“The Wicked Messenger”

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**A wicked messenger.** Harm befalls a wicked messenger; A faithful courier brings healing. (Proverbs 13:17).

**There was a wicked messenger
From Eli he did come
With a mind that multiplied the smallest matter
When questioned who had sent for him
He answered with his thumb
For his tongue it could not speak, but only flatter

He stayed behind the assembly hall
It was there he made his bed
Oftentimes he could be seen returning
Until one day he just appeared
With a note in his hand which read
“The soles of my feet, I swear they’re burning”

Oh, the leaves began to fallin’
And the seas began to part
And the people that confronted him were many
And he was told but these few words
Which opened up his heart
“If ye cannot bring good news, then don’t bring any”**

Like clouds, wind—but no rain—is a trusty messenger to those who send him; He lifts his master’s spirits. (Prov. 25:13)

He who sends a message by a dullard will wear out legs, and must put up with lawlessness. (Prov. 26:6).

**A wicked messenger.** “How do you know,” David asked the young man who brought him the news, “that Saul and Jonathan are dead?” The young man who brought him the news answered, “I happened to be at Mount Gilboa, and I saw Saul leaning on his spear, and the chariots and horsemen closing in on him…” And David said, “Your blood be on your own head! Your own mouth testified against you when you said, ‘I put the L-rd’s anointed to death.” (2 Samuel 1:1-16)

But David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, “As the L-rd lives, who has rescued me from every trouble: The man who told me in Ziklag that Saul was dead thought he was bringing good news. But instead of rewarding him for the news, I seized and killed him…” (2 Sam 4:9-10).

**From Eli he did come.** See 1 Samuel 1-4: At Shiloh… Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the L-rd there… Eli said to Hannah, ‘How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Sober up!’ And Hannah replied, ‘Oh no, my lord! I am a very unhappy woman. I have drunk no wine or other strong drink, but have been pouring out my heart to the L-rd...’” (1 Samuel 1).

Now Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they paid no heed to the L-rd… When he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who performed tasks at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I get evil reports about you from the people on all hands. Don’t, my sons! It is no favorable report I hear the people of the L-rd spreading about you. If a man sins against a man, the L-rd may pardon him; but if a man offends against G-d, who can obtain pardon for him?” But they ignored their father’s plea; for the L-rd was resolved that they should die… (1 Samuel 2)

**For his tongue it could not speak, but only flatter.** Help, O L-rd! For the faithful are no more; the loyal have vanished from among men. Men speak lies to one another; their speech is smooth, they talk with duplicity. (Psalm 12:2-3).

A lying tongue hates those crushed by it; smooth speech throws one down (Proverbs 26:28).

He who reproves a man will in the end find more favor than he who flatters him. (Prov. 28:23).

…He [the wicked king from the South] will flatter with smooth words those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people devoted to their G-d will stand firm… (Daniel 11:32).

**The soles of my feet, I swear they’re burning.** “Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.” (Exodus 3:5)

The soles of their feet… glittered with the color of burnished copper… their appearances was like fiery coals, burning like torches. (Ezekiel 1:7, 13).

**And the seas began to part**. See Exodus 14:13-29, and: “Now the Jordan keeps flowing over its entire bed throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the bearers of the Ark reached the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark dipped into the water at its edge, the waters coming down from upstream piled up in a single heap a great way off, at Adam, the town next to Zarethan; and those flowing away downstream to the Sea of the Arabah (the Dead Sea) ran out completely. So the people crossed near Jericho. The priests who bore the Ark of the L-rd’s Covenant stood on dry land exactly in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed over on dry land, until the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan.” (Joshua 3:15-17)

**If ye cannot bring good news, then don’t bring any.** See 1 Kings 22:4-28: So the king of Israel gathered the prophets, about 400 men, and asked them, “Shall I march upon Ramoth-gilead for battle, or not?” “March,” they said, “and the L-rd will deliver it into Your Majesty’s hands.” Jehoshaphat [king of Judah] asked “Isn’t there another prophet of the L-rd here through whom we can inquire?” And the king of Israel answered, “There is one more man through whom we can inquire of the L-rd; but I hate him, because he never prophesies anything good for me, but only misfortune…”