

## “Don’t Shoot the Messenger!”

### What is a Messenger of YeHoVaH?

**Definition – messenger** - מַלְאָךְ māl'âk, mal-awk'; from an unused root meaning to dispatch as a deputy; a messenger; specifically, of God, i.e. an angel (also a prophet, priest or teacher): ambassador, angel, king, messenger. The KJV translates Strong's H4397 as the following: [angel](#) (111x), [messenger](#) (98x), [ambassadors](#) (4x), [variant](#)(1x).

In context, the word “messenger” is used in Haggai 1:13. There is no indication of who authored the Prophetic Book of Haggai.

The prophet Haggai encourages Judah to reset their priorities and place YeHoVaH first. This was shortly after the frustrated attempt to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem after Cyrus’s decree. (For a more detailed account see the Book of Ezra).

**Haggai 1:13** Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord.

**Ephesians 4:11-13** <sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting (*equipping*) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (*building*) of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

**Ephesians 4:13** (NIV) until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

### YeHoVaH’s Most Famous Messengers

YeHoVaH sends two specific messengers; one to prepare the way and the other to establish His new Covenant with the House of Judah and the House of Israel (See Hebrews 8).

**Malachi 3:1** Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

**Isaiah 40:3** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Malachi 4:4-6** <sup>4</sup> Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. <sup>5</sup> Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: <sup>6</sup> And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

**Luke 1:76-77** <sup>76</sup> And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; <sup>77</sup> To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** <sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

**Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

As you can see, John and Yeshua were both prophesied about during the time of old, before their physical manifestations upon Earth. Specifically, Yeshua is prophesied about from the Book known as Genesis and throughout Scripture until He, “The Word”, became flesh.

### The Purposes and Outcomes of John and Yeshua

To understand the duties of the messengers of YeHoVaH, we can look at both John and Yeshua as examples of how to perform and as an example of what to expect from man in response.

**John 1:6-8** <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

**Witness** – μαρτυρία - marturía, mar-too-ree'-ah; from [G3144](#); evidence given (judicially or genitive case):—record, report, testimony, witness.

The KJV translates **Strong's** G3141 in the following manner: [witness](#) (15x), [testimony](#) (14x), [record](#) (7x), [report](#) (1x).

**Witness** - μαρτυρέω - marturēō, mar-too-reh'-o; from [G3144](#); to be a witness, i.e. testify (literally or figuratively):—charge, give (evidence), bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of, testify, give (have) testimony, (be, bear, give, obtain) witness. The KJV translates Strong's G3140 in the following manner: [bear witness](#) (25x), [testify](#) (19x), [bear record](#) (13x), [witness](#) (5x), [be a witness](#) (2x), [give testimony](#) (2x), [have a good report](#) (2x), *miscellaneous* (11x).

**Acts 19:4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

John's role was that of a witness. John would proclaim to the world who Yeshua actually was. In the words of Yeshua ...

**John 5:31-33** <sup>31</sup> If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.<sup>32</sup> There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. <sup>33</sup> Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

Not only was John to bear witness to Yeshua, but he also preached in the wilderness of Judea repentance from the commission of sin.

**John 3:1-2** <sup>1</sup>In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,  
<sup>2</sup>And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Yeshua had multiple purposes in the flesh.** A few purposes included to fulfill the Law, to divide, call sinners to repentance, save the world, and to bear witness to the truth.

- **Fulfill the Law** – Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
- **To Divide** – Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:
- **Call Sinners to Repentance** – Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
- **Save the World** – John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- **To Bear Witness to the Truth** – John 18:37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John continued his mission until his demise, preaching repentance from sin. His confronting of Herod the tetrarch in regard to Herod's taking of his brother Phillip's wife, Herodias, cost John his life.

**Matthew 14:1-12** At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, <sup>2</sup>And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. <sup>3</sup>For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. <sup>4</sup>For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. <sup>5</sup>And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. <sup>6</sup>But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. <sup>7</sup>Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. <sup>8</sup>And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. <sup>9</sup>And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. <sup>10</sup>And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. <sup>11</sup>And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. <sup>12</sup>And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus.

Yeshua was crucified by the Romans at the request of Jewish leaders for the alleged crime of blasphemy. Yeshua exposed the false doctrines of men, taught repentance, and walked in the truth that He taught.

**Matthew 26:57-66** And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup>But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; <sup>60</sup>But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, <sup>61</sup>And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. <sup>62</sup>And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest

thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? <sup>63</sup> But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. <sup>64</sup> Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

The outcome for both John and Yeshua was death. Just as many of the Prophets of old lost their lives for acting as a messenger for YeHoVaH, likewise did John and Yeshua. **Yeshua was perfect and John was a righteous man.** They were not killed for who they were, but for what they lived and taught.

### **Not to Be a Stumbling Block for My Brother or Sister**

As a messenger of YeHoVaH, we are subject to attack by individuals who we are sent to counsel, disciple, or help mature the in the Body of Messiah.

Examples of spiritual attacks I've dealt with since deciding to walk in my calling include scrutiny of my attire, length of my hair as a man, and my lack of seminary studies or theological degrees.

**Romans 14:13** Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

**(NLT) Romans 14:13** So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

As a messenger for YeHoVaH, better yet a child of The Most High, although an action may not be against Torah, we must not be a stumbling block to our Brothers' or Sisters' walk.

**1 Corinthians 11:14** Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

In this passage, to totally understand Paul's perspective (which it is **his perspective**), we must read and understand the motive behind this part of the letter which is expressed in an analysis of Verse 2.

**1 Corinthians 11:2** Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

**(NASB95) 1 Corinthians 11:2** Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.

One who agrees with Paul, and judges others who do not agree, will have to reckon with Numbers 6:5 (Nazirite Vow) and David's son Absalom in 2 Samuel 14:25-26.

**Numbers 6:5** All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

**2 Sam 14:25-26** <sup>25</sup> But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. <sup>26</sup> And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the

hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight. (That's approximately 5 pounds).

**Proverbs 2:6** For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

**James 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Fear of YeHoVaH is the source of all wisdom. It is He who makes one wise. Men have been captivated with the scholastic achievements of men based on standards set by man. YeHoVaH is not limited! He can and will use anyone or anything He created for the purpose of His Will.

**1 Samuel 16:7** But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

### Scrutiny of the Messenger to Disregard the Message

**Jeremiah 11:18-19** <sup>18</sup> And the Lord hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings. <sup>19</sup> But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Like Jeremiah, many messengers of YeHoVaH do not suspect all the plots and schemes arrayed against them like lambs led to a slaughter. Jeremiah's hometown of Anathoth plotted to destroy Jeremiah and anything he produced. They disfavored the prophecies spoken by Jeremiah, which seemed to favor Babylon over Judah.

**Jeremiah 18:18** Then said they, Come and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

Jeremiah, himself, was not a problem. However, the message he spoke was. Jeremiah was a messenger of YeHoVaH and was authorized to speak the words of YeHoVaH to His people. In essence, the people really had a problem with YeHoVaH.

### Things for the Messenger to Keep in Mind

1. Preach the Word
2. Be Prepared to Suffer
3. Endure Hardship

#### 1. Preach the Word

**(NIV) 2 Tim 4:2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

We are not to add to or take from the Word. We, as messengers, are called to preach/teach the Word of God. We are to rebuke false doctrine and sin, while encouraging Believers on our journeys.

## **2. Be Prepared to Suffer**

**2 Tim 1:8** Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

As we see with John and Yeshua, you will be hated for speaking the truth and living what you speak. Persecution will come and the Word warns us that death itself may be the end result of being a messenger of YeHoVaH.

## **3. Endure Hardship**

**(NLT) 2 Tim 4:5** But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

Do not become discouraged by the people you are called to speak to. You are only being obedient to what Father has asked of you. Father will deal with the hearts and minds of those who reject you.

**Remember, Matthew 24:13, "he that endures to the end, the same shall be saved."**