



I am writing this before Easter and today I was listening to the beautiful music on KHCB FM (105.7 FM), and heard the beautiful closing of Handel's greatest masterpiece, "**THE MESSIAH**". It just happens to be the verse on which I was asked to write this devotional.

**Rev 5:12: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."**

In the 1730's, a teaching called Deism became a threat to Christians in England. Deism taught 1) there was no real God of the Bible, 2) no need for human salvation, 3) that Christ was not really God and, 4) there is no judgment to come. A young student corresponding with a Deist became so wracked with doubts of faith and depression that he committed suicide. His brother, Charles Jennens, a brilliant writer of word texts for music, was driven by grief at the death of his brother and the threat to the spiritual health of English Christians.

Jennens went to work on a great project called "Scripture Collection". He sent it to his friend, George Frederick Handel and asked that he "*would lay out his whole genius and skill, that the composition may excel all his former compositions, as the subject excels every other subject. The subject is **Messiah!***"

*Handel was truly moved by the selection of verses and in 24 days wrote with breathtaking intensity the soaring and moving musical notes that now is his best known work.*

But make no mistake in thinking it is the musical notes that move people to tears. Charles Jennens picked words straight from the Bible that laid out, in certainty:

- That Jesus was God:

**"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his Emmanuel: God with us."**

- That our sin made a need for a Savior:

**"All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."**

- That His death satisfied God

**"And with His stripes we are healed."**

- That those who deny Him will see judgment:

**"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

- That Christ rose:

**"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth."**

- That we will rise from death:

**"The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed."**

The closing words of "**Messiah**" are these words from Revelation:

**"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive ... power ...riches...and wisdom ...and might ... and honor ... and glory ... and blessing. Amen"**

Handel's tomb in Westminster Abbey (where Prince William & Kate wed) shows him standing in front of his desk with a copy of "Messiah" laying open to the words:

**"I know that my Redeemer lives!"**