

## Shock and awe: This church lady can *sing* Frumpy 47-year-old stuns 'Idol' judge, catapults to sudden global celebrity

Posted: April 14, 2009  
2:01 pm Eastern

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea about how this news relates to Jesus follows this article.*



Simon Cowell, the British-accented and sometimes condescending talent judge of television's mega-hit program "American Idol," was stunned by the singing of a 47-year-old church volunteer who claims she's never been kissed but whose amazing performance has catapulted her to sudden celebrity.

Cowell also serves as a talent judge across the Atlantic on "Britain's Got Talent," a singing competition similar to "American Idol."

When contestant Susan Boyle, who lives alone with her cat and claims she's never even been on a date, walked onto the "Britain's Got Talent" stage Saturday night, her double chin, frumpy appearance and gray hair elicited snickers and rolled eyes from the crowd, accustomed to the show's producers parading less-than-glamorous singers – like Boyle – as comic relief.

But when Boyle opened her mouth to sing, Cowell, the mocking audience and the nation's television viewers were shocked.

Singing "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical "Les Miserables," a song about a hard-luck woman whose years of misfortune have stolen both her youth and her dreams, Boyle brought the audience to tears and prompted a standing ovation.

The judges were no less gushing in their praise. "Without a doubt, that was the biggest surprise I have had in three years of this show," said talent judge Piers Morgan. Addressing Boyle, he added, "When you stood there with that cheeky grin ... everyone was laughing at you. No one is laughing now; that was stunning. ... I am reeling from shock."

The lovely talent judge Amanda Holden saw in Boyle's performance an admonition against a culture that too often judges people by their appearance. "I am so thrilled, because I know that everybody was against you," Holden told Boyle. "I honestly think that we were all being very cynical, and I think that's the biggest wake-up call ever."

"I've always wanted to perform before a large audience," said Boyle before she had her opportunity on stage. "I'm going to make that audience rock." Boyle got her wish and delivered on her promise.

And her "large audience" is expanding. Her performance, [uploaded to the video site YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lp0IWv8QZY), (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lp0IWv8QZY>) has logged over 3 million hits over the last three days, and the London Telegraph reports Boyle is now the favorite to win the competition.

Before Boyle sang, Cowell asked her – likely in parallel to her planned song, "I Dreamed a Dream" – what her dream was. She answered, "I'm trying to be a professional singer." "And why hasn't it worked out so far?" Cowell asked. "I've never been given the chance before," she said. "But here's hoping it'll change."

And if history holds, it likely will. "American Idol" has produced some of the world's top-selling recording artists over the past several years. The 2007 winner of "Britain's Got Talent," a mobile phone salesman named Paul Potts, experienced similar success, notching a No. 1 album in 15 countries around the world.

"Susan Boyle," concluded Cowell after her performance, announcing the decision of the three-judge panel, "you can go back to the village with your head held high. It's three yeses."

*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:*

*I wrote the following bulletin devotional as a result of reading the above story by Worldnetdaily and seeing the YouTube video of Susan Boyle's performance.*

### **He Was Despised and Rejected by Man**

**By Pastor Kevin Lea – April 19, 2009**

*Isa 53:2-3 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has **no form or comeliness**; and when we see Him, there is no beauty **that we should desire Him**. He is **despised and rejected by men**, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; he **was despised, and we did not esteem Him**. (NKJ)*

*Luke 23:11, 35, 37 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him **with contempt and mocked Him**, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. --- The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." (NKJ)*

In the above verses, we see one of the many predictions/fulfillments of Jesus' first coming. Isaiah predicted that the suffering Messiah would be despised and rejected by men. In the first coming, Jesus didn't **look** the part of a deliverer and King, which is why Herod, Pilate and the Jews mocked Jesus' claim that He was King of the Jews.

This week, Susan Boyle of Scotland has become a global news sensation. Her story ran on NBC nightly news on Tuesday and Wednesday. Who is she and how did she explode onto the world scene? Worldnetdaily.com's headline hints to the answer: ***Shock and Awe: This Church Lady Can Sing - Frumpy 47-year-old stuns 'Idol' judge, catapults to sudden global celebrity.***

Susan came to the English version of the American Idol program hoping to show the audience that she could sing. But her "Frumpy" **appearance** caused the judges to think she was anything but "singing idol" material. Jeers could be heard from the crowd as she told the judges she aspired to be a professional singer of Elaine Paige caliber. With eyes rolling, the judges gave her the nod to proceed. A few notes later, the judge's/crowd's jeers were silenced as they realized that she was who she claimed to be – a singer with extraordinary talent.

As I watched the video clip, I couldn't help but think of how it compares to the verses above. For the last two thousand years Jesus has been standing on the stage of the world saying: *John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (NKJ)*

Today, most people mock the claims of Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, able to take us to the Father's mansions. They falsely assume that Jesus was a loser, and they fail to acknowledge that the resurrection proved He was not. Yes, by God's divine plan Jesus came the first time humbly, riding on a donkey, destined for the cross, in order to save those who believe. But next time He is coming on a white horse with a sword.

When He does, then the "audience" will be stunned when they look past appearance and see the real Jesus **IS** King. Those who looked past appearance and believed will be saved by Him. Those who misjudged Him will forever be ashamed and separated from the Father. Do you believe, or will you be ashamed?