

— 2Corinthians 12.9-10 —
Advent Series 1
The Making of “Messiah”

2Cor 12⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

* What distinction does *Messiah* hold?

* Where is Georg Frideric Handel from?

* What did his father want him to do?

* How did he get into music?

* Where did he study?

* Where did spend his career?

* What is an oratorio and how does it differ from opera?

* Why were sacred oratorios controversial?

* Why was the life of a composer a challenge?

* What was Handel the man like?

* What was Handel's situation at age 56?

* Who was Charles Jennens?

* What did he do with Shakespeare’s plays, and how did the leading Shakespeare expert of the day respond?

* Why did his young friends call him “Sulleyman the Magnificent”?

* Why was Jennens a “non-juror”?

* What did Jennens want to accomplish with *Messiah*?

* We see in Jennens and Handel what we see throughout Scripture — God using unideal _____ in unideal circumstances to accomplish great things that only _____ could plan, and the greatness of which is often only revealed after the people have left this _____.

* How did Jennens structure *Messiah*?

2Cor 10 ¹⁰ “For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”

* Who else approached Handel shortly after Jennens, and how did their project merge with *Messiah*?

2Cor 11 ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often ..., ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness

* How long did Handel say it would take him to compose the music for *Messiah*, and how long did it actually take him?

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* Where was *Messiah* first performed and why? What was it called and why? What were the proceeds used for?

* How was *Messiah* mainly used?