

A Savior: Christ the Lord!

By Bob Young

Introduction

Great text, Luke 2:8-11, combines the three most common descriptions of Jesus. Here are his "names".

Jesus=Savior

Christ=Messiah, anointed one, King

Lord =Master (Jehovah)

Great challenge to see Jesus.

Names are nature, identity, character. God named his creation.

Jesus has names or descriptions, Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14), 9:6

Names are also titles, Mr, "Aunt", Brother...

Lord of Lords, King of Kings

Dt 10:17; Psalms 136:1-4; Dan 4:34

1 Tim 6:13-16; Rev. 17:14; 19:11-16

- Jesus has no equal, there is none greater or higher
- He has never been and never will be outranked, overthrown, or undermined, his reign, throne and authority are secure
- He know no limitations, experiences no frustration, faces no threats
- Remains absolutely invincible

King of the Jews, Matt. 2:2; 27:37

Lord

Refers to Jehovah, cf. 1 Pet 3 and Isa

Greek term, kurios: authority, domestic authority, as opposed to slave, undisputed owner, authority to make decisions—military, legal; moral authority, courtesy and respect

In calling Jesus Lord we

- Affirm our allegiance
- Bow to his authority
- Commit to him
- Dethrone our own will and way

Christ/Messiah/King

The town is Dublin, Ireland; the date is April 13, 1742; the place is Neal's Music hall. A choir rises and HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH fills the auditorium. A great crowd has gathered to hear the premiere of what is destined to be the most widely known musical in the world.

The most notable guest in attendance is King George II of England. He is so moved by the exhilarating music that he springs to his feet, an action that seemed to prompt the whole audience to do the same. From that day, wherever in the world you hear the "Hallelujah Chorus," which is part of the Messiah, the audience stands.

Each year during the Christmas season millions of people are inspired and thrilled by that great oratorio, the composer of which, like no other, has captivated the music world during the holidays. Who was he?

George Frederick Handel was born in Germany on February 23, 1685. He developed his innate music talent very early in life, playing the clavier--a stringed keyboard instrument--by age seven and mastering most of the orchestral instruments before the age of nineteen. Handel's mother, daughter of a Lutheran preacher, made sure of his early spiritual training. Although his father, a surgeon, insisted that he study law, he was able to continue his music career after his father's death, which occurred while he was still in college.

After several years of a modest career in Italy, writing and producing operas and oratorios, Handel went to England where he quickly found fame, favor, and fortune, especially among royalty and noblemen. He continued his musical experiences, becoming one of the most famous composers in the world.

In 1741, at age fifty-six, Handel began to reflect on his career. He longed to write something that would be lasting and would make people better. Following a season of prayer he began his work. After twenty-three days of near constant writing, he rose from his labor a victor. He had finished his immortal Messiah, an oratorio that has become the most widely performed musical in the world. To this day thousands of performances are heard each year during the holiday season.

In the hours just before his death he remarked, "I want to die... in the hope of rejoining the good God, my sweet Lord and Savior on the day of His resurrection."

Nearly one hundred years after the first performance of the Messiah, Lowell Mason, a Boston choir director, composer, and publisher, took a melody line from the Messiah and arranged it to fit a poem written by Isaac Watts, one of England's greatest theologians and hymn writers. Handel had known and respected Watts whose poem, based on Psalm 98, was written twenty-seven years before the Messiah. The result was one of our most popular Christmas carols, "Joy to the World."

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

Let earth receive her King.

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing.

Handel wrote in his Messiah, "And He shall reign forever and ever, HALLELUJAH! King of kings and Lord of lords, FOREVER!"

Messiah, occurs only four times in the Bible—2 OT, 2 NT

Daniel 9; John 1:40-41, 4:19-26

But the name Christ, the Greek translation, occurs many times.

Through the OT, Israel eagerly awaited the coming of the Messiah, believing that he would immediately establish God's rule on earth forever, thus in Matt 3:2 the kingdom of heaven is at hand; Luke 3:15; John 1:19-20,29-36,40-41; Matt. 16:13-16

Christ is not Jesus' second name; it is a title, or description.

- He is the anointed one, chosen one, there is no other, he is king, fulfillment of God's promised Redeemer
- There is no need to search for other so-called Messiahs, John 6:68
- He alone provides lasting nourishment for our deepest hungers
- He alone is king, worthy of submission, respect (worship) and praise as the one from God