



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

Sunday Evening on Wednesday Night



Sunday Evening kicked off the first "Prepare the Way" Christian Music Showcase with an inspirational acoustic set that mixed originals with popular favorites. **Jonathan Perkins** helped out as Master of Ceremonies.

Next month's concert will showcase **D'Angeles** and **Shelly Morin**. **Messenger** will close the show with songs from the Bible.

We hope to see you on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at the Good Shepherd Chapel, Concordia Univ., 1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA 92612. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert is from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Admission is free and the show is open to the general public.

Jesus in the Old Testament

It has been said that the Old Testament is "the New Testament concealed" and the New Testament is "the Old Testament revealed."

When Jesus was walking on the road to Emmaus, he showed Cleopas and his wife (Mary) every reference of himself, "beginning with Moses and all the prophets" (Lk 24:27) Jesus also said, "Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." (Jn 8:56) These two passages led me on a quest to find Jesus in the Old Testament.

Here are a few discoveries I found:

In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man in our image." Could it be that we were created in the image of Jesus? He existed before time began (Jn 1:1).

In Genesis 22:2-6, Isaac carries wood on his back on his way to be sacrificed and is called Abraham's "only son." Jesus carried a wooden cross on his back to his crucifixion and is God's only Son.

When Jacob wrestles a man at the ford of Jabbok (Gen 32:24), he says, "I saw God face to face." Did Jacob wrestle with Jesus?

At the birth of Moses, Paroah ordered the death of all newborn boys (Ex 1:22). King Herod ordered the slaughter of all boys under 2 years old in the area of Bethlehem in Jesus' time (Mt 2:16). Moses came to save his people from the bondage of slavery. Jesus came to save his people from the bondage of sin. Was Moses a prototype of Jesus?

Moses brought Israel to the Promised Land, but Joshua led them into it. "Joshua" is the hebrew pronunciation of "Jesus," which is a greek name. Both names mean Jehova saves."

"Jehova" means "self-existent and eternal" and comes from the hebrew word "hayah" which means "I AM!" (an emphatic statement of being). God said to Moses to tell the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you" (Ex 3:14). Jesus tells the Jews, "Before Abraham was born, I AM!" (Jn 8:58). The Jews understood this to mean that Jesus claimed to be God.

The Passover lamb was to be without defect and slaughtered on the 14th day of the Jewish new year (Ex 12). Jesus, the "Lamb of God," was sinless and was crucified on the Passover.

The blood from the lamb sacrifice was placed on the doorframe at the

top and sides, creating an invisible sign of the cross when applied. The angel of death would "passover" any home where he saw the blood, but kill every firstborn male in the houses that were not protected by the blood of the lamb.. Similarly, our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus, the "Lamb of God," who was God's firstborn (and only) son.

The consecration of firstborn sons that God instructed Moses (Ex 13) established the consecration of Jesus at the Temple (Lk 2:22).

When Moses was instructed to strike the rock in the wilderness to produce water for the Israelites (Ex 17:6), was it symbolic of Jesus (the Rock) being struck (crucified) for the gift of "Living Water" (salvation)? If so, perhaps God's command for Moses to "speak to that rock" (Nu 20:8) represents Jesus' second coming "with the voice of the archangel" (1 Th 4:16).

Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 describe the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus with uncanny detail. Zechariah 9:9 foretells Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Zechariah 11:12-13 mirrors Jesus' betrayal price and the money thrown "into the house of the Lord to the potter."

I noticed that many of the "I AM" statements by Jesus (truth, light, way, good shepherd, etc.) were also attributes of God in the Old Testament.

There are many more verses in the Old Testament that seem to have a connection with Jesus. Searching them out has been fun and enlightening. Hopefully, this newsletter will help inspire you to join in your own search for Jesus in the Old Testament!