

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXIX

June 2, 2019

No. 22

Strange Messengers

(Jerry Fite)

The Book of Hebrews opens with, “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...*” (Hebrews 1:1). The Christian of Jewish descent would identify with God who revealed Himself to the Hebrew people in “*time past.*” At various times, God made known His Will for His people through “*the prophets.*” The prophet is one who “*speaks forth*” for God. In Scripture, the prophet is speaking forth the “*very words of God.*” When God chose Jeremiah to be His prophet, He touched the mouth of Jeremiah and said, “*Behold, I have put my words in your mouth*” (Jeremiah 1:9).

God not only spoke at various times, but He spoke in various ways. God convincingly “*answered by fire*” when His prophet Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal regarding the True God (1 Kings 18:24, 38-39). He spoke through Daniel regarding the future of worldly kingdoms by interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream (Daniel 2:28-30). He later manifested to King Darius Daniel’s innocence by delivering Daniel from the miraculously closed mouths of hungry lions (Daniel 6:21).

Tomorrow, the Lord willing, our Vacation Bible School will engage the mind with consequent amazement over the various ways God revealed Himself in time past.

What would you think if you were out walking in the country and came upon an isolated burning bush? Your amazement would no doubt increase as you also observed that it was not burning into ashes. Moses had this experience when God appeared to him through God’s angel in a flame of fire from the burning bush (Exodus 3:2).

As children, we learn the sound that a donkey makes. We say “hee- haw” when pointing to the donkey in a picture book, and then say “quack, quack” when our finger moves to the picture of the duck. We know donkeys can be stubborn at times and refuse to move. But think of the surprise Balaam had when his kneeling donkey replied to Balaam’s beating him with “*What have I done unto thee that thou hast smitten me these three times?*” (Numbers 22:28). What a shock to learn that your talking donkey could also see invisible angels!

The enemies of God’s people experienced God’s various

ways of revealing Himself in the past. The Philistine’s “*fish god,*” Dagon did not look very “*god like*” when his image is reduced to a stump with head and hands severed in his own temple (1 Samuel 5:4). Was there a message from God being communicated when the Philistines brought the stolen “*ark of the God of Israel*” and placed it in the house of the “*fish god*”? Was there a message from God to the king of Babylon when the king, in the company of a thousand revelers, saw the fingers of a man writing words on the wall (Daniel 5)? Strange messengers indeed!

Peter, an apostle of Christ was perplexed as to the meaning of a vision he saw around midday. Praying on the roof of a house, Peter became hungry and saw a vision from God. It was a sheet full of unclean animals. As a Jew, he did not eat such animals. He would learn from God that God’s message that day pointed to something more important than unclean animals.

We invite all to join us this week in a daily study of “*strange messengers.*” Come learn what God’s message was and is for us today in Christ, God’s final spokesman for God!