

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

THE BACKSTORY





By Nate Hoover.
Published in 2026 by
Apocalypse Press. All
rights reserved.

Apocalypse Press is an
imprint of Jesus People SF,
a nonprofit ministry.

For more like this visit:

<https://apocalypse.press/>
&
<https://jesuspeoplesf.com/>

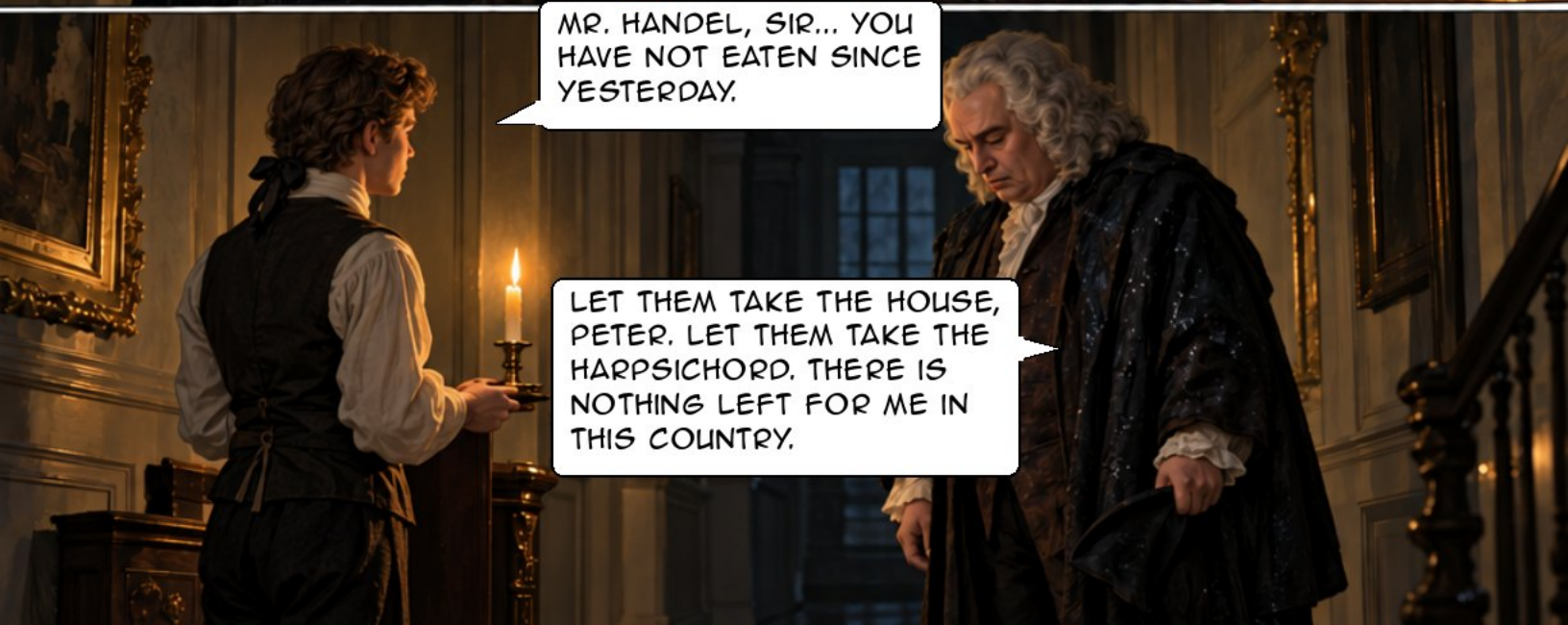


"LONDON, JULY 1741. THE GILDED AGE OF ITALIAN OPERA HAS COLLAPSED. THE THEATERS SIT EMPTY, BANKRUPT AND ABANDONED."

"...AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL MADE LOW..."



"...AND THE CROOKED SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH PLACES PLAIN..."



MR. HANDEL, SIR... YOU HAVE NOT EATEN SINCE YESTERDAY.

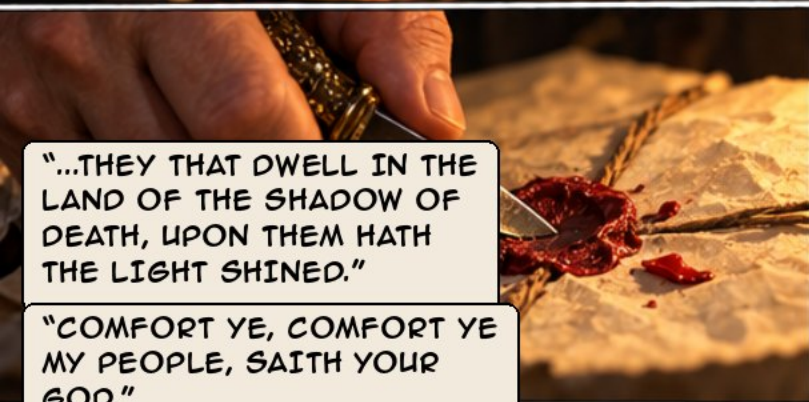
LET THEM TAKE THE HOUSE, PETER. LET THEM TAKE THE HARPSICHORD. THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME IN THIS COUNTRY.



A COURIER ARRIVED WHILE YOU WERE OUT, SIR. FROM MR. CHARLES JENNENS.



"THE PEOPLE THAT WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT..."



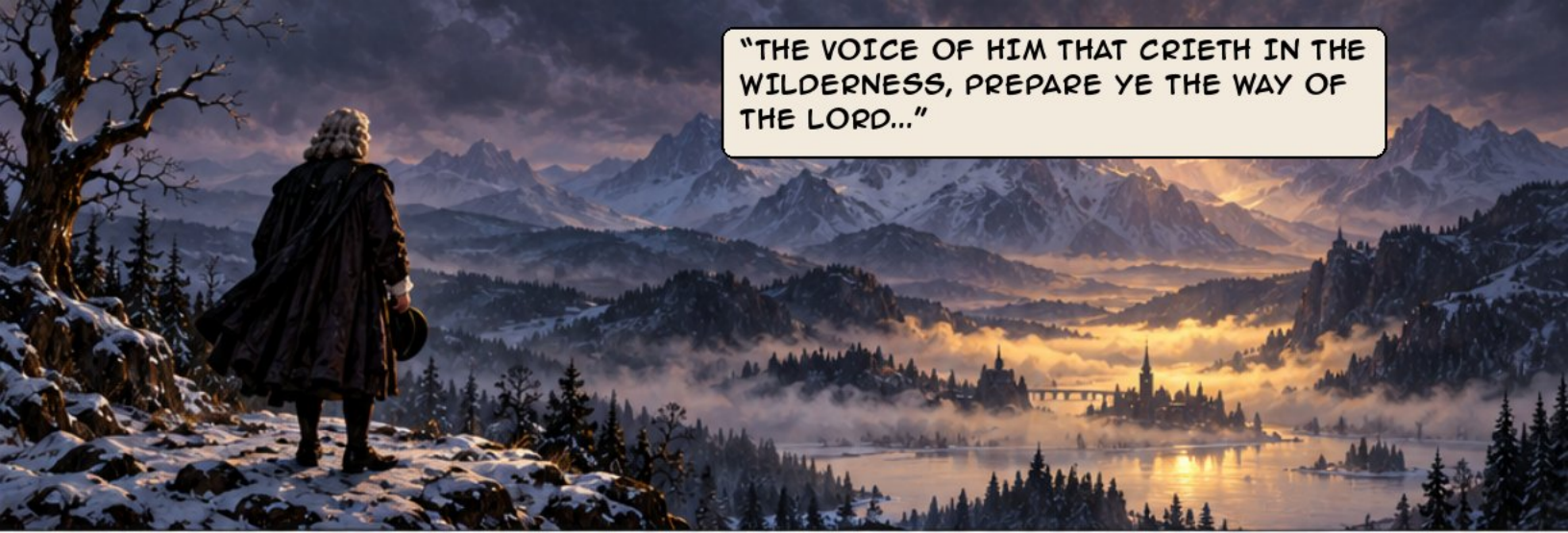
"...THEY THAT DWELL IN THE LAND OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM HATH THE LIGHT SHINED."

"COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, SAITH YOUR GOD."

MESSIAH: A SACRED ORATORIO



COMFORT YE...



"THE VOICE OF HIM THAT CRIETH IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD..."

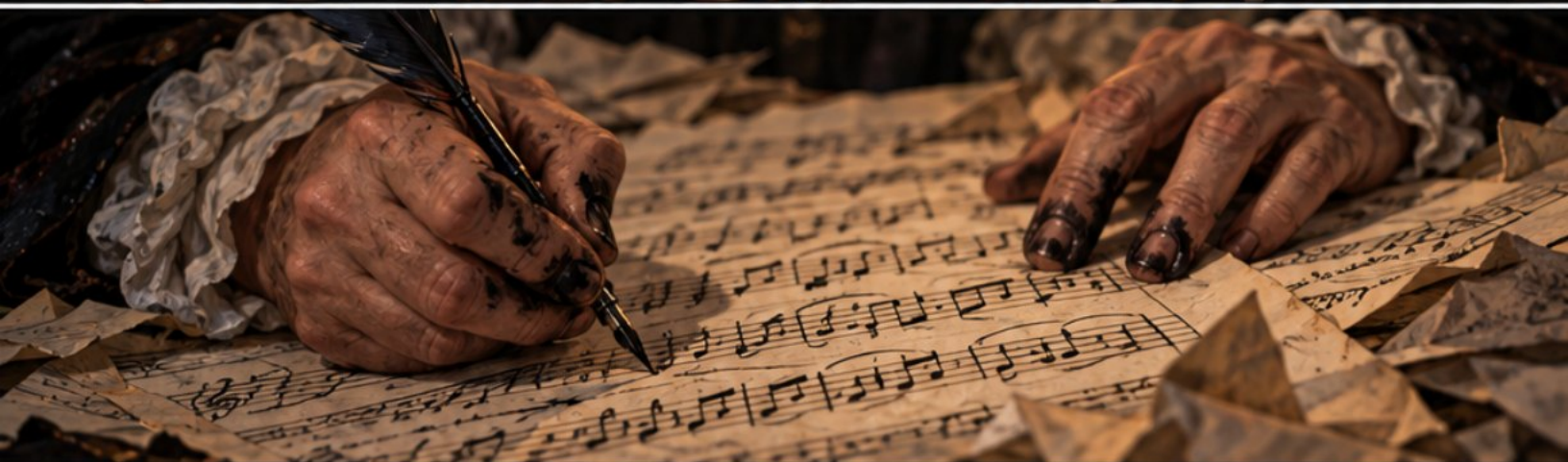


"EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL MADE LOW..."



NOT AN OPERA OF HUMAN VANITY... A PROCLAMATION.





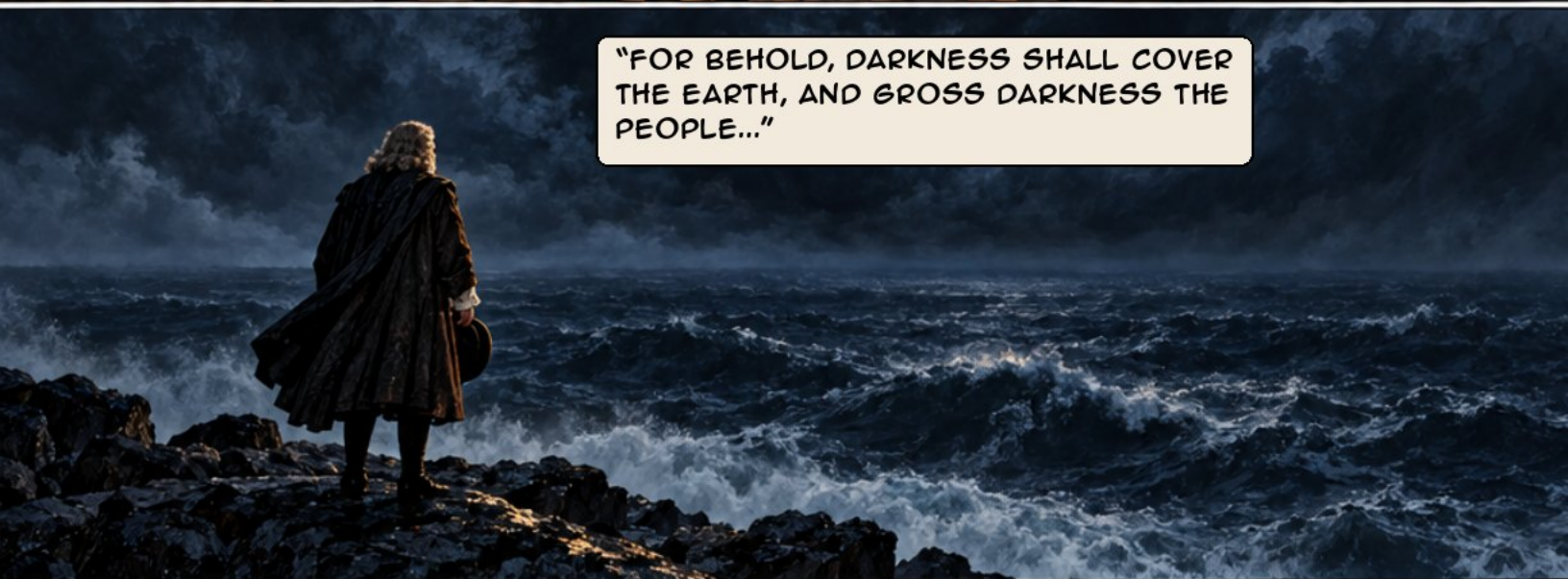
"AND I WILL SHAKE ALL NATIONS... AND
THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS SHALL
COME."



LEAVE IT! CAN YOU NOT HEAR THEM?
THE BRASS--THEY MUST ENTER HERE
LIKE THUNDER!



"FOR BEHOLD, DARKNESS SHALL COVER
THE EARTH, AND GROSS DARKNESS THE
PEOPLE..."



"...BUT THE LORD SHALL ARISE UPON
THEE, AND HIS GLORY SHALL BE
SEEN UPON THEE."





"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND
PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD
MEN."





"ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE
ASTRAY..."



"...AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM
THE INIQUITY OF US ALL."



HALLELUJAH

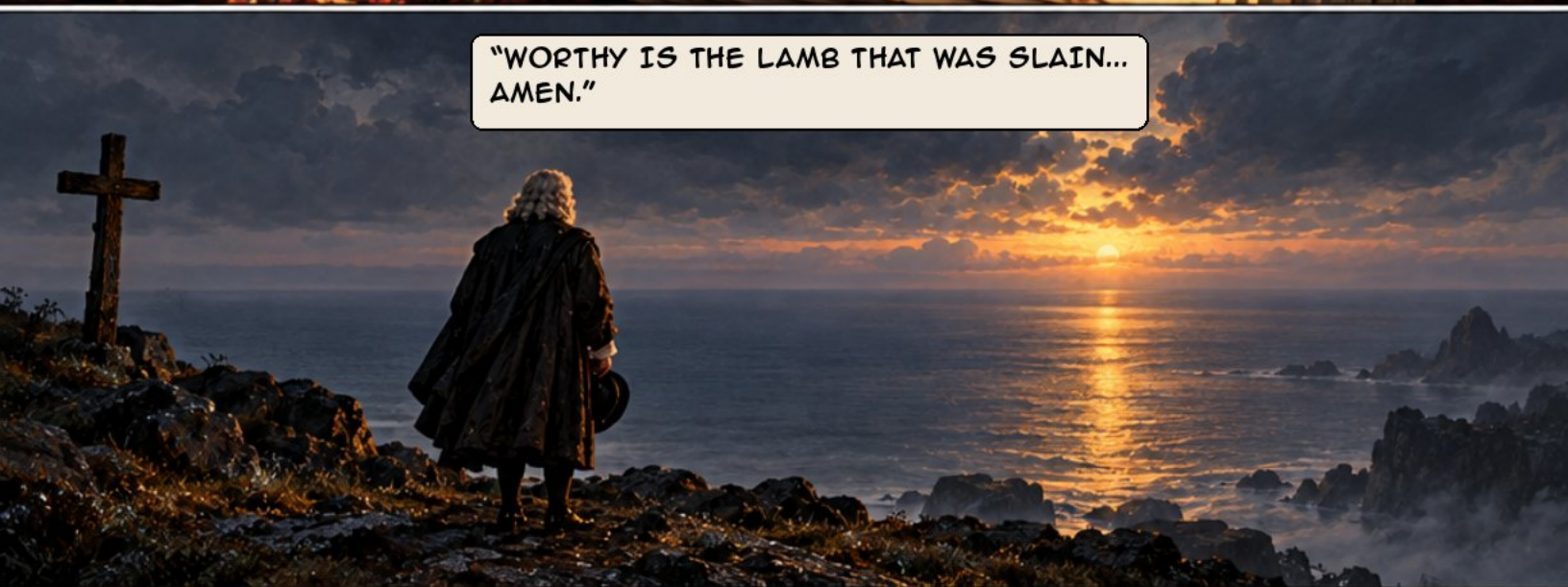




MASTER HANDEL! SIR! ARE YOU
TAKEN ILL?



I DID THINK... I DID SEE ALL
HEAVEN BEFORE ME... AND THE
GREAT GOD HIMSELF!



"WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN...
AMEN."



"260 PAGES OF SCORE
COMPLETED IN TWENTY-FOUR
DAYS."



"HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN; A MAN OF SORROWS, AND ACQUAINTED WITH GRIEF."



THE RHYTHMS MUST STRIKE LIKE IRON!
COLD AND UNYIELDING!







"COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE..."







HE WAS DESPISED

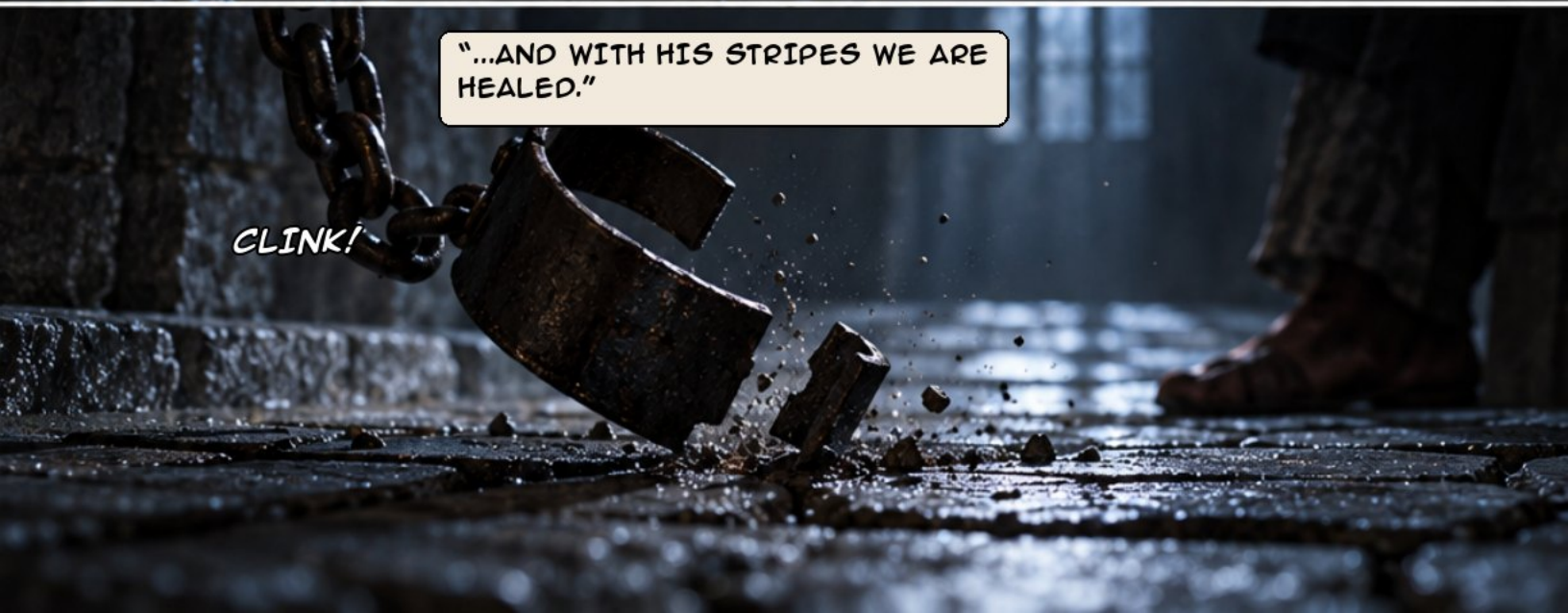


WOMAN, FOR THIS BE ALL THY SINS
FORGIVEN THEE!



"SURELY HE HATH BORNE OUR GRIEFS."

CLACK-CLINK



"...AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE
HEALED."

CLINK!



ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE
ASTRAY!



CLINK! CHIME!



RISE UP. YOUR DEBTS ARE
CLEARED. YOU ARE FREE MEN.



"HALLELUJAH! FOR THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT
REIGNETH!"



"AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER!"



AND HE SHALL REIGN

FOREVER AND EVER.



S. D. G.