



# The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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## Messenger Notes



Community Bible Church, Huntington Beach, CA

*You Are Worthy* was performed September 12<sup>th</sup> by the **Community Bible Church Choir** with a good reception from the congregation. Thanks to **Daryl Smith**, worship leader at Community Bible Church, **Lionel De Leon** will sing from Scripture at the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday services during offerings. *What She Has Done* was performed September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Messenger Project** is happy to report that all of our music is now downloadable online. Visit [messengerproject.com](http://messengerproject.com) for free sheet-music, mp3 files and newsletter archives. We plan to offer custom and personalized fundraising merchandise for sale from our website sometime next year, God willing.

The mixing of our new CD is coming along nicely. **Joie De Leon** has been adding harmony vocals and the band is collectively working on the project. We are adding mp3 recordings to our website as each song is completed. Sheet music of the new songs will be created when the entire CD is completed.

*The Word* demo soundtrack is 80% recorded and will be available online when it's done. Lionel is fine-tuning the rock opera with additional songs. Everyone who has helped to make this demo has been a blessing and project couldn't have happened without them.

## The Existence of God

Metaphysics is a philosophical search for true reality. The term "metaphysics" is a Greek word that means "what comes after physics." A major issue in classical metaphysics concerns the existence of God. Philosophical arguments assert the existence of God using various degrees of logic and reasoning.

The **ontological argument** is based on the meaning of the word "God." It was proposed by St. Anselm in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. His argument was similar to "I think, therefore I am." God exists because the idea of God exists.

The **first cause argument** was presented by St. Thomas Aquinas in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. He argued that to explain the fact of motion in the world, a prime mover must be presupposed. Everything that exists owes its being to the activity of some other thing (we owe our existence to our parent's procreation, for example). Life is contingent on prior life to exist and cannot exist of and by itself. This presupposes a "first cause" that is self-complete and independent of creation, because contingent things cannot be endlessly contingent on other things. There has to be an original maker of all things.

St. Thomas Aquinas also presented the **design argument**, which points to an orderly universe and a world of harmonious balance. Something designed so perfectly needs a perfect Designer.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Hume and Kant brought damaging criticism against arguments for God. The **casual proof** of God separated the existence from the essence of God. If there is a necessary being that created all things, then it is God by definition, whatever it is. This allows for "God" to be simply the cause of all things without having an essence or persona.

Metaphysical arguments can be dismissed as exercises in futility. But there is a greater argument for God that is harder to ignore. The Bible says that there is an omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (everywhere at once) and omniscient (all knowing) God who loves his creation (man) and who made an everlasting covenant with Israel. The Bible backs up its claim with prophecy. Surely a God who knows everything is able to accurately predict the future. Consider the following prophecies and observations:

The prophet **Isaiah** (c. 700 B.C.), named a future **Cyrus** as the one who would rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem (Isa 44:28; 45:1). At the time of Isaiah's writing, the city and Temple were standing. In 586 B.C., both were destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar. Jerusalem was conquered by the Persians around 539 B.C. and a Persian king named Cyrus issued a decree to rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem.

The prophet **Ezekiel** (592-570 B.C.) predicted that the city of **Tyre** would be made a bare rock with its stones tossed into the sea and would never be rebuilt. Alexander the Great reduced Tyre to ruins in 332 B.C., tossing the city's stones into the sea to create a bridge to its island city. The once great city of Tyre has never been rebuilt.

The nation of Israel was destroyed in 70 A.D. and the Jews were dispersed around the world. Still, Israel kept her religion, identity and language preserved throughout the centuries. In 1948, Israel became a nation again despite an all-out attack from her Arab neighbors. In 1967, Israel captured her holy city of Jerusalem (on the Sabbath) after a six-day war.

Most importantly, Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies in minute detail. This assures us not only of the existence of God, but also of his gift of salvation through his Son.