

The New Testament

God's New Agreement With Mankind Through His Son Jesus the Messiah

A captivating, accurate new translation, with special, authoritative notes, for the last generation.

After 43 years of publishing the Great News about God's magnificent salvation in booklet and tract form, Ray W. Johnson, founder and President of Life Messengers felt strongly led by God to produce the Last Days New Testament. The translation and notes follow many years of extensive study, research, and collaboration with imminent Bible scholars about the end times and many other subjects. Mr. Johnson is presently completing work on the prophets of the Old Testament, which will also, soon be available.

**The New Testament
from
The Last Days Bible**

**Copyright © 1999 by Life Messengers
All rights reserved**

*The book of Matthew © 1994 has been separately published by Life Messengers.
Reprinted by permission.*

It is the intent and desire of the publishers of this vibrant new translation of the Holy Scriptures that everyone feel free to quote or reprint from it without the necessity of obtaining prior written permission. Therefore, permission is hereby granted to one and all to quote or reprint up to three hundred (300) verses from The Last Days Bible, together with footnotes, if desired. Footnotes may also be quoted apart from the Scripture text, if desired. However, the 300 verses and footnotes must comprise less than 25% of an entire book of the Bible, and must amount to less than 25% of the book or other work in which they are quoted. Permission is also granted to quote up to 25% of any one of the appendixes.

A proper line of copyright credit must appear on the title or copyright page of any work quoting from The Last Days Bible, as follows:

*Scriptures quoted from The Last Days Bible, Copyright © 1999 by Life Messengers,
Seattle, Washington 98111-1967. Used by permission.*

In less formal documents such as Sunday School and youth materials, church bulletins, newsletters, reports, posters, transparencies, electronic bulletin boards, magazine articles, and all similar media, the letters LDB at the end of each quote will be sufficient.

Quotations of more than 300 verses, or other permission requests, must be directed to and approved in writing by Life Messengers before use.

Published by:
Life Messengers
P.O. Box 1967
Seattle, WA 98111-1967

Distributed by Spring Arbor, Riverside, and
other Christian book distributors, and avail-
able through your local Christian bookstore or
by calling **Books, Etc.**, at **(1-800) 917-BOOK**

Life Messengers is a bona fide Christian non-profit organization, and all profits from sales, and all moneys received otherwise, are used in propagating the true, thrilling, and urgent message of God to mankind by various ways and means. God's message to mankind (the Bible) is by far the greatest treasure on Earth. It is an inexhaustible mine of knowledge, to be explored for the purpose of making one rich in all that really matters. Life, or death, are just ahead. Choose life!

Printed in U.S.A.

These Are The Facts

(To be read—Very Important!)

Fact one: The end of this age is fast approaching! Jesus said in Mark 13:32 that no one will know the day or the hour when He will return with power and great glory. Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul said that Jesus' second coming will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night. And truly, the world seems to be altogether in the dark about end-time events. But Paul informs us in the 5th chapter of 1 Thessalonians that true Christians will not be in the dark about such matters.

There are many prophecies thruout the Bible that tell us quite clearly what to expect as the end approaches. You will find informative notes of explanation of these prophecies as you read this remarkable Book. True, as the Lord said, no one will know the day or the hour when He will return, but He did not say we would not know the approximate times of these various end time events, especially as they begin to unfold.

That the end is upon us is also clear from the periods of time God gave Daniel. Daniel was informed that the understanding of those periods would not be given until the time of the end. Daniel 12:4,8-9. And only recently has God revealed to His servants the actual meanings of those periods of time given Daniel! See Appendix 244, page 498, and Appendix 245, page 505.

But Bible prophecy is not our main concern in bringing this translation and the notes to you. Our main concern is that you will read what God has to say to you here on many subjects. For your own education you need to know what the Bible says. Our main concern is that you are ready to meet God—that you and those you love will live forever with Him, for sure.

Fact two: If the end is so near we need to be studying God's message to man as

never before. And the same goes for your whole family, friends, neighbors, and everyone. You hold in your hands a new translation of the New Testament. As fine as other translations are, we have felt the need for a new translation that flows freely, that grabs the attention and makes fascinating reading, that is absolutely correct in its translation, and that talks to us in today's way of speaking. God has a vital message for man, and it must be presented in the most correct, understandable, and interesting way possible. We believe God has given us just such a translation.

Fact three: Besides the notes you will find on prophecy, you will find many other notes. In fact, most of the notes are on subjects other than prophecy. But you will discover that most of these other notes pertain to Scriptures concerning our salvation. The reason for this is as follows:

About a year after beginning this translation, the editor of this project was awakened one morning about 3 o'clock—not sleepy awake, but wide awake. Then he heard a voice. He had never before heard God speak to him audibly, but this was definitely the voice of God. The message was, "Build an evangelistic center."

The man didn't want to wake his wife who was sleeping next to him, so he didn't reply to the Lord audibly, but in his thoughts he asked, "But Lord, are you really asking me, at 74 years of age, to build an evangelistic center?" There was no audible response this time, but in his thoughts came the message, "Build an evangelistic center into the translation you are working on."

So that's the reason you will find these footnotes and appendixes dealing mainly with the salvation of our soul. We believe the Lord has been with us in these writings, and we trust you

will accept them as from the Lord. There are warnings, words of encouragement, and words of explanation. We trust that these notes will help both you and yours to make sure of Heaven.

* * *

Some may feel we have emphasized the necessity of obedience to God too much in these notes. But it was because of our disobedience that Christ needed to suffer and die to save us! And to be saved we must repent (turn from all our sin and disobedience, and obey God) as well as trust in Jesus as our Savior. Otherwise we are not converted, not born again.

But it's the repentance message that's being watered down, explained away, and omitted in much of the preaching today. We are living in the last days, when a soft, comforting message is being demanded by an unregenerate audience. See 2 Timothy 4:3-4, page 371, and the footnotes there.

* * *

One person reviewing the manuscript contended that we have pointed out and repeated the commands and warnings too often. Well, that's because there are so many serious commands and warnings in the Scriptures—which have been almost totally ignored, softened, or explained away by the comforting preaching and teaching demanded by most congregations today. Again, see 2 Timothy 4:2-4, and the notes. But Christ didn't merely state these matters as suggestions. They all have very serious consequences if unheeded! Very Serious! See Hebrews 5:7-9.

There's been a majoring on the promises, while giving very little serious attention to Christ's many unconditional commands and warnings. We must be thoroughly awakened to wholeheartedly heed the commands and warnings, and take the necessary actions, before we can be participators in the glorious promises God has offered us!

Fact four: Some of the verses have been slightly expanded to more clearly bring out the meaning. We have not added to, or changed the meaning, we have simply sought to bring out the meaning more clearly. One of the Greek

scholars working on the translation wrote to another, whose work he was checking, "At some places you have a free-wheeling paraphrase. But you accurately express the Greek text in those places, so I didn't feel I should rein you in."

Here's an example, in Romans 12:2—

So don't blindly and obediently run with the pack and allow the world crowd to force you to bow to their low standards. Instead, you must allow God to continually transform you by the renewing of your mind, so you may be able to examine and choose what is good, acceptable, and altogether pleasing to Him.

Another example is Galatians 5:17-18—

Because all selfish desires, and all sensual appetites and desires you are tempted to satisfy in a wrongful way are in violent opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit for you. And the desires of the Holy Spirit for you are contrary to the wrongful desires that tempt you. There's a constant war going on inside each of us. The Holy Spirit is waging war against our selfishness and against our temptations to satisfy our sensual appetites and desires in a wrongful way, in order to keep us from the wrong we are tempted to do.

So then, if you allow yourselves to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you are free from any need to put yourselves under the restraints and control of the Law of Moses.

A third example is Revelation 20:6—

Those who will be raised back to life in the first raising of the dead will be extravagantly blessed by God and extremely happy, far beyond anything anyone can presently imagine. But only those who have sincerely dedicated themselves to live holy lives for God will be included. The second death will have no power over them. But even more than that, they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Christ a thousand years.

However, most of the translation is as close to a word for word translation as possible—as close as we could get with a free-flowing translation in today's way of speaking.

Fact five: We have changed a few of the words to more modern terms. For instance: *masters* has been changed to *employers*; *slaves*, to *employees*. We believe you can see the wisdom

in this. Also, we have changed *brothers to brothers and sisters*. There are other places where the masculine has been changed to a neuter form, but we have done this only when we felt it was the thing to do. Pronouns referring to God have always been kept in the masculine. As the Apostle Paul said, **I conform myself to everyone in every possible way so that by every means possible I may save some of them.**

1 Corinthians 9:22.

Fact six: The Greek grammar of the original text has been most carefully observed. For instance, in John 19:12 we translated the middle portion, **But the Jews kept shouting:** The reason: The word *shouting* is in the imperfect tense, which indicates repeated shouting. Such fine distinctions have been made thruout the text.

Fact seven: The Greek text from which we have made this translation is the Textus Receptus, commonly called the Received Text. It is called the Received Text because this was the Greek text accepted by scholars hundreds of years ago as the correct Greek text. This was the Greek text from which the King James translation was made.

In recent years claims have been made that older texts have been discovered which are more reliable. We do not agree with the reliability of these supposedly older texts. For a full and complete explanation regarding the reliability of the Received Text, we encourage you to read the book entitled *The Identity of The New Testament Text*, by Wilbur N. Pickering, published by Thomas Nelson Publishers. Another very informative book on the subject is *Unholy Hands On The Bible*, by John W. Burgon.

These supposedly older texts (from Egypt) omit whole verses, parts of verses and even entire sections that are found in the Received Text. There are hundreds upon hundreds of differences in those texts when compared with the Received Text. There are hundreds of deletions, some additions, and many, many changes in the grammar of many words. To check this out yourself we suggest that you go to your Christian bookstore and purchase or inspect a copy of THE

INTERLINEAR NEW TESTAMENT, by George Berry, published by Zondervan Publishing House. In this book you have the Greek, and then the English below each Greek word. But the main thing we encourage you to observe there is the listings at the bottom of each page in that New Testament of the differences there are in the other Greek texts when compared with the Received Text. The INTERLINEAR NEW TESTAMENT by George Berry is the Received Text as to the Greek that's published there.

Many of these differences in the Greek versions are not all that important. On the other hand, there are many that are very important. For instance, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, the word *all* is omitted. This would indicate that we do not become *altogether new* in Christ. Some take this to mean that we do not need to make *a full surrender* of our lives to the Lord. But Paul's teachings in Ephesians 2:10, and 4:21-24 certainly indicate that 2 Corinthians 5:17 in the Received Text is correct. Christ also taught many times that it was all, or nothing. See the note on 2 Corinthians 5:17.

In 1 Timothy 6:5, the last part of the verse, **Withdraw yourself from such people**, has been omitted. In Luke 4:18 the words, **to heal the brokenhearted**, have been omitted. In the Lord's prayer recorded in Luke 11, in v 2 the words **our and who is in heaven and May your will be done on Earth, just as it is in heaven** are all omitted. In v 4, the words **but rescue us from the evil one** have been omitted. These are just a very few of the many, many omissions. And most of the recent translations of the New Testament have been made from these so-called older texts.

Notice also how they have changed Revelation 13:10 and 22:14.

The overwhelming majority of the approximately 5,000 complete and partial ancient Greek manuscripts of the New Testament agree with the Received Text.

Fact eight: We wouldn't call this fact spiritual, but we feel it should be included. Most of you have read, or tried to read, paragraphs from English printings of several hundred

years ago. It makes us moderns laugh at the way they spelled some of our words in those days. Well, we still have some very strange spellings for a good number of our words. There is no reason why they should not be upgraded. To mention just a few, the word thorough should be changed to *thoro*, although to *altho*, bought to *bot*, would to *wud*, thought to *thot*, etc. These are just a very few of the many words that could be improved, shortened and made easier to read by beginners, as well as by the rest of us.

In other words, we need to eliminate the absolutely unnecessary "ough's" in the written English language. We have decided that in this translation of God's Word we would upgrade just two of these words thruout. Those are the words through to *thru* and throughout to *thruout*.

At first you may cringe at such changes. But why? In all the newer translations of the Bible, the word Saviour has been changed to *Savior*. At first, some objected, but no longer. Now the new spelling seems very sensible to all. The same should be true in regard to other improvements of our written words.

On the economic side, someone has said, "Just think how much paper, ink, and labor in writing, printing, and reading could be saved by shortening and simplifying the spelling of many of our English words."

Fact nine: Twelve Greek scholars have given critical guidance in the forming of this translation, as well as several theologians; and several English purists gave counsel in regard to style and grammar. Most of the Greek scholars, representing various denominations, teach, or did teach, Greek, in a Christian university, seminary, or Bible school.

We are indeed grateful for all the work that all these fine people of God have put into this endeavor.

Fact ten: No effort whatever has been made to please any person or persons, any denomination or denominations. Our only concern has been to please the Lord by presenting a most accurate and invigorating translation, and to present notes that will be both helpful, chal-

lenging, and true. May God be honored in all the results from the publication and dissemination of this translation of His Word.

Fact eleven: It had been our intention to give no credits in the notes. That policy was later changed, but it has been next to impossible to now give proper credit to all. The Lord knows the part each has played, and may He reward each accordingly with eternal rewards, as most from whom we quote are now with Him.

Fact twelve: The producer and publisher of this version of the Bible is **Life Messengers**, the organization founded in 1944, that produced and published in great quantities such outstanding witnessing booklets as *Here's How — Destined for Greatness — Have You Been Brainwashed?* — and many others. Over 66 million copies of *Here's How* alone were printed and distributed in over 50 languages in scores of nations.

22 years in the making, including eight years of prophecy study, with the Old Testament to follow, **Life Messengers** is still committed to the admonition at the end of the booklet *Here's How*: "There is so much that God wants every person to know, both concerning this life and that which is beyond. Most of this important knowledge is obtained thru reading the Bible and thru fellowship with God in prayer."

Fact thirteen: How can you get to Heaven—for sure? You will find the answer as you read thru this translation of the New Testament. But we have presented a summary of the answer for you in Appendix 247, page 520, entitled *The Amazing Story of God*. As you find the very help you need as you read this story, we trust you will share *The Amazing Story* with many!

God's main reasons for inspiring His servants to write The New Testament were to bring honor to His name and to bring us to be with Himself forever. So be it!

The Locations of Some of The Prophetic Scriptures

With Explanatory Notes

	Page
1. A fearful warning. Matthew 7:21-27	24
2. Jesus' prophecy about the last days. Matthew 24:1-51	53
3. Five wise and five foolish girls. Matthew 25:1-13	60
4. Even Christs' followers will be judged. Matthew 25:14-30	61
5. The judgment of the nations. Matthew 25:31-46	62
6. What it will cost you to follow Jesus—and gain Heaven. Mark 8:34-38	85
7. Which people will be rich in Heaven? Luke 16:1-13	141
8. Jesus' prophecy about the last days. Mark 13:1-37	96
9. Jesus will reign as King over Israel and all of Earth. Luke 1:26-33	106
10. The fate of the faithful and unfaithful servants of Christ. Luke 12:35-48	132
11. Jesus again explains the cost of gaining Heaven. Luke 13:22-30	135
12. How you will recognize the kingdom of God when it comes to Earth. Luke 17:20-37	143
13. How to pray effectively, both now and when the end comes. Luke 18:1-8	145
14. Rewards and judgments for Christ's servants. Luke 19:11-27	148
15. There will be no marriages in Heaven. Luke 20:27-40	151
16. Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem and His second coming. Luke 21:5-36	151
17. The resurrection and the judgment. John 5:24-29	172
18. Another resurrection prophecy. John 6:37-40	175
19. What you do with Jesus' message will determine your destiny. John 12:47-48	187
20. A promised place in Heaven. John 14:1-3	189
21. Angels prophesied the second coming of Jesus. Acts 1:9-11	203
22. The great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit prophesied. Acts 2:17-21	205
23. The labor of all servants of Christ will be judged. 1 Corinthians 3:1-23	271
24. Those who have been faithful followers of Christ will rule over Earth together with Him when He returns. Daniel 7:18, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:12	276
25. A list of those who will not enter into Heaven. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10	276
Revelation 21:8	462
26. After Christ has successfully subdued Earth as King of kings, He will then turn everything over to the Father, and He Himself will be in subjection to the Father. 1 Corinthians 15:22-28	289
27. When those who have faithfully followed and obeyed Christ on Earth are raised from the dead, they will be given glorified bodies like the glorified body of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:35-58	289
28. Our present bodies decay, but we are told here about the new bodies God is preparing for us that will be eternal. 2 Corinthians 5:1-11	297
29. You will definitely reap whatever you have sown. Galatians 6:7-9	317
30. The dead will rise up to live again! Who will be included? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	346
31. When will the dead rise back to life? What will happen? 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	347
Matthew 24:29-31	57
32. Great promises and warnings. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-12	351
33. The astounding happenings that are predicted to occur just before Christ's return. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	353
34. The horrendous apostasy of the last days. 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 4:1-5	369 and 371
35. God's judgment is sure to come. 2 Peter 3:1-14	414
36. There are explanatory notes on the prophetic statements thruout the book of The Revelation, beginning with page	433
37. A Brief Overview of Things To Come. Appendix 244	498
38. You will find God's Prophesied Timetable For The End. Appendix 245	505

Table of Contents

Matthew	13
Mark	73
Luke	105
John	163
Acts	203
Romans	243
1 Corinthians	269
2 Corinthians	293
Galatians	309
Ephesians	319
Philippians	329
Colossians	335
1 Thessalonians	343
2 Thessalonians	351
1 Timothy	357
2 Timothy	367
Titus	373
Philemon	376
Hebrews	377
James	395
1 Peter	401
2 Peter	411
1 John	417
2 John	427
3 John	428
Jude	429
Revelation	433
Appendixes	465
A Brief Overview Of Things To Come	498
God's Propheted Timetable For The End	505
Just Who Is Jesus Christ?	512
The Amazing Story Of God	520

A Beginning Word

Jesus of Nazareth is by far the greatest Man the world has ever known. And it's no wonder He stood out so brilliantly, because He proved so conclusively, in many ways, that He was indeed Earth's rightful King, the majestic Creator God! Although His public ministry lasted only three and one-half years in an obscure corner of the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago, His profound influence world-wide is still without comparison. No life ever lived was more significant, no death and its results more meaningful.

Many hundreds of years after the creation of the world, God inspired dedicated men to write what we now call the Holy Bible. It was written by many authors over a period of some 1,500 years. The Bible is divided into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament consists of the God-inspired writings of Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel, and many other prophets. After the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension back to Heaven of Jesus Christ—the promised Messiah of the Old Testament—Jesus' close followers were inspired to write the section we call the New Testament.

The New Testament tells the story of Jesus the Messiah, His instructions, promises, and warnings to His followers, the early days of His Church, and what we can expect to see happen on Earth in the last days of this age just prior to His triumphant return.

You hold in your hands a very special new translation of The New Testament for these end time days, with special notes to clearly point out what God has actually done for you, and what He now expects of you if you are to escape His judgment and live forever in total fulfillment with Him.

Very Special **NOTICE**

If this is your first reading of the Bible, you are doing well by reading the New Testament section first. As you no doubt know, the New Testament is the last one-quarter of the Bible, and it begins with the birth of Jesus Christ.

Also, there's a best way to read the New Testament when reading it for the first time. The first four books were written by four men who were on the scene and were well acquainted with what Jesus claimed, said, and did. It's great that we have these four different accounts of His life, but from experience we've discovered that it gets rather heavy, reading all four of these accounts one after the other, as there's a good deal of repetition. We suggest that for your first reading you skip the first two books, and begin with Luke, the third one. The fourth book, John, brings in different material, so you won't have the repetition.

You will indeed want to read Matthew and Mark, the first two books, but do that later. In fact, you should read the New Testament thru at least twice before reading the Old Testament. So you could read Matthew's account when you read the New Testament a second time.

Another reason for reading Luke first, is that Luke gives a fuller account of the birth and early childhood of Jesus than the other writers. But even before you read Luke you may wish to turn to page 520 and read *The Amazing Story of God* as your introduction to your totally fulfilling everlasting life with Him.

You are about to read the most awesome story ever told, concerning the greatest love and wisdom, the most astounding promises, the most dire warnings, and the most profound prophetic utterances, all brought to us by the greatest Man who ever lived, together with pronouncements inspired by Him and brought to us by His followers after He had left Earth.

You have in your hands a copy of the world's all-time best seller and most loved book. May the truths presented here result in great inspiration and salvation for you and yours, and in your attaining the highest plane of happiness and fulfillment possible, both in this life and for all eternity. God Bless!

