Stark Road Gospel Hall Summer Ministry Series

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Core Concepts of Scripture

My Messenger

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Is.52:7

Definition: Messenger (Vine)

angelos
"a messenger, , one sent," is translated "messenger," of John the Baptist, Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27;
in the plural, of John's "messengers," Luke 7:24;
of those whom Christ sent before Him when on His journey to Jerusalem, Luke 9:52;
of Paul's "thorn in the flesh," "a messenger of Satan," 2 Cor. 12:7; of the spies as received by Rahab, Jas. 2:25.
apostolos
"an apostle," is translated "messengers" in 2 Cor. 8:23 regarding Titus and "the other brethren," whom Paul describes to the church at Corinth as "messengers of the churches,"
in respect of offerings from those in Macedonia for the needy in Judea; in Phil. 2:25,
of Epaphroditus as the "messenger" of the church at Philippi to the Apostle in ministering to his need; in each case, "apostle."

I. Messengers in Scripture

A. Names Given to Messengers

Prophets of God
Heb1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,

Messengers of God
2 Chr 36:15; And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

The servants of God
Jer 35:15. I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, … but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

The watchmen of Israel
Ezek 3:17. Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of

Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

Men of God

1 Sam 9:6. Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man;…he can show us our way that we should go.

Holy prophets

Luke 1:70; And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

Holy men of God

2 Pet 1:21. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

B. How God communicated His message

His secret things.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

At various times and in different ways.

Heb 1:1.God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

By an audible voice.

1 Sam 3:4-14. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

By angels, *Dan 8:15-26; …when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.*

By dreams and visions.

Num 12:6; If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

Were under the influence of the Holy Spirit while prophesying.

Luke 1:67; And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied…

Spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:10.Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord,

Frequently spoke in parables and riddles.

2 Sam 12:1-6; And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor

.

C. Requirements of the messengers

To be bold and undaunted.

Ezek 2:6;And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words,

To be vigilant and faithful

Ezek 3:17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

To receive with attention all God's communications.

Ezek 3:10. Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

Not to speak anything but what they received from God

Deut 18:20.But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the

name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

To declare everything that the Lord commanded.

Jer 26:2.Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak … all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

D. Character of the messengers

Personally called.

1 Sam 3:19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Esteemed as holy men.

2 Kin 4:9. 9And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

Often gifted with miraculous power.

Ex 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 1 Kin 17:23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.;

2 Kin 5:33 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy..

Often led a wandering and unsettled life.

1 Kin 18:10 …how I hid an hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?;

Simple in their manner of life.

Matt 3:4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey..

The interpreters of dreams.

Dan 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Consulted in difficulties.

1 Sam 9:6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go

Denounced wickedness.

1 Sam 15:10-12, Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning

Exhorted faithfulness and consistency in God's service.

2 Chr 15:1;.And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 2And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

Their message affected them deeply

Is 16:9, Therefore I will bewail with the weeping … I will water thee with my tears,

II. Their message

Predict the coming of Christ

Luke 24:44;And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

John 1:45; Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

Acts 3:24 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this … Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Predict the downfall of nations

Is15:1;The burden of Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence

Preach righteousness

Rom 3:19 That every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God.

Reveal God's eternal plan

I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

III. Their methods

Proclaimed at the gate of the Lord's house.

Jer7:2. Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD,

Proclaimed in the cities and streets.

Jer 11:6.Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them.

Written on tables and displayed in public places.

Hab:2:2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Written in books

Is 8:1 Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen. Jer 36:2.Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah,"

Publicly read

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Personally

Acts 8:31 And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. …Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

IV. Messengers

Abel
*Heb 11:3-5 By faith **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*
Noah
*1 Peter 2:25 And spared not the old world, but saved **Noah** the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.*
Jacob
Genesis 49:1 *And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.*
Aaron
Exodus 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.
Moses
Exodus 3:10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.
Samuel.
1 Sam 3:20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.
David
Acts 2:29-30 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
Elijah
1 Kin 17:1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.
Elisha
1 Kin 19:16. Elisha … shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.
Isaiah
Isaiah 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah . His (Isaiah) name means "The Lord Is Salvation
Hosea
Hos 1:1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah His name means "Salvation". Verse 1 divine authority and message source. He is the first of twelve minor prophets
Ezekiel
Ezek 1:3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him. His message was to the exiled people in Babylon He was a priest and about 30years old when God called him to be a prophet.
Daniel
Matt 24:15. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
Malachi
Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?
Zacharias the father of John

Luke1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

Anna

Luke 2:36,38. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Paul

Romans 1;1-6 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Peter

2 Pet 1:1-3. Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

John

Revelation 1:1-2 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

V. The Perfect messenger

The Lord Jesus

Luke 4:16-23 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.

VI. Misrepresentation of the message

2 Peter 2:1
But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

VII. The Great Commission

A. Today's Message

Matthew 28:18-20
And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
Luke 24:44-49
And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

B. Messengers equipped

<u>What subjects to stress</u>
…thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.
<u>What to speak</u>
repentance and remission of sins
<u>Where to get the material to speak</u>
Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures
<u>By what authority</u>
his name
<u>Where to preach</u>
among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem
<u>The overriding promise</u>
I am with you always, even unto the end of the world

1 Timothy 2:3-7 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have <u>all men</u> to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained <u>a preacher, and an apostle</u>, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.