

Messenger of the Covenant

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"Behold, I will send My messenger (Elijah - John the Baptist), and he shall prepare the way before Me; and the Lord (the Messiah), whom you seek, shall suddenly come to His Temple, even the **Messenger of the Covenant (Jesus)**, in whom you delight. Behold, He shall come, says the LORD of hosts. But who may endure the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appears? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like laundryman's soap. And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those who oppress the hireling in his wages, and the widow, and the fatherless, and who turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not Me, says the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Malachi 3:1-6)

Messenger: from the Hebrew word *malak* which comes from an unused root meaning to despatch as a deputy; specifically someone sent by God, whether an angel, or human person, to perform a task, or to deliver a message, thus: an angel, or prophet, or king.

Covenant: from the Hebrew word *berith* which means: a covenant, of various types: an agreement, an alliance, a league, a constitution, an ordinance, a pledge, a treaty.

John the Baptist not only had a message from God to deliver, he also had a task to perform for God. The message was, "*Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*" (Matthew 3:2) The task was, "*Prepare the way of the Lord, and make His paths straight.*" (Matthew 3:3; from Isaiah 40:3) (readings: Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:6-9, John 1:19-34)

Likewise, Jesus the Christ not only had a message from God to deliver, but most importantly, He had a task to perform for God. The message was, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Goodnews." (Mark 1:15) The task was to mediate, establish, and fulfill the New Covenant within the sphere and context of the Kingdom of God; where He Himself is King, and Lord, and Master! And those people who repent, and are saved through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, these saints will share in all the eternal blessings granted within the New Covenant agreement between us and God - in and through Christ Jesus! Please consider these verses:

"But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is now the Mediator of a Better Covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then there would have been no need to seek for a second. For finding fault with them, He (God) says,

*"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a **New Covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they continued not in My Covenant**, and I regarded them not, says the Lord. For this is **the Covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord;' for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. (quoted from Jeremiah 31:31-34). When He says, '**A New Covenant**,' He has made the first obsolete,...." (Hebrews 8:6-13)*

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Then speaking of the promised coming of the **Messenger of the Covenant**, Christ Jesus, God says:

“Behold **My Servant**, whom I uphold; **My Elect**, in whom My soul delights; **I have put My Spirit upon Him**. He shall bring forth justice to the nations. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall He not break, and the smoking flax He shall not extinguish; for He shall bring forth justice faithfully. He shall not fail or be discouraged, until He has established justice in the earth. ... Thus says God the LORD, He who created the heavens, and stretched them out; He who spread forth the earth, and that which comes forth out of it; He who gives breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to those who walk upon it; “I the LORD have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand, and will watch over You, and I will give You (Jesus) as a **Covenant of the People**, for a Light unto the Nations; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and those who sit in darkness out of the prison house.”” (Isaiah 42:1-7)

And again: “Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters, and he who has no money; come, buy, and eat; yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ... Listen diligently unto Me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come unto Me. Listen, and your soul shall live; and I will make an **Everlasting Covenant** with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have made Him (Jesus) a Witness to the People, a Leader and Commander to the people. Behold, You shalt call a nation that You do not know, and nations that do not know You shall run unto You because of the LORD Your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified You. Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and return to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.(Isaiah 55:1-7)

Jesus Himself spoke of His New Covenant task:

“And He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Goodnews to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Isaiah 61:1-2)” And He closed the book, and He gave it back to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all those who were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, “**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”” (Luke 4:16-21)

"And when the hour had come, He (Jesus) sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. And He said unto them, 'With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say unto you, I will not any more eat it, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.' And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God has come.' And He took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave unto them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.' " (Luke 22:14-20)

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Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Christ, who has been 'Anointed' by God to be the **Messenger** of the Goodnews: the coming of the New Covenant of God's Kingdom!

The last words of Jesus on the Cross were, "IT IS FINISHED." And it says "He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit!" (see John 19:20)

At that point in human history, the foremost task of the **Messenger of the Covenant** was accomplished: the establishment the New Covenant of God's Kingdom in and through the shed Blood of Jesus when He gave up His life by His death on the Cross!

By establishing this New Covenant, Jesus has made the first Covenant obsolete. One could say that the "Old Covenant" was merely a 'provisional covenant' and a 'type' of the **New Covenant** now fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Jesus "is now the Mediator of a Better Covenant, which has been established upon better promises! Consider these Promises:

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who wills that all men be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and **One Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself as a ransom for all, " (1 Tim 2:3-6)

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the East and West, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 8:11)

"Then shall the King say unto those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed by My Father, **inherit** the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!'" (Matthew 25:34)

"... He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: (Ephesians 1:4)

"Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **Great Shepherd of the sheep**, through the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

JESUS is ...

the Messenger of the Covenant

Sent by God to proclaim the New Covenant which has been established in and through the shed Blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins!

And so that all people, who put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, may inherit the Kingdom of God prepared for us from before the foundation of the world!

**All praise and glory and Honor, and Blessings, be yours Lord Jesus!!
Thank You for being the Way into God's everlasting Kingdom!
Thank You for being the Mediator of Peace between myself and the Father!**

Help me to be perfect in every good work in doing Your will,

Always and always!!