

## The Message

by David Orton

<http://lifemessenger.org/the-message/>

### God in real-time history

Our message is the good news that God in Christ conquered Satan, sin, and death during the reigns of Caesars Augustus and Tiberius—in real-time history.

This is the stuff of global revolution—the transformation of this time-space world.

### Certainty and hope

Our message, despite the historic failure of humanity, including the church, is one of certainty and hope.

God's plan for the planet is more than adequate for its crisis.

[Read: What is the Gospel?](#)

### Every ideology proven deceptive

As the infinite creator-God, he has invaded this time-space world to deliver humankind from its folly. Every pretender to God's throne, every ideology founded in man's pretensions to godhood, has proven to be deceptive.

### Living in the moral debris of the 20<sup>th</sup> century experiment

21st century Western man is now living in the moral debris of the 20th century experiment—the experiment of messianic statism – Marxist, Fascist, and now secular Humanist – with its rejection of God in Christ as the genius of the Western cultural heritage.

Spiritually, morally, and financially bankrupt the West has now exhausted its options.

### God is not silent

Nevertheless, God has spoken and is not silent.

He has spoken to us by his Word, *incarnate* in the Son (Jn 1:1-5; Heb 1:1-3) and *inscripturate* in the Bible (2 Tim 3:16); declaring that God has come to earth in human form, casting light on humankind's significance in the universe—showing himself as its reason for *being* (ontology) and its certainty for *knowing* (epistemology).

### Nihilism and despair put to flight

In the God-man – Jesus Christ – the cosmos is now bathed in glorious light. The One who *is* light has dispelled our pagan darkness—nihilism and despair are put to flight (Mtt 14:15-16).

Christ, having fulfilled what man had failed to do, lived a sinless life of perfect obedience to the Father (Heb 2:10; 5:8-9) and died a vicarious death (Is 53:4-6,8b,10a,11,12b; Gal 3:13; 2 Cor 5:21), reconciling humankind to God (Rom 3:23-26), and thus restoring it to his image as mature sons (gender neutral; Rom 8:29) and to its destiny as God's vice-regent over the earth (Gen 1:28; Ps 8; 110; Mtt 28:18-20).

### God has a purpose for history

God has a purpose for history and for nations—for their governance, prosperity, and peace (Is 2:1-4; Eph 1:10; Mtt 28:18-20; Acts 17:22-31; Rev 21:1-4; 22:1-5).

The biblical revelation announces that in this climax of history the earth will discover peace and prosperity in Christ and his Gospel.

It also declares that the sons of God, the community of Christ, will come to maturity and all creation will be restored and released from its bondage (Jer 24:7; Eph 4:13; Rom 8:21; Mat 17:11; Rev 21:3).

[Read: What on Earth is God Doing?](#)

### **Prophetically current word for church and culture**

We are dedicated to carrying a prophetically current word to church and culture.

Jesus declared, ‘A man shall not live on bread alone, but on *every word that proceeds* out of the mouth of God.’” (Matt 4:4).

While God has spoken consummately through his Son (Heb 1:1; Jn 1:1-5), and his enscripturated Word, the Bible (2 Tim 3:16), he continues to speak a *proceeding* word to each generation—“line upon line, precept upon precept ... here a little, there a little” (Isa 28:9-13), progressively illuminating truth from the Scriptures and restoring it to the experience of the church.

While the prophetically current word for Luther’s generation was justification by faith, for the Anabaptist’s baptism, for Wesley’s holiness, for this generation it is the *maturation of Christ’s body*, the church (covenant community; Eph 4:11-16), and the *rule of Christ’s kingdom* (government; Mtt 4:23 ) over all spheres of life (Eph 3:10; Mtt 28:18-20).

### **God’s government has come to earth**

Our core message is the good news (Gospel) that God's government (Kingdom) has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ (Mtt 3:2; 4:23; 24:14).

As the God-man he is the only one able to reconcile humanity and set-to-rights all that is wrong with the world.

### **God’s government is cosmic**

This has cosmic implications. Through Christ’s first coming the whole of creation is now in the process of renovation – from the personal to the societal to the environmental – bringing a beauty and harmony that will ultimately surpass earth’s original paradisiacal state (Rom 5:12-20; Rev 22:1-2). In fact, in Christ, “the new heavens and the new earth” have already come (Rev 21:1).

### **God’s government through the Gospel**

Our message declares that the Lord Jesus Christ, having been raised from the dead as the beginning of a new humanity, ascended to God the Father and to the throne of the universe, from which he is now actively subduing the earth through his body, the church, as it proclaims the Gospel.

### **God’s government through a reformed and reconfigured church**

Consequently, this worldwide church will be gradually reformed and reconfigured, emerging as an alternate society, functioning as one post-denominational *ecclesia* of a city, and thus, becoming the prime agent of God’s government – city-by-city – around the globe (Eph 3:10; 4:1-16).

[Read: A Statement Concerning the City Church](#)

Christ is seated in heaven, actively governing the universe, until all his enemies have been subdued (Ps 110; Mtt 22:41-46; Acts 2:34-35; 1 Cor 15:25; Eph 1:20-22; Heb 1:3; 2:8; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2). His government, therefore, is progressively

advancing and displacing every autonomous government until all history resounds with his victory (Is 9:7).

Christ will only return for a matured church and a transformed world.