chapter in the New Testament that uses the word *hallelujah*, Revelation 19. 'For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth' will come true in its fullest and most complete sense only at the mighty return of Jesus Christ in triumph.”

The word *Hallelujah* is borrowed from the Hebrew and is literally *Praise Yahweh* as an expression of praise it means, *Praise the Lord*. *Hallelujah* occurs four times in the New Testament—and all the occurrences are in Revelation 19. There is so much to praise the Lord for in this chapter! God has brought judgment on His enemies and avenged the shed blood of His people. He has fully carried out justice. He sits on the throne, and all His people—both small and great—praise Him. He who reigns shares fellowship with His followers in the marriage supper of the lamb. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, the one in a blood-stained robe riding into battle as He defeats the beast and his forces.

There is so much to praise God for! Yet too often we find ourselves praising God far too little as we rush to present our needs and wants to Him in prayer. Yes, we give Him praise when He answers a prayer in a mighty way—but we too seldom praise Him just for who He is. We rejoice in His gifts but can fail to delight in His presence. Given that we will praise Him forever, it would be good for us today to learn to fall before Him in heartfelt, deeply committed worship each day.

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 100:4–5, ESV).

PRAYER: Father, teach us to truly worship and praise You for You are worthy! I praise You, Lord, just for who You are and give thanks for all that You have done and will do for me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 20

Copyright © 2021 First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC, All rights reserved.

[Visit our website](#)

First Baptist Church | (803)547-2051 | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715 | fbcfm.com

First Baptist Church Fort Mill | 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fbcfortmill@comporium.net powered by



Try email marketing for free today!