



# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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## Messenger Notes



*Messenger Project adds a new sound.*

**Messenger Project** added a new sound to its arsenal with the arrival of a Bell-Lyra set in July. It will be used on our CDs and is a fun instrument to play.

**Messenger Project** regrets to announce that **Fletcher Perkins** is no longer an officer of the Board of Directors. His position on the board is being replaced by **Joie De Leon**, beginning August, 2004. Fletcher has been a vital board member and vibrant band member since our inception. We are sorry to see him go. We wish him God's blessings and pray that he is able to rejoin the board in the future. Joie has already been actively involved with Messenger Project and was an easy replacement choice. We look forward to her input on the board of directors. Her energy, talent and creativity will be a great addition to the nonprofit corporation and the band. **Skip Hahn** has resigned from his vice-president position on the Messenger Project Board of Directors, but continues as a member of the board.

Lionel and Joie's Youth Prison Ministry performance at **Dorothy Kirby Center** in the City of Commerce was cancelled due to a lock-down at the facility. Their performance will be rescheduled at a later date. They have a performance scheduled in Sylmar on August 28.

We're halfway finished mixing our new CD, with seven songs completed so far.

## The Amazing Torah

The five books of Moses that Christians call the Pentateuch are referred to as the Torah ("teaching") in Judaism. According to Jewish belief, the song that God told Moses to write and teach to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 31:19 was the entire Torah. The Torah was given to Moses fifty days after the Jews left Egypt. Legend claims that God revealed the Torah to Moses in a string of flaming letters.

Jewish mysticism suggests that the Torah can be understood on 84 different levels. Since every Hebrew letter has a numerical value, every Hebrew word has a sum numerical value that can be broken down to a single number by addition. For example, if a word adds up to equal 345, you can add  $3+4+5=12$ , then add  $1+2=3$ . In this manner, every word can be assigned a number between 1 and 9. Mystics then associate every word that has the same numerical value and try to interpret meaning from it all. Every Hebrew letter also has an associated object. Aleph (א) represents the ox, for example. In this way, each word also represents a cluster of objects and I suppose that mystics try to draw meaning from this, too.

Another interesting discovery in the Torah is equidistant lettering. This is when you start with a letter and then skip a number of letters to find the second letter, then skip the same number of letters to find the third letter, and so on.

The Hebrew spelling for "Torah" (תורה) appears in the book of Genesis, beginning with the first tav (ת) and is separated by 50-letter intervals (Hebrew reads right-to-left). "Torah" appears in the book of Exodus as well, beginning with the first tav (ת), and is also separated by 50-letter intervals.

In the book of Leviticus, the holy and unpronounceable name of God, יהוה (Jehova/Yahweh), can be found beginning with the first yod (י) and skipping 7 letters.

In the book of Numbers, "Torah" is spelled backwards at 50-letter intervals, beginning with the third "heh" (ה). In Deuteronomy, "Torah" is spelled backwards at 49-letter intervals, also beginning with the third "heh."

It is interesting that Torah is spelled out at 50-letter intervals in three of the books because the Torah was given 50 days after the exodus from Egypt. It is interesting that there are 7 letters between the holy name of God because of the six days of creation and the day of rest. The 49-letter interval in Deuteronomy is equal to 7 times 7.

### TORAH-TORAH-JEHOVA-HAROT-HAROT

When you examine the five books and their hidden equidistant-lettering words, you discover that "Torah" always reads toward Leviticus (where the name of God appears). It could be symbolic of the fact that the Torah points us to God. The odds against these equidistant-lettering words happening by accident are over 3-million to one. This gives us food for thought. Did God hide these words in the Bible knowing that the computer age would reveal them? Or is it just an amazing coincidence?

It's fun to ponder the multiple levels of the Bible, but its primary message is all that we really need to know. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. We were born slaves to sin, but the Holy Spirit helps to replace our sinful desires with a fruitful and rewarding life. Goodness is its own reward. There is nothing more edifying to the soul than being an obedient child of God. We are promised rewards in heaven. I assure you there is no sin that is worth separation from God. Be good always!