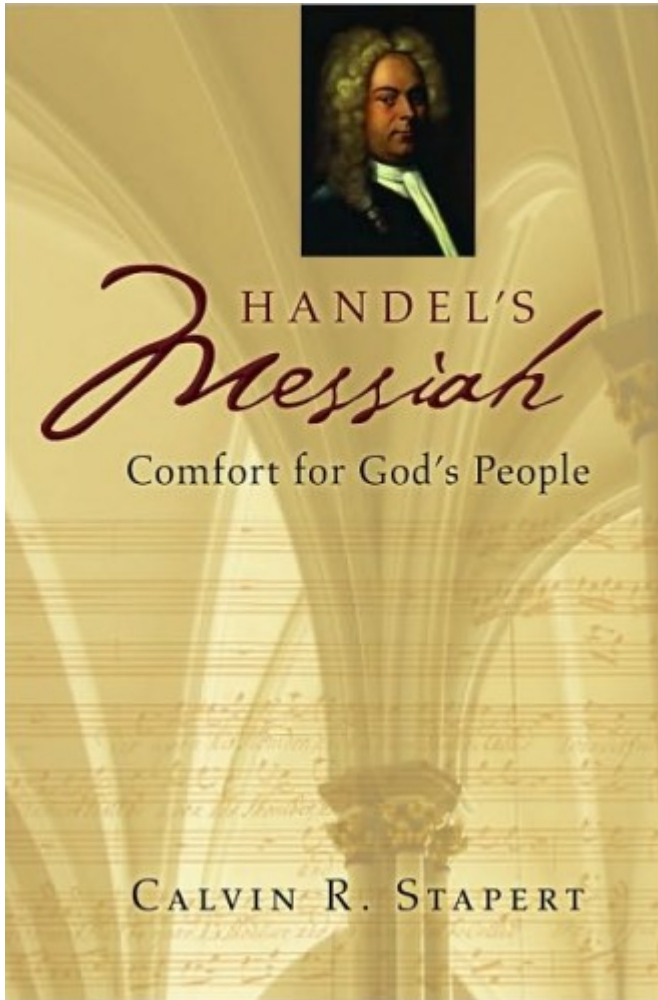


A review of Handel's Messiah

Books in the [December 28, 2010](#) issue

In Review



Handel's Messiah

By Calvin R. Stapert
Eerdmans

John Newton called hearing the *Messiah* "one of the highest and noblest gratifications of which we are capable." Combining history, biography, music theory and theology, retired music professor Stapert gives a comprehensive account of the

origins and legacy of Handel's masterpiece. He outlines the story of how a German opera composer came to write an oratorio in Protestant England and how it was received during and after his life. Aiming to educate the *Messiah*'s admirers and inspire its novitiates, most of the book is given to a scene-by-scene examination of the oratorio, showing how skillfully the composition mirrors the scriptural text.