

RUSSELL SANDERS

2-21-2024

MESSIAH

George Frederick Handel composed a wonderful musical oratorio about Jesus called "Messiah." One of my favorite choruses in it is taken from Isaiah 9:6 which reads, "***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.***"

The prophet Isaiah gave this prophecy approximately 740 years before Jesus was born. Isaiah also gave other prophecies relating to Jesus' passion and crucifixion, and God fulfilled all of them in Jesus.

Many people only know Handel's Messiah for its rousing "Hallelujah Chorus," but the oratorio gives a complete rendition of Messianic fulfillment from early prophecy through Christ's ascension.

If you have never listened to Messiah in its entirety, I would encourage you to do so. For many years I have listened to it every Christmas season. It has blessed me so much. I still think of some particular choruses that are my favorites.

Handel said that as he wrote this that there were many times that he felt as though he was in the very throne room of God in heaven.

As for me, the best part of Handel's Messiah is that it is all about Jesus.