



# Messenger Project Newsletter

## The Messenger

messengerproject.com  
714.537.8362

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2007

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

### Messenger Project Members

Lionel De Leon, President-Founder,  
Editor-Publisher of *The Messenger*  
Raymond Genovese, Treasurer  
Joie De Leon, Secretary

### Messenger Notes

**Messenger Project** plans to begin recording basic tracks as soon as **Raymond Genovese** (drums), **Bart Broadnax** (bass) and **Lionel De Leon** (guitar) can work out a schedule. Messenger Project also bought a Neumann U87 microphone to improve the recording quality.

### Who Jesus Claimed to Be

**Bread of Life.** *I AM the bread of life, which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever* (John 6:51). Jesus likens himself to the manna from heaven in Exodus 16:4. *Then the LORD said to Moses, I will rain down bread from heaven for you.* This divine promise was literally accomplished in Moses' day and ultimately accomplished through the birth of Jesus.

**Heaven-Sent.** *And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I AM from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world* (John 8:23). Here Jesus reveals his unique origin and gives new meaning to Joshua 2:11: *for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.* God was "on the earth below" when Jesus was born. Proverbs 30:4 asks *Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son?* These questions were answered hundreds of years later with the birth of Jesus.

**Light of the World.** *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* (John 8:12) Like a lighthouse beacon, Jesus guides us to eternal life with his teachings. The Old Testament gives the same description to God in Ezra 9:8 *and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage* and again in Psalm 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear?* Jesus is foretold as "a great light" in Isaiah 9:2

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* Jesus' earthly purpose is revealed in Isaiah 49:6 *I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.* In the book of Revelation, the new city of Jerusalem does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb (Jesus) is its lamp. again, we are told in Isaiah 60:19 that *the LORD will be your everlasting light,* showing that Jesus was equating himself with God by calling himself the light of the world.

**Gate.** *I AM the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.* (John 10:9). Here Jesus reveals his power to save, and he personifies Psalm 118:20 which states *This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.*

**Good Shepherd.** *"I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.* (John 10:11) this title was given to God in Genesis 48:15 *God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,* in Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want* and in Isaiah 40:10 *See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power... He tends his flock like a shepherd.*

**Resurrection** *Jesus said to her, "I AM the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.* (John 11:25) These are bold words. Jesus promises eternal life for those who believe in him. He didn't say for those who believe in God, but he meant the same thing.

**Way, Truth, Life.** *Jesus said to him, "I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* (John 14:6). This statement doesn't bode well for other religions, because Jesus claims to be the ONLY way to heaven. Why would Jesus suffer our sins on the cross if there were many paths to heaven? He paid the price for our sins so we may be credited with his righteousness.

**I AM** *"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I AM (He), you will die in your sins."* (John.8:24).

When Jesus calls himself I AM, it is better understood through Exodus 3:14 *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'* Jesus gives himself the same name that God revealed to Moses. Jesus does it again in John 8:56 *"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."* *"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!"* Isaiah 43:10-13 is from God and testifies about Jesus, *You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I AM he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God. Yes, and from ancient days I AM he.* How can there be no other savior but God yet Jesus is our savior? The only way for both of these statements to be true is if Jesus is God.

**Moses, Prophets, Psalms** *"If you believed Moses you would believe Me; for he wrote about me"*(John 5:46) Jesus tells us that Moses, the Prophets and Psalms wrote about him. *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."* *Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.* (Luke 24:44-45). It is said that there are 800 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. Psalm 22, for example, seems to describe the crucifixion from Jesus' perspective (*they cast lots for my clothes, they give me vinegar to drink, etc.*) The Old and New Testament compliment each other and help us to get a clearer understanding of Scripture. The significance of Jesus' self-claims in the New Testament become obvious when Old Testament verses apply the same claims to God. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. It's a paradox that we may never totally understand until he calls us home. But we can praise God for what we DO know- *For God so loved the world that he gave is only begotten son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16)