

THE MESSENGER TO COME

An in-depth understanding of the Holy Scripture is critical for salvation. It is of paramount importance to readily recall this fundamental principle of life which the Lord used during His hour of temptation:

Luke 4:4 New King James Version

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

The Lord said "man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word of God" because in our short lifetime in this age, we must become acquainted with a catalogue of information which has been made ready for us. We must understand that the Lord is merciful, slow to anger, full of loving kindness and compassionate. The Lord our God has already given us significant details of every event that will befall the heavens and the earth at the appointed time. The consequences of being ignorant of these events are grave. We cannot impute the blame on someone else if these events should come on us as a snare. The only reason these events will come and overtake us is because we have not set our hearts and the time required to study and understand the truth. All we need to know has already been made available to us many hundreds of years ago. There are two passages of Scripture in the book of the prophet Malachi that carry critical information that has been overlooked by most of us. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Malachi 4:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

What is your understanding of this passage of Scripture? The Lord included the names of two of His great servants in this passage of Scripture in a prophecy for a time to come. Why? This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled because it speaks of the great and dreadful Day of the Lord. What is the meaning of the Day of the Lord to you? If you have been led to believe that Moses and Elijah will be resurrected from the dead to fulfil this prophecy, you have been deceived and are being led astray. This prophecy will be fulfilled by someone alive today

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somewhere in the world. We must consider some of the accounts of what God has said and done relating to this topic, to fully understand the significance of this passage of Scripture. God has said:

Hosea 4:3-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

³Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

⁴“Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. ⁵Therefore you shall stumble in the day; The prophet also shall stumble with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother. ⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

This passage of Scripture is addressing what will happen at the end of age during the Day of the Lord, and it is directly related to the subject of this study. God’s people, not those of the world but all those who profess to know God will be destroyed not because they lacked knowledge, but also because when they came across the knowledge of the truth, they reject the truth to believe a lie. Moreover, the reason God will destroy His people is because they have forgotten His laws and commandments, something which the Lord stipulates in the passage of Scripture from the book of Malachi chapter four. Furthermore, the Lord our God has said nothing happens here on earth without His knowledge:

Amos 3:3-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

³Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? ⁴Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing? ⁵Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all? ⁶If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?

Here, we are given one of the greatest principles of life. Two cannot walk together unless they agree. If we do not agree with what the Lord has said, assuredly, we will never be able to walk with the Lord. If there is calamity anywhere in the world, we must acknowledge the fact that the Lord had knowledge of it but allowed it to happen for good reasons. This is a comforting

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word of truth; the Lord has said that He will do nothing here on earth unless He has revealed it to His servants, the prophets:

Amos 3:7-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

⁸ A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

As mentioned earlier, the Lord has already revealed through His servants the prophets, all the events that will befall the earth at the End of Age. This therefore means, these events will come to pass at the appointed time exactly as they have been written in the word of truth. We should consider the examples of how the Lord dealt with His people in the past to be able to envisage what the Lord has said will befall our generation. Since the Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever, He will not alter the way He has dealt with His people.

According to the word of truth, the Lord has said he will bring back the captivity of His people into the land He promised to their fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The front runner of this prophecy occurred when the Lord called His servant Moses and sent him to inform the children of Israel His intentions, who at the time were in Egypt:

Exodus 3:7-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Similarly, The Lord sent the prophet Elijah to the children of Israel to turn them back to the Lord. At this point, the children of Israel had departed from the laws and commandments of the only living God and were serving Baal:

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1 Kings 18:20-24 New King James Version (NKJV)

20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. 23 Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. 24 Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

After the prophets of Baal had toiled all day without success, Elijah came and called on the Lord and the Lord our God answered by fire:

1 Kings 18:36-39 New King James Version (NKJV)

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

We must understand the significance of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These are two accounts of how the Lord dealt with His people through His servants the prophets. The names of these two prophets have been included in the prophecy that will come to pass at the End of Age. We must also acknowledge the fact that the issue here is not about the prophets. What should concern us is what the Lord has proposed to perform during the End of Age. These prophets were given the Spirit of God which empowered them to complete their duties. Furthermore, the Lord sent another prophet into the world just before the beginning of His ministry. That prophet came in the Spirit of God which was in both Elijah and Moses:

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Isaiah 40:3-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

³The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

The fulfilment of this prophecy came when John the Baptist began his ministry preaching the repentance of sin:

Matthew 3:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"

⁴Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him ⁶and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way of the Lord by getting the people ready to receive what the Lord will give, the truth about the Kingdom of God. Additionally, John was also sent to reveal to Israel the Messiah who was the Lord Jesus Christ:

John 1:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

At the appointed time, John the Baptist revealed the Lord Jesus Christ to Israel:

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John 1:29-34 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."

³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

The Lord validated the ministry of John the Baptist when He said:

Matthew 11:7-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' house. ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is he of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

¹¹ "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

We now know what the Lord did during His ministry which has been well documented for us in the gospels. The rest of the New Testament is an explanation of what the Lord had said during His ministry. But what did John say in addition to revealing the Lord Jesus Christ?

Matthew 3:7-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our

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father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

But John the Baptist added something which is for the generation at the End of Age, us, which the vast majority of us have missed:

Matthew 3:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The thought of what John the Baptist said is sobering. During the Lord’s first coming, we know what John the Baptist said in the above passage of Scripture did not happen because the Lord was the Lamb of God sent to take away the sins of the world. What John said is a prophecy which has not yet been fulfilled, but rest assured it will come to pass exactly as it has been written at the appointed time. When we carefully consider the passage of Scripture from the book of Malachi chapter four:

Malachi 4:4-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. ⁵ Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

Although it is connected to the ministry of John the Baptist because John came in the Spirit of Elijah, the fulfilment of this prophecy is very specific. This prophecy is for the End of Age and the messenger to come will be empowered by the Spirit of God to restore the truth, the laws and commandments of God to the Body of Christ and to all those who have ears to hear in the world. This messenger is not a church or a group of people as some are being led to believe. Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Revelation 14:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

This is the first of three messages which shall be announced at the End of Age and the messenger to come will be empowered by a powerful angel to be able to complete the task set before him by the Lord. This was confirmed by the Lord during His ministry when He said:

Matthew 17:9-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

¹⁰And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

¹¹Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.

¹²But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.” ¹³Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

The disciples had just seen the Lord speaking to two of His servants; Moses and Elijah who was mentioned in the prophecy we have considered from the book of the prophet Malachi. The Lord said indeed Elijah will be coming first, which is in the future, before He spoke of John the Baptist. Remember what Peter said about temporary dwellings. The transfiguration was also a vision of the Lord speaking to His two witnesses at the End of Age:

Revelation 11:1-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ²But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. ³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

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⁴ *These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.*

⁵ *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.* ⁶ *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

Some will say there is no connection with the passage of Scripture from the book of Matthew chapter seventeen and the above passage of Scripture from the book of revelation. But there is, if we consider what duties Moses and Elijah performed. The messenger to come will also be one of the two Witnesses. He too will be empowered to do what Moses and Elijah did in the past. Elijah was commanded to call fire from heaven:

1 Kings 18:37-40 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁷ *Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."*

³⁸ *Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.* ³⁹ *Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"*

⁴⁰ *And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.*

And Elijah also called fire from heaven to devour his enemies something the two witnesses will be empowered to perform:

2 Kings 1:10-12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ *So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.* ¹¹ *Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!' "*

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¹² So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Moses on the other hand was the recipient of the laws and commandments from God to give to the children of Israel something Elijah restored to the children of Israel.

Exodus 20:1-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹² "Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's."

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But we must remember what Moses did under the Lord's directive in Egypt:

Exodus 10:21-29 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. ²⁴ Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you."

²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God. ²⁶ Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there." ²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. ²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!" ²⁹ So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

The messenger to come from the Lord will restore the laws and commandments of God and prepare the way for the return of the Lord just as it was in the days of John the Baptist.

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WHAT IS TO COME AND WHERE WILL ELIJAH COME FROM?

When we hear this prophet, everyone will know assuredly that this messenger is from God. As Jonah the prophet was sent to the Ninevites, so will this prophet be heard in the world but unfortunately, unlike the people of Nineveh, many will not heed the word of the Lord this prophet will bear:

Jonah 3:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. ⁴And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

The consequences of not hearing and obeying the word of the Lord that will come through this prophet will be grave. Consider this passage of Scripture which the Lord gave through the prophet Malachi that has been missed by almost every scholar:

Malachi 3:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts. ²“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. ⁴“Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. ⁵And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” Says the LORD of hosts.

The appearance of this messenger on the scene, marks the beginning of the End of Age and the end of the Acceptable Year of the Lord. When this messenger begins his ministry, we should all be aware that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is at hand. It will be contrary to

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the expectation of many. The Lord will return for vengeance against all the wicked and those who do not obey the laws and commandments of God and live by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ as we can clearly see in the above passage of Scripture as stated in verse five.

As it was in the days of Moses when the Lord was on earth directing Moses, so will it be during this period of time. The Lord will not return as the King of kings or Lord of lords to rapture His Saints contrary to the expectation of many professing believers who have been led astray by their churches and pastors. This is the period of time the apostle Peter described in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 3:19-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

The messenger to come will call for repentance and will instruct God's people on His will, the majority of which we already have in the Holy Scriptures. This prophet is the watchman of Ephraim:

Jeremiah 31:3-6 New King James Version (NKJV)

³ The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. ⁵ You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; The planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food. ⁶ For there shall be a day When the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, To the LORD our God.' "

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Mount Ephraim in the context of this passage of Scripture, is not a place as many might be led to believe. Mount Ephraim depicts the children of Israel, the Body of Christ, which is in captivity in the world and these watchmen, one of which is the messenger to come will be instructing God's people to return to Israel, the land the Lord promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and their descendants. The prophet Ezekiel was a captive in Babylon when he received the word of the Lord. Ezekiel was appointed a watchman for the house of Israel by the Lord.

Ezekiel 33:7-11 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁷ "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

¹⁰ "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?" ' ¹¹ Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

The book of Ezekiel chapter thirty-three is a prophecy of the messenger to come. This messenger or prophet has been ordained by the Lord to serve as a watchman to the body of Christ in the same manner as the prophet Ezekiel. He will convey the Lord's message to the Body of Christ. The book of Ezekiel chapters thirty-three and thirty-four are in sequence, giving us a preview and the progression of the events that was mentioned earlier, as it was with John the Baptist. This therefore means as soon as this messenger appears, the Lord will suddenly come to fulfil this prophecy:

Ezekiel 34:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ 'For thus says the Lord GOD: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy

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and dark day. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.

It is the Lord who will bring back the captivity of His people by the hand of His prophet as it was in the days of Moses. This is the watchman who the Lord appointed through the words of the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 6:8-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

⁹And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' ¹⁰"Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed."

¹¹Then I said, "Lord, how long?"

And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate, ¹²The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. ¹³But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump."

This messenger will have a good understanding of the Holy Scriptures. As you can see here, the commission to Isaiah is from when the Lord gave the call to repentance until when the whole land will be utterly desolate at the End of Age. The Lord has promised to consume the whole land and make it desolate. This will come to past after the words of this messenger. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Mark 13:32-37 New King James Version (NKJV)

³²"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵Watch therefore, for you do not

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know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

The doorkeeper of the Kingdom of God is watching out for the return of the Lord. It is not about the events we see in the news daily. People will continue today as they did yesterday. It is the knowledge of the truth that will save us from the calamities that will soon befall the earth.

John 15:7-11 New King James Version

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

The words of the Lord must be living in us, without which we cannot abide in the Lord. It all comes back to this word, “man does not live on bread alone but by every word of God.” We are to watch for this messenger who the Lord will send with information about what we should do at the appointed time.

What is of paramount importance to us today is to get ourselves ready by first acquiring the Spirit of God and grow in the knowledge of the truth because at the appearance of this messenger, it will require great faith to be able to obey the instructions of the Lord.