



# Messenger Project Newsletter

## The Messenger

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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

Our download links to **Messenger** mp3 files at Boxnet.com are no longer valid, so we will be offering our songs via email requests beginning next year.

Our latest CD is projected to be completed by the spring of 2008. We are almost finished with keyboard and guitar tracks, leaving vocals, harmonies and peripheral instruments.

**Lionel and Joie De Leon** will be performing Christmas carols (and a few Messenger songs) at Costa Mesa's **Christian Fishing Club** on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

*The Messenger* newsletter will be coming to a close after the end of this year. January 2008 will be our final publication (and 5 year anniversary issue). Those on our email list will continue receiving a monthly email with *Messenger Notes* (brief updates on Messenger Project news), unless they request otherwise. Thank you to all who subscribed, we hope these newsletters have been informative and enlightening.

## Questions for Christians

### Is Christianity based on blind faith?

Everyone has a faith--atheist, agnostic, or Christian. Christianity is reasonable, rational, logically consistent and relevant for modern man. Blind faith is without evidence, which would be superstition. The Bible calls us to faith in evidence and Christianity is evaluated on the evidence.

### Is there evidence for the existence of God?

To suppose the universe emerged from nothing is neither logical nor reasonable. To suppose that the universe is eternal is flawed because the total amount of energy remains constant, but the availability of usable energy in the universe is constantly declining. The existence of an omnipotent God is the most reasonable conclusion for the origin of the universe.

### Are Christians "Anti-Science"?

Most early scientists were Christians (Copernicus, Galileo, Pascal, Newton, Linnaeus, Keppler, Boyle, Pasteur, Fabre, Faraday, Fleming, etc.). The Bible demonstrated scientific knowledge and concepts before mankind developed the technological base for such knowledge. Conflicts of science and the Bible are often conflicts between interpretations of the facts.

### How do we know that the Bible is true?

Over 25,000 archeological sites have been discovered that back up the Bible. There are over 2,000 accurately fulfilled predictions in the Bible including over 200 specific details about the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. All of the New Testament writers were from the generation of Jesus. Each writer was either an eyewitness to Jesus or was an interviewer of eyewitnesses. Three of the writers were Jesus' disciples (Matthew, John, and Peter). There are over 24,000 handwritten copies or portions of the New Testament from antiquity. The second most available ancient manuscripts are from Homer's Iliad, with 643 manuscript copies, while most ancient documents have fewer than 25 existing copies. Copies or portions exist that were written within 35 to 160 years after the originals. The interval between the historical events and the written evidence is far better for the New Testament than any other ancient manuscript. For example, the first account of Buddha's life was written 700 years after his death. The earliest copy of Caesar's works is 950 years after being written, and the earliest available copy of Plato's works is dated 1250 years after the original. Considering the enormous number of ancient New Testament manuscripts, only 40 lines, or one fifth of one per cent are in question. This compares to large textual variances in other ancient writings. The New Testament is 25 times more accurately copied than the Iliad, which is considered one of the best copied works of antiquity. Events of the New Testament are supported by writings outside the Bible (Tacitus, Suetonius, Pliny the Younger, Epictetus, Lucian, Aristides, Josephus, etc.). If all the New Testament manuscripts disappeared, it would still be possible to reconstruct almost the entire New Testament with quotes from the Church Fathers.

### Is the Bible really "God's Word"?

If a book was from God, it would claim to be God's word, it would be historically accurate, the authors would be trustworthy, the book would be thematically unified and without contradictions, we would have received accurate copies of the original manuscripts, it would make statements that would reveal knowledge beyond its day, it would make predictions about the future that could not be known through natural means, the message would be unique, the messengers would be confirmed by miracles and the words would have a transforming power. Only the Bible meets these tests. The Bible speaks of condemnation of all people as sinners. Would individuals have written these words, thus condemning themselves?

### Was Jesus really resurrected from the dead?

The evidence for Jesus' death and resurrection is overwhelming. The New Testament contains six independent testimonies to the fact of the resurrection. These six men (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, and Paul) wrote 24 of the 27 books of the New Testament. Included in their testimonies are various eyewitness accounts as well as reports of other interviewed witnesses of the risen Jesus, including one of over 500 people at one time. These witnesses were competent and honest. They had no impure motives for their testimony, such as fear, money, or ambition. They had the opportunity to know the truth, were mentally capable, were not gullible, and the documents of their testimony are reliable. There was more than an adequate number of witnesses to verify truth. And there is no contrary evidence. The various accounts were independent. The most powerful evidence is the conviction of the disciples. For 40 years after the resurrection, they traveled the land telling what they knew to be true. All of them were persecuted and all but one eventually put to death for their faith as testimony to the resurrected Jesus. People will not martyr themselves for a lie.

December's newsletter will continue with more questions and answers for Christians, that we may be confident of our faith in the midst of an increasingly skeptical world. Until then, may you have a blessed Thanksgiving!