MY MESSENGER

Malachi 3:1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

Review

The Old Testament in Psalm 2 predicted a coming Messiah who would be a King, Who was in some way God’s Son, Who would rule the entire world and Who should be worshiped. In Isaiah 7:14 He is called Immanuel, God with us. In Isaiah 9:6 He is called Wonderful Counselor Mighty God Everlasting Father Prince of Peace and Isaiah 9:7 says He will reign forever.

Does any Old Testament passage actually say the coming Messiah would be God?

“I will send my messenger”

Isaiah 40:3 A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Mark 1:2&3 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way: - a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ”

The LORD Almighty will send His messenger, who will prepare the way before Him. John the Baptist was the messenger, preparing the way for the LORD Almighty. John 1:23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

Would God the Father Send God the Son as a Messenger?

“Messenger is *“malak,”* translated 110 times as angel or angels and 100 times as messenger or messengers in the NASB. Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the LORD’s messenger, gave this message of the LORD to the people: “I am with you declares the LORD.

It is also translated messengers in Joshua 6:17&18 describing the spies sent out by Joshua.

*“Malak”* is the word translated “angel” in the phrase “the angel of the LORD,” found numerous times in the Old Testament. The phrase could very literally be translated the “messenger of the LORD” or “Messenger of the Lord.”

Exodus 3:1-3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.”

Exodus 3:4-6 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer God said, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The angel of the LORD appears to Moses from within a burning bush. When Moses goes to look, God speaks to him from within the bush. “God” is *“Elohim,”* as in Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The conversation continues in the next verse with the One Moses is speaking to being identified as the “LORD.” The One in the bush has now been identified as the “angel of the LORD,” “God” and the “LORD.” Exodus 3:7a, “The LORD said,”

Exodus 3:13-15 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them? 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.’ ” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

Gideon

Judges 6:11&12 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

Judges 6:13&14 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian. The LORD turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

Judges 6:15-18 “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” The LORD answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.” Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.” And the LORD said, “I will wait until you return.”

Judges 6:19-21 Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak. The angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And Gideon did so. Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the LORD disappeared.

Judges 6:22-24 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, “Alas, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face. But the LORD said to him, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die. So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

The Lord You Are Seeking, Whom You Desire

Malachi 3:1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

“Lord” is *“adon,”* and is almost always translated “lord.” The plural is *“Adonai”* and is almost always translated “Lord.” When Jews read the Old Testament aloud, they read Adonai for Yahweh so as not to take the name of the Lord in vain.

Psalm 110:1(NASB) The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” LORD is Yahweh, Lord is Adonai.

After the messenger who would prepare the way (John the Baptist), the Lord you are seeking, whom you desire, the messenger of the (New) covenant, the Messiah, will come. The LORD Almighty says, “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.”

Things to Remember

Malachi 3:1 has two messengers: the one who prepares the way, John the Baptist, and the Messenger whom they were seeking and desiring, the Messenger who is the Lord who comes to His Temple.

In the Old Testament God sometimes sent extremely important messages to his people by the angel (messenger) of the LORD, who often is said to be God Himself in the immediate context.

The Messiah, the Messenger they were seeking and desiring, was the Messenger of the (New) covenant.

The message of the New Testament is that the Messenger who came from God is Himself God, and the One who reveals God the Father to us.