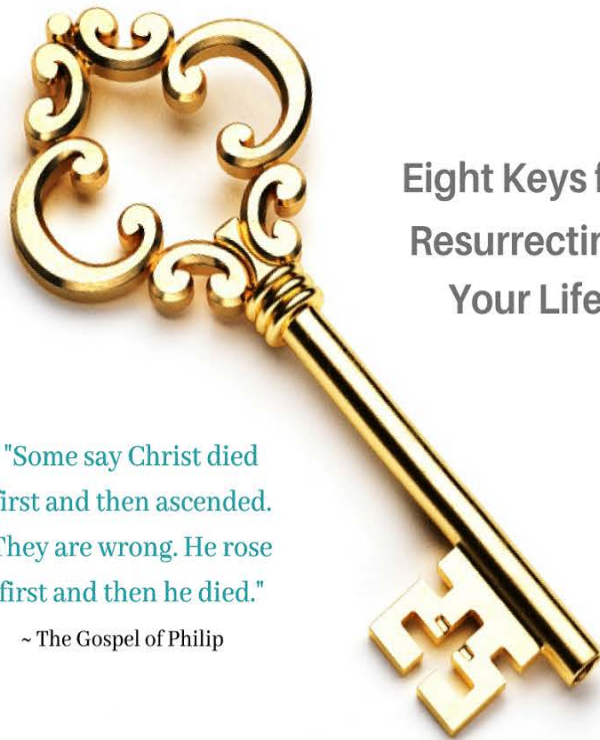


The Messenger



**Eight Keys for
Resurrecting
Your Life**

"Some say Christ died
first and then ascended.
They are wrong. He rose
first and then he died."

~ The Gospel of Philip

Rev. Mialena Zachary, M.Msc., CRMT

First Reader Reactions to “The Messenger”

“This project was divinely inspired. It’s such a labor of love. The way the story format is themed and laid out in an integrated way, I love how it explains in a way that is spiritual yet palatable and easy to digest that allows for inherent worthiness and dignity, and that even non-Christians are children of humanity.”

~ Jessica Sharp, TRT, RMT

“I appreciate the point of view, the shifting of the traditional view in a way that amplifies the mystery and purpose in terms of bringing out the meaning so that the reader not only reads it and hears it, but absorbs it and feels it. There is a gentle and loving energy that emanates from this work. Not only were my eyes opened to a deeper truth; my heart was opened to embrace a more expanded experience of love.”

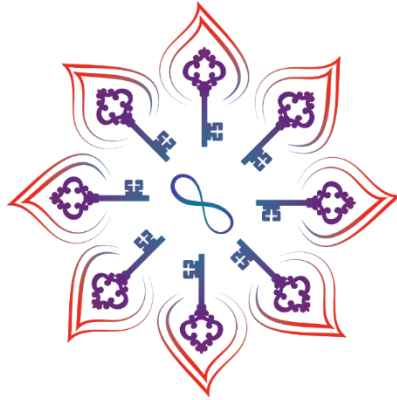
~ Kimberly Wohlford, MRM, M.A.Comm.

“My first reaction was, *‘Oh, that’s a little bit different than what I’ve perceived before’*. But I read it again, questioning my old way of understanding. A few things I knew; others I haven’t wrapped my head around yet, but so many aspects of this ancient story make so much more sense now. Just recognizing the humanness in everybody; that is the message.”

~ Carol J. Poulson, M.Psych.

The Messenger

A Reimagined Story Based on Ancient Texts



Rev. Mialena Zachary, M.Msc., CRMT

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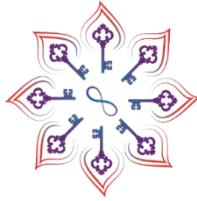


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AUTHOR'S NOTES

***“Lady Magdalene ... singing to the passing river ...
we may wonder where we are ... for we have wandered far...”***

~ Lyrics from *Serenade: Lady Magdalene* by Neil Diamond © Sony/ATV Music

Imagine you've just had an amazing, life-altering adventure. You've seen incredible sights and had unforgettable experiences. Now that you're back home, who is the first person you're going to tell about your trip? Your best friend, right?

There is no irrefutable proof regarding the nature of the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and I chose not to explore popular theories here. However, I do believe that they were close and dear friends; and that they embodied the necessary balance of sacred masculine and divine feminine energies.

“The Messenger” is their story as I imagine it.

Could Jesus have appeared to a complete stranger and shared his message? I guess so. Sure, why not? But, more to the point, why?

If it were you, and your amazing adventure, would your descriptions and insights be received more powerfully by someone who knew you before you left; someone close enough to truly appreciate how the journey had changed you?

I hope that **“The Messenger”** is a perspective-shifting experience for you and that applying what you read will indeed create change within, and for, you.

***“If you strip away the myth from the man;
you will see where we all soon will be.”***

~ Lyrics from *Jesus Christ Superstar: Heaven on Their Minds*,
by Andrew Lloyd Webber / Tim Rice © Universal Music

Like George Lucas, I believe in ‘The Force’: an intangible life source that is wrought by the free will of humans for the greater good of all; or only for the personal good of the individual. We choose which to use, and then experience the reactions to our actions.

Like Albert Einstein, I believe in the “God of Spinoza”: the Infinite Intelligence that resides not in books and buildings, but in the true nature of every human being; the Source of All That Is that lives in the mountains and in the woods; the rivers and the oceans. As a metaphysician, I believe in a neutral Higher Power; a God gathered from the essence of all faiths without endorsing any specific religion—and therefore belonging to All of Us.

Like Thomas Jefferson, I believe that the teachings Jesus shared are much more important than one man who never asked to be worshipped. Living in Charlottesville, Virginia, has allowed me to explore his home, Monticello, as well as The Jefferson Library in which I discovered copies of *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*—popularly known as the ‘Jefferson Bible’.

200 years ago, Jefferson, who disdained anything that he perceived as “contrary to reason”, endeavored to reduce 2,000-year-old religious texts to their core message. Using a razor to cut passages from six copies of the New Testament—Greek, Latin, two in French, and two in English—he rearranged, then pasted together, his selected verses. The ‘Jefferson Bible’ focuses on Jesus’ moral teachings, organized by topic, and is one of my inspirations for creating this book.

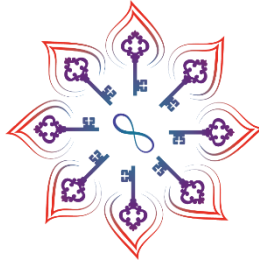
In researching “[The Messenger](#)”, I have studied, meditated on, and interpreted through personal exegesis over fifteen hundred scriptures and sayings from nine different Christian bibles, twelve texts from the Nag Hammadi codices, seventeen translations of the Tao Te Ching, and three translations of the Bhagavad Gita.

While incorporating so many differing interpretations of these ancient texts into my story, I have deliberately paraphrased each passage included in “[The Messenger](#)” in order to respect any copyrighted materials which inspired this manuscript. In most cases, I have gone so far as to combine several translations into one paragraph or even a single sentence. Every paraphrase used in this story has been attributed to the original source and cited in the reference section for each chapter.

Finally, once you reach the end, I encourage you to read “[The Messenger](#)” again with the keys in mind, and then read it a few more times, and invite other people to read it with you. See what shifts; what happens; and what opens up in your life.

Each morning, I make a decision about how I want my day to go. I count my blessings. I seek out things that make me feel good. I try to make someone smile. I pray, because what I want for myself, I also want for everyone else: love; peace of mind; and, above all else, joy.

Reverend Mialena



*This is The Way.
It is revealed to you,
hidden not in the darkness of the night,
but in a perfect day and a holy light...*

~ The Gospel of Philip: Eternal Light

THE WATER

1 Nothing in the world is as soft and yielding as water; yet nothing in
2 the world can surpass it for overcoming the hard and inflexible.
3 Nothing is more patient than living water.¹

4 In the territory of Yehuda, along the east bank in Bethabara,²
5 people from Yerushalayim and other parts of the country around the
6 Jordan were going to Yohanan the Immerser. They were baptized^a in
7 the river by him.³

8 Yohanan told them, “Flee from the coming wrath^b.⁴ Repent.
9 Confess your sins. The Kingdom of God is near.⁵ I will pour clean water
10 on you, and you shall be clean.⁶ Though I baptize in water, I have seen
11 in a vision one who comes after me who will baptize in the fire of the
12 Spirit.⁷ Not for removal of dirt from the body, but for the examination
13 of your conscience through anointed^c rebirth.”⁸

^a **Baptized:** From the Greek word ‘*baptismos*’ meaning ceremonial washing. Although ritual baths for purification were common in the city of Jerusalem, John the Baptist is believed to have been a member of a sect of Jews who practiced immersion for the purpose of repentance.

^b **Wrath:** The Apocalyptic beliefs of the time taught that “*the end of things*” would be marked by tremendous

catastrophes. Followers of John the Baptist were to prepare themselves and watch for the signs of God’s coming judgement.

^c **Anointed:** Literally, rubbed with oil. To anoint is to confer divine authority through ceremony; or to choose for a position of service. With reference to bible prophesy, the Hebrew word ‘*messiah*’ and the Greek translation ‘*kristos*’ both mean “*anointed one*”.

14 In the course of those days, there came a man named Yeshua ben
 15 Yosef; he being an *architekton*^d from Galil. Yohanan also immersed him
 16 in the Jordan.⁹

17 As the water closed over his head, he thought, ‘*I am lost*’.¹⁰ Yeshua
 18 went into a great darkness and the foundations of the void shook.¹¹
 19 Hurlled into the depths, into the very heart of the churning water,
 20 billowing currents swept over him.¹² It seemed as if the sun became
 21 still and the moon stood motionless.¹³

22 His feet began to slip, and he could find no solid ground.¹⁴ He
 23 entered the place of atonement^e; which is imprisoned in the body.¹⁵
 24 Fire came down from the unknown and consumed him.¹⁶ Khaos^f
 25 questioned Yeshua’s soul, “How have you come, slayer of men? Where
 26 are you going, wanderer of space?¹⁷ The truth of everyone’s deeds shall
 27 be made manifest; the fire proves the quality of each person’s heart.”¹⁸

28 The power of Khaos took seven forms: The first form was duplicity,
 29 the second was desire, the third was ignorance, the fourth was
 30 preconception, the fifth was the weakness of the flesh, the sixth was
 31 foolish wisdom, and the seventh was wrath.¹⁹

32 Yeshua remained utterly silent, though his anguish increased.²⁰ He

^d **Architekton:** From the Greek meaning a master builder, i.e., ‘*architect*’. Although Jesus is usually referred to as a carpenter, his skillset was more likely building construction and stone masonry. ‘*Tekton*’ in the Old Testament denotes a type of artisan.

^e **Atonement:** From the Latin ‘*ad unamentum*’ (“*at oneness*”), meaning to reconcile, reunite, or restore; to cause to coexist in harmony. In Christianity, this is achieved through

penance, whereas metaphysically, atonement is seeking insight that leads to taking responsibility and making personal changes.

^f **Khaos:** The first creation in Greek mythology, a formless matter that existed before the creation of the Cosmos. The modern word ‘chaos’ is defined as complete confusion, or conditions so unpredictable as to seem random, or disordered conditions.

33 felt overcome, as though his heart were aflame, and the more he
 34 examined his thoughts, the more it burned²¹ until at last he
 35 comprehended that in the fire, he was refined like silver; through the
 36 fire he was purified like gold.²²

37 Khaos accused him, “I did not see you falling, but now I see you
 38 ascending.”²³

39 His soul answered, “I am released from the shackles of oblivion
 40 which is transient.”²⁴

41 After the fire, there came the sound of a gentle whisper.²⁵ It called
 42 his name twice.²⁶ *‘Let whoever hears arise from deep sleep.’*²⁷

43 “Who has called to me?” Yeshua thought.²⁸

44 *‘I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’*²⁹ *Blessings on you*
 45 *who were before you came into being.*³⁰ *You are one of my children,*
 46 *whom I love.*³¹ *You bring me great joy.’*³²

47 “From whence has my rescue come?”³³

48 *‘I am the father and I am the mother. I am with you always.’*³⁴ *I am*
 49 *the All. From me all have come forth, and to me all have reached.*³⁵ *I am*
 50 *the light dwelling in Light; I am the perfect forethought of creation.*³⁶ *I*
 51 *am the Mind dwelling in all minds. I am True Consciousness.*³⁷ *I am the*
 52 *Aleph and the Tav*^{g,38} *the Beginning and the End,*³⁹ *the First and the*
 53 *Last, the Origin and the Fulfillment.*⁴⁰ *I Am, I was, and I will be.’*⁴¹

54 “Have you delivered me from sinking into the mire?”⁴²

55 *‘Be not astonished at painful ordeals—which come upon you for*

^g **Aleph and Tav:** The first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The Old Testament of the Christian bible was written in Hebrew, whereas the New

Testament section of the bible was written in Greek. This phrase is usually represented in English as *‘Alpha and Omega’*.

56 *your testing—as though some strange thing were accidentally*
57 *happening to you,’*⁴³ the Voice Within answered. *‘Do not fear, for I have*
58 *redeemed you.’*⁴⁴ *I have swept away your mistakes like a cloud. I have*
59 *scattered your offenses like the morning mist.’*⁴⁵ *As distant as sunrise is*
60 *from sunset have I set aside your transgressions.’*⁴⁶

61 *‘Seven times shall you be cleansed’*⁴⁷*for though the worthy fall seven*
62 *times, they rise again’*⁴⁸ *and enter into the inner place behind the veil.’*⁴⁹
63 *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.’*⁵⁰ *I will*
64 *breathe within you and you will come to life again;’*⁵¹ *a new birth into a*
65 *living hope.’*⁵² *Arise; and remember.’*⁵³

66 To El-Ahāvah, a thousand years is as one day⁵⁴ and, for Yeshua, a
67 single moment was as eight months.⁵⁵ Upon coming out of the Jordan,
68 the heavens seemed to part.⁵⁶ He at once gasped; then cried out as
69 one in labor.⁵⁷

70 Every being in the Universe is an expression of The One. Spirit
71 connects all beings to their Source. Each springs into existence,
72 unconscious and perfect and free, before taking physical form and
73 becoming completed by circumstance.⁵⁸ Each has recognized the
74 Spirit as one’s essential nature but few have realized it.⁵⁹

75 Yeshua saw a dove flying overhead and again heard The Voice
76 Within.⁶⁰ *‘To anyone thirsting, I give freely from the fountain of living*
77 *waters.’*⁶¹ *Whosoever shall drink of the waters I give will not thirst for*
78 *eternity. Those waters I give shall become springs welling up within, a*
79 *source of everlasting life.’*⁶² *Seven times have I sealed your soul in*
80 *luminous water such that the fear of death might not prevail over you*
81 *from this time on.’*⁶³

82 In that moment, Eternal Spirit reawakened⁶⁴ in a humble mortal⁶⁵

83 and The Christ^h emerged out of the Jordan River with the fullness of
 84 the Kingdom of the Spirit.⁶⁶ His mother gave him birth, but it was his
 85 True Mother who gave him life⁶⁷ and that life was the Light of the All.⁶⁸
 86 Possessing humanity and divinity, he embraced both qualities.⁶⁹ The
 87 Spirit was within him to offer understanding, wisdom, and insight. He
 88 would be powerful, and he would know and honor the Source of
 89 Creation.⁷⁰

90 Sofia, the emanation of Divine Wisdom, impelled Yeshua to go into
 91 the wildernessⁱ.⁷¹

92 “Ever desiring, one sees only the manifestations. Freed from
 93 desire, one can see the mystery^j; and the mystery itself is the doorway
 94 to all understanding; for mystery and reality emerge from the same
 95 source.”⁷²

96 “If you went down into the water and, receiving nothing, came up
 97 and say, ‘I am christened,’ you have borrowed the name at interest.^k If
 98 you are only using the name, you must pay in kind. But if you were
 99 reborn of the Spirit, you have the name as a gift, and a gift you do not
 100 pay back. So it works when you have passed through mystery.”⁷³

^h **Christ:** Universal consciousness; an awareness of the higher self being part of the infinite whole. The enlightened self-realization of unified identity as God expressed through all and in all; and all life is the quintessence of The One.

ⁱ **The Wilderness:** The Judean desert east of Jerusalem. It can also be defined as an uninhabited or inhospitable region, a neglected area, or an isolated natural environment.

^j **Mystery:** From the Greek ‘*musterion*’, meaning hidden presence; a thing difficult to explain or as yet unknown. The word also refers to the practice of religious initiation.

^k **Borrow at Interest:** A financial term meaning to pay a certain percentage of the principal amount to the lender as compensation for the loan.