



Hi!

I'M ANNE

Hope you enjoy this quick guide to help you find scripture references and theological themes as you watch the musical Hamilton

The Alexander Hamilton of this musical could easily be a Biblical character--an unlikely and seriously flawed hero (think Jacob, Joseph or David) who changes the course of history.

He also has our favorite kind of origin story--the one where the poor, orphaned outsider uses his intellect and scrappy work ethic to climb to the top. An underdog. One who succeeds against all odds.

We love stories like this. And this one is true!

Because many of our founding fathers were Christian, it's not surprising that scripture finds its way into the script. There are also quite a few theological themes that thread throughout. Love, sacrifice, forgiveness are all here, and the case could be (and has been made) for Hamilton as a Christ figure.

I've arranged the info in this short guide by the music. The heading at the top of each section is name of a song with an explanation of scriptures or themes found in that number.

Again, this is just a brief intro to help you think along "God-lines" as you enjoy the show.

If you want to delve a bit deeper into the theology of Hamilton, here are some of the resources I used.

Christianity Today--Every Biblical Resource in Hamilton by Alissa Wilkinson

Martyrdom and The Theology of Hamilton. by Joseph Sevcik

Premier Christianity--God and Hamilton by Kevin Cloud

My Shot

Foes oppose us, we take an honest stand / We roll like Moses, claimin' our promised land

Okay, so technically, Moses never made it to the promised land, but still. Clear reference to the Exodus journey to freedom. You'll hear more of those throughout the show.

A Winter's Ball

Watch this obnoxious, arrogant, loudmouth bother / Be seated on the right hand of the father

This is Aaron Burr (our narrator and villain of the story) talking about Hamilton after he's been declared Washington's "right hand man." Very much a Jesus reference--apart from the obnoxious, arrogant part. Although, I bet you could have found folks back in the day who described Jesus as such.

Wait for It

Fun Fact: Aaron Burr was the grandson of Jonathan Edwards, a preacher most famous for his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God." His daughter, Esther, married Aaron Burr, Sr., who founded Princeton University. That may shed a little light on this next passage.

*My grandfather was a fire and brimstone preacher
but there are things that the homilies and hymns won't teach ya*

*Love doesn't discriminate
Between the sinners and the saints
it takes and it takes and it takes*

*Death doesn't discriminate
Between the sinners and the saints
it takes and it takes and it takes*

Wait for It (cont)

*Life doesn't discriminate
Between the sinners and the saints
it takes and it takes and it takes*

*Hamilton doesn't hesitate
He exhibits no restraint
He takes and he takes and he takes*

*This is Burr singing he contemplates his own failures and Hamilton's successes.
He is hanging on to the idea that his time will come.*

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous

--Matthew 5:45

Ten Duel Commandments

*Foes oppose us, we take an honest stand / We roll like Moses, claimin' our
promised land*

The Biblical tie in is kind of self-explanatory, but this is not the infamous Hamilton/Burr duel. The show uses another duel to explain to us how a duel works so we are ready for subsequent encounters.

King George's Trilogy

Oceans rise, empires fall.

King George doesn't have much stage time, but he gets three show-stopping, comedic numbers that make the Georg come off as a stalker ex-boyfriend. They all make use of the line above taken from the Psalms.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.--Psalm 46:2-3

King George (and his lyricist) are no the only ones who call upon this theme. Anyone whose ever sung praise music has sung about mountains bowing down and seas rolling.

The Room Where it Happened

*Burr: Now, Madison and Jefferson are merciless
Hamilton: Well, hate the sin, love the sinner.*

Of course, not Biblical, but a term used by misguided Christians everywhere-- although probably not in Hamilton's time.

Schuyler's Defeat

*Your pride will be the death of us all.
Beware, it goeth before a fall.*

Burr uses his knowledge of Proverbs to take a shot at Hamilton.

**Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall
--Proverbs 16:18**

One Last Time

George Washington was a religious man, so it's not too surprising that his character just comes right out and tells you he's quoting scripture. This song comes as Washington is telling Hamilton he is ready to step down.

*Like the scripture says:
Everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree
And no one shall make them afraid
They'll be safe in the nation we've made
I want to sit under my own vine and fig tree
A moment alone in the shade
At home in this nation we've made
One last time.*

This nugget came straight out of the book of Micah, Chapter 4

They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

Who Lives, Who Dies Who Tells Your Story

The Lord, in his kindness

He gives me what you always wanted

He gives me more time

Eliza becomes the narrator at the end of the show and evokes a common phrase of the day and one used in various forms throughout scripture, "The Lord, in his kindness."

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!"--Ruth 2:20

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