

# The Messenger of the Covenant



6

## מְלָאָכִי

I send my messenger, and he shall clear the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to His temple, and the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he cometh, saith the LORD of hosts.  
Malachi 3:1

The messenger of the covenant will come and the Lord whom we seek will suddenly come. Verse 2 speaks of that day, a day of fire and cleansing when the sons of Levi will be refined and purged “that they may offer an offering in righteousness” verse 3. When will that day come? We are given a clue in verse 22. “Remember ye the law of Moses My servant.” Here we may find what would happen “in the latter days.”

As Israel was about to enter the land of Canaan, Moses gave a final warning.

26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

27 And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.

28 And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

30 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even **in the latter days**, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;

31 (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them. Deuteronomy 4:26-31.

## כִּי שְׁמִי בְּקִרְבּוֹ

The LORD promised to send His messenger before them and His name would be in him. Exodus 23:21.

In much more detail the consequences of breaking the covenant were presented in Leviticus chapter 26. The messenger of the covenant spelled out exactly what would happen if they kept the commandments and the statutes and the judgments or not.

If they did, He would give them rain in their season, the land would yield her produce and the trees their fruit. They would eat bread enough and dwell in safety. They would be fruitful and multiply. He would set his tabernacle among them, walk among them and be their God.

But, if they rejected His statutes, and ordinances and shall not do His commandments but break His covenant then He will appoint terror over them, their enemies will eat their food, smite them and rule over them. “And if you will not for all these things hearken unto me, then I will chastise you yet seven times more for your sins.” Leviticus 26:18. The Hebrew is simply seven, *sheba*. It doesn't specify days, months, years, just seven.

# 7

Seven is a prophetic time explained in both the dreams of Pharaoh in Genesis 49 and Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4. Joseph interprets the seven cows and the seven ears of corn as seven years; Daniel explains the seven *iddanim* as seven periods of time which turned out to be seven years for the king of Babylon. Joseph understood the meaning of the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine because this was exactly the experience in his own family. Jacob worked seven years for Leah who gave him six sons, and through the handmaids a total of ten; then he worked another seven years for Rachael, who gave him only two. This was also a prophecy of the ten tribes, the northern kingdom of Israel, and the two tribes, the southern kingdom of Judah. Though separated, the prophecy of

Leviticus 26 applied to both and their punishment of seven times more would begin for each when they were taken to into captivity. “In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria” 2Kings 17:6.

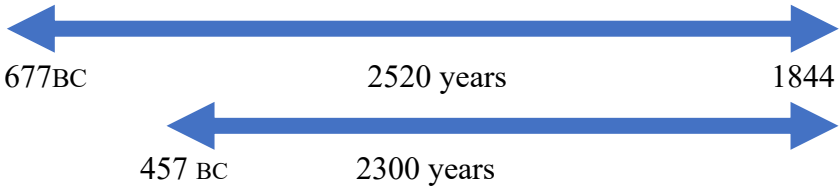
“And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon ...and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel” verse 24. The last king of the northern kingdom was Hoshea who was taken to Babylon in 723 BC because he refused to pay the king of Assyria tribute as a vassal state. Exactly seven times later (7 x 360 years) another northern king was taken into captivity because he too refused to pay a 30 million French livre fine imposed on the Pope of Rome because of acts against Napoleon’s Republic. When an additional 21 million livre was demanded and not paid, Napoleon sent his General Alexandre Louis Berthier to Rome and on February 15, 1798 deposed the Pope, seized the Papal States and removed Pius VI to France where he died the following year.

From 723 BC to 1798 AD is exactly 2520 years, 7 x 360 or seven times. The first half of this period ended 1260 years after 723 BC with the demise of the three primitive Christian powers (horns of prophecy) in 538 AD when the emerging papacy was freed from all opposition to its mystery religion. The prophecy of Daniel 7 foretold that this little horn coming up from the 10 horns of the crumbling Roman Empire would uproot three horns. This it did in 493 with removal of the Heruli, in 533 by destruction of Carthage, and 538 with repulsion of the Ostrogoths because all three rejected the papal doctrine of the Trinity. The prophecy then specified that this continuation of Rome as the Holy Roman Empire would make war against the people of God for 3½ times or 1260 years.



Each period began with a taking away: Israel was taken to Assyria, the seed of the woman fled into the wilderness during the dark ages. Each period ended with removal: the Arian powers and, finally, the the little horn paper power.

The southern kingdom followed the same fate in 677 BC when king Manasseh was taken to Babylon. This marked the beginning of the seven times for Judah. 2520 years later the 2300 years of Daniel 8:14 also came to an end when the temple was to be once again cleansed and judgment would come as the Lord and the messenger of the covenant would come suddenly to His temple.



The messenger of the covenant appears many times throughout the Torah and the prophets. The first appearance is in Genesis 16 when Hagar fled from Sarai. “The angel of the LORD found her” in the wilderness and told her she would have a child whom she should call Ishmael because God had heard her cry. “And she called the name of the Lord that spoke to her, the God that sees.”

The messenger of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven as he raised his knife to sacrifice his only son Isaac whom he loved (Genesis 22:11,2). “**Abraham, Abraham!** Lay not thine hand upon the lad” “And the angel of the LORD called again and said, “By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD...that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore” verses 15-17. This was the covenant made with Abraham by the angel, the messenger of the covenant.

Jacob in the land of Laban told Rachel and Leah, “The angel of God spoke to me in a dream and said...I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the stone... Arise, and return to the land of your kindred” Genesis 31:11-13.

After Joseph sent for his father and brothers to join him in Egypt, “God spoke to unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, **Jacob, Jacob,** I am the God of thy father” Genesis 46:2.

When Jacob blessed Joseph and his sons, he said, “the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, the Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads” Genesis 48:15,16.

Moses when keeping the flock of Jethro in Midian came to the mountain of God in Horeb. “And the angel of the LORD appeared

unto him in a flame of fire. God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, **Moses, Moses**, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” Exodus 3:1-6. “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

When the children of Israel departed out of Egypt “the angel of God went before the camp of Israel” Exodus 14:19. The LORD told Moses, “I send an Angel before thee, to keep you in the way, and bring you into the place I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice...for my name is in him” Exodus 23:20,21. “Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, Mine Angel shall go before thee.” Exodus 32:34.

When Joshua was by Jericho there stood “a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand.” And he said, “As captain of the hosts of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship. And the captain of the LORD's host said to Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon you stand is holy.” Josh 5:13-15.

“In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the Angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” Isaiah 63:9.

The messenger of the covenant led Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness and into the land promised to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. The sanctuary in the wilderness was replaced by the temple build by Solomon which he began to construct 480 years after the children of Israel came out of Egypt. 1Kings 6:1. As Moses was instructed to build a sanctuary “after the pattern shown” him in the mount (Exodus 25:9), so David gave to Solomon his son “the pattern of all that he had by the spirit” 1Chronicles 28:12. The temple in heaven was the pattern for the temples on earth. Psalm 18:6.

“For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth” Psalm 102:19 “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.” Psalm 11:4. A time of judgment will come when “the judge of the whole earth” will review the lives of every person. “Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?” Psalm 94:2,3.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9,10. The judgment will be in heaven as the Ancient of days reviews the books. And when the judgment ends, the kingdom is decided.

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13,14. The messenger of the covenant comes suddenly to his temple, the Lord whom we seek. And when will this take place? After “a time and times and a dividing of time” Daniel 7:25.

And from the going forth of the command to rebuild Jerusalem 70 weeks are determined from the two thousand and three hundred days and “then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 9:25; 8:14. Then shall the sons of Levi be purified. The 2300 days, the 2520 days are prophetic years even as the 40 days in Canaan became 40 years in the wilderness, “each day for a year” Numbers 14:34, and as Ezekiel had to lay on his side for 390 days “each day for a year” to symbolize the 390 years of rebellion by the northern kingdom (Ezekiel 4:6).



The degree of Artaxerxes in his seventh year is dated reliably at 457 BC (Ezra 7:7). This began both the 70 weeks of Daniel 9 and the 2300 day of atonements of Daniel 8 ending in 1844, the beginning of judgment and the cleansing of the temple in the time of the seventh month and the day of atonement in Leviticus 16.

Daniel 9 foretold the coming of the Messiah after 69 weeks, 483 years beginning with 457 BC. Messiah appeared at the Jordan in 27 AD, baptized by John and began preaching, “The time is fulfilled”

Mark 1:15. In the midst of that final 70<sup>th</sup> week of 7 years, Messiah was “cut off” as the Lamb of God, sacrificed to end all sacrifices. The covenant was to be confirmed for one week. Jesus confirmed it with many for 3 ½ years, then for another 3½ years by “those that heard him” Hebrews 2:3. The end of each 3½ year period was marked by a death: the Son of God and then Stephen. Acts 7:59.



It is now the time of the solemn assembly, the time of gathering. “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD” Joel 2:15-17.

It is time for decision, for cleansing, for atonement. “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” Joel 3:14. The messenger of the covenant is preparing the way. Soon he will leave the temple and come to “put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe” Joel 3:13. Let him cleanse us now that we may offer unto him an offering of righteousness.

