



the story behind the songs

Part 3: Hallelujah!

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: **"Hallelujah!** Salvation and glory and power belong to our God..." Rev. 19:1

And again they shouted: **"Hallelujah!"** Rev. 19:3

The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, **Hallelujah!**" Rev. 19:4

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: **"Hallelujah!** For our Lord God Almighty reigns." Rev 19:6

What does "Hallelujah" mean?

"Hallel": _____ "jah": _____
Literally, " _____ "

What are they "bragging on God" for?

The _____ advent

...and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Rev. 11:15

On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev. 19:16

When the Messiah appears again, he will bring:

- An end to _____ (Isaiah 11:3,4)
- An end to _____ (Isaiah 11:8,9)
- An end to _____ (Isaiah 19:23)
- An end to _____ (Jer. 31:34; Rev. 21:22)

So what am I supposed to do with this?

1. Brag on God _____
"Hallelujah": Grammatically, an _____, or _____ !

2. Wait _____
Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was **waiting** for the consolation of Israel ...Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms and praised God... Luke 2:25-28

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6

Monday

Read Revelation 19:1-16. This is the Scripture Handel was looking at when composing the Hallelujah chorus. How does the imagery of Jesus' Second Coming here affect you?

- ___ I'm encouraged, because one day Jesus will rule over the kingdoms of the earth
- ___ I'm frightened, because I wonder what it will mean for me
- ___ I'm confused, because most of the time I think of Jesus as gentle, not as a warrior
- ___ I'm frustrated, because I wonder what's taking Him so long
- ___ Other: _____

Of course, all of the choices mentioned above are reactions Christians have written and sung about for centuries. How do you think we should feel about Jesus' Second Coming: frightened, encouraged, or both?

For centuries, the first half of December was set aside for Christians to meditate on the Second Coming of Christ, before the final two weeks when the focus turned to Christ's First Coming at Bethlehem. Why do you think it's a good practice for Christians to view the First Advent in light of the Second?

Talk to God about your feelings regarding the Second Coming of Christ. Thank Him that He is coming again!

Tuesday

Read Psalm 113. As you'll recall, "hallelujah" consists of two words. What are they and what do they mean?

What has God done in your life that you can "brag" about? Write down at least ten things on another sheet of paper-- it'll be your own "Hallelujah Chorus"!

Tell God today what you are saying "Hallelujah" for!

Wednesday

Read Psalm 112, another psalm that starts with the Hebrew command "Hallelujah", sometimes translated "Praise the Lord". What are the benefits the Psalmist says will come to the one who follows God's commands?

Which of the benefits mentioned in verses 2-9 do you desire the most?

Pray that the Lord will enable you to follow His commands and be blessed in this way!

Thursday

We're studying other "Hallelujah Choruses" in the Bible this week. How does "bragging on God", the meaning of the word "hallelujah", relieve stress? Read Psalm 84. This was written for stressed-out pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem for one of the religious feasts. They felt some of the same stresses we might feel around our own holidays like Christmas as we travel to relatives' homes or church services. Yet instead of focusing on the rigors of the journey, what is the focus of this song?

What can we learn from our own journeys and stresses from this emphasis?

You've got to admit, the writers of this Psalm sound like they're totally obsessed, head-over-heels in love with God. Why is an obsession with God the only really healthy obsession?

Think of a concern you have about your Christmas season. Bring it to God in prayer. Now praise Him for His goodness! One great thing about Christmas is that it's such a natural time to share your faith with neighbors and relatives. Please pray about who you can invite to the TLC Christmas Musical this weekend!

Friday

One of the great "bragging on God" psalms is Psalm 66. What are the things God is praised for here?

What are the warnings or challenges in these verses?

In verses 10-12, it's apparent the nation had gone through some tough times and was now rejoicing. Does going through tough times make it easier or harder to "brag on God"? Why?

The angels at Christmas sang "Glory to God"... give Him glory in prayer today by praising Him for aspects of His greatness! Please pray for the TLC Christmas Musical, which begins tonight! Pray that it will be effective and skillfully presented, and that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of all who participate and attend.

Saturday

Please pray for the special weekend services: This is the weekend of the TLC Christmas Production, "Celebrating the Messiah". Please pray for people to be brought to Jesus through this event, and that many will turn out. Pray about who you can invite!