

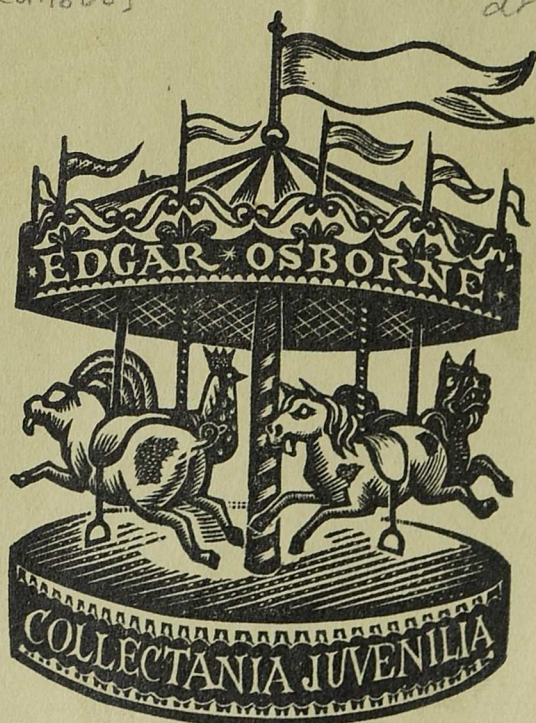
The Heavenly Messenger;  
or, the Child's Plain  
Pathway to Eternal Life

Printed and Sold by T. Green  
Long Lane West Smithfield C. 1780



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THE  
HEAVENLY  
Messenger,  
OR THE  
CHILD'S PLAIN  
PATH-WAY  
TO  
ETERNAL LIFE.



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LONDON :

Printed and Sold by T. EVANS, 79, Long-lane, West  
Smithfield.





THE  
HEAVENLY  
MESSENGER.

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IN the town of Tudbury, fifteen miles from Stafford, lived one Mr. James Worthy, a gentleman of a very good estate, and in great esteem for his great piety and charity, his whole delight being in the service of God, and doing good to his neighbours, especially those that were poor, none ever asked him that was truly needy, but he supplied their wants. Neither would he be severe to poor tenants, but on the contrary, he would often forgive them their rents, or help them in their necessities, so that they have been enabled many times to overcome their hardships and poverty, and to live well in the world; for which God blessed him in a wonderful manner, & made all prosper that was under him, insomuch that every person thought himself happy if they could get to live in any part of his estate, as if they were sure to thrive by his goodness.



God was pleased likewise to bless this worthy gentleman with as many sons as Jacob had, and he baptized them all with their names; but as the same God that gave can take away, so they all died in their infancy, excepting the younger named Benjamin, whose birth was the death of his mother, to the grief of his father.

His son Benjamin hearing him make this expression at the death of his brother Joseph, viz. "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." Benjamin, although but nine years of age, asked his father the meaning of these words, who being surprized at the question, and willing to perfectly satisfy him, said thus: My dear child, because thy brother being now dead, his body must return to dust, and his soul to God that made it, to live with him in glory everlasting, so that it is impossible for him to come to me any more; but it is certain that you and I, and all the world will be laid in the dust as he is, and our souls, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer will rest in everlasting glory; thus we shall go to him, but he not come to us.

Then said Benjamin, do all that die, father, go to heaven.

No, replied the father, none but the righteous, such as truly serve the Lord. Those that die in their sins are called the wicked, & they go to hell.

Then Benjamin sighed, and said, how must I serve the Lord to be saved.



My dear child, said the father, you must love him, keep his commandments, pray to him morning & evening to preserve you from temptation, read his holy scriptures, go constantly to church, and honour and obey your parents: This by God's grace, will bring you to everlasting happiness.

And is this all, said Benjamin, that I must do to gain heaven? Yes, said the father, they are the chief things. Then I don't fear, said the child,



but by the grace of God, to go there.---But father what place is heaven like? Says the father, heaven is a place of joy and felicity, where all righteous folks go when they depart this life! Where angels and arch-angels are continually praising God; where there is no pain, sorrow, trouble, or care.---O blessed place! said Benjamin, how I long to be there. Now, father, tell me what sin



and hell is? My dear, said the father, sin is disobeying parents, telling lies, swearing, stealing, cheating with many other vices displeasing to God; therefore my child, take Solomon's advice. ---"Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

O my God, said Benjamin, falling on his knees, I beseech thee to grant me thy grace, so to ingraft it in my heart, that I may always tread those paths which lead to eternal life, that I may live with my brothers in glory everlasting; I humbly beseech thee, O God, to afford thy infant servant some kind of assurance that thou dost hear me, and will at last bring my soul into those joys which the blessed are possessing in thine eternal kingdom. Having thus prayed, he fancied he heard a shrill voice pronounce these words---  
 "Go on, Benjamin, in the way thou art in, the Lord is with thee, and will shortly conduct thee to a blessed eternity, which thy brethern now enjoy."

As an example for youth, this child now abounded in grace when but nine years of age, that he seemed to be a chosen vessel of God. In the morning when he waked, he always used some pious ejaculations praising God that he had given him the light of another day, crying out with the holy David,---"My soul waiteth for thee O God.



Never would he go out of doors to school or else where, but he would beg God's protection; neither would he eat or drink without imploring God's blessing on it, and afterwards return thanks for the same. At night when he was pulling off his clothes to go to bed, he would call to mind the grave that he must one day lie down, in the bed clothes to be like the mould that was to cover him, the sheet to be his winding sheet, and sleep his death; when inclined to sleep he would say with the Psalmist, "I will lay me down and sleep in peace, for thou, O Lord makest me to dwell in safety. To thee, O Father of mercy do I commend my soul & body trusting in this night thy protection."

But on the 22d of August last, Benjamin being then ten years of age, he was taken ill of a fever, & languishing in the same till the Sunday following. During his sickness he applied himself wholly to prayer, meditations, &c. So he seemed as though he was in heaven whilst he was on earth; and often calling his weeping father to come to him, that he might kiss those precious lips, which had given such early & blessed instruction, or else, said he, I might have run a course of sin & gone to hell,

Often would he cry, O blessed God of Love, take my soul home unto thee! When Lord, when will the time be? My soul longs to be among the number of thy saints! "As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so doth my soul pant after thee, O Lord!"

This was his behaviour until eleven o'clock at night, and his father and relations standing by, he cried out, hark! Dear father hear the sound of the Heavenly Host, with the voice of angels & arch-angels, now calling for me; then taking his leave adds, O! I come, I come, I come sweet Jesus: And then he gave up the ghost; while his father weeping said, eleven sons have I followed to the tomb, and now am bereft of my dear Benjamin.—Such sorrow what father can bear?

Three days after, all things were prepared for his funeral, which was performed with the greatest solemnity; and a sermon being preached by the Reverend Mr. Jones, his corps was in-



ferred in Tidbury church, by his mother and brethren. Mr. Worthy's affliction being so great that they had much ado to get him home, being attended by two ministers, who lay with him that night; he crying out, O my son Benjamin, I wish to the Lord I were with thee: Upon which a ravishing harmony of music seemed to fill the chamber, and an angel's voice was heard to pronounce these words. "Be comforted, dear father be comforted." This much surprised the father and Mr. Jones, who said, "In the name of God, what are you?" To which the voice replied, to-morrow night, dear father thou shalt know comfort;" and then vanished.

This caused a thousand apprehensions to know what the event of this should be, accordingly the father and Mr. Jones, resolved to sit up all night, when about eleven o'clock the apparition approached the room, attended with charming voices and ravishing music. The first that entered the room was a bright raiment, set with diamonds adorned with a crown of gold, a flaming sword in one hand and a branch of palm in the other, attended by a lady in white adorned much in the same manner; after her came twelve youths clothed in garments set with precious stones, with crowns of gold on their heads, with instruments of music in their hands, playing and singing praises to God most high.

The glorious company was received by the astonished gentleman to be the apparition of his wife, and his twelve sons with a divine guard. Having walked across the room, they returned back in the same order, except the apparition of Benjamin, who stopped behind, and turning to his father and Mr. Jones, said, dear father, no doubt but you are satisfied who this blessed company represents, and thereby comfort yourself that they are happy; it will not be long before you will be with us, only one day; therefore father, take pen, ink, and paper, and write down



word for word that I shall reveal unto you, and let the man of God bear his testimony thereto. That there is a heaven for righteous, and a hell for the wicked.

“When my spirit took flight from the body it was immediately translated into a place of glory, such as no tongue can express, nor can it enter into the heart of man to conceive the joys thereof, sufficient it is to know that all pleasures and glories can be imagined, are not compared to the least joys of heaven. There sits the Holy Host of angels, arch-angels, cherubims, seraphs, with the glorious company of patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, and confessors, and thousands of blessed souls departed this life. Then what would a christian do to be an inheritor of these joys.

“My guide then led me to a place where I beheld a dreadful lake, burning with fire & brimstone; there did I behold the utmost torments the swearer, the drunkard, and many other wicked sinners, bewailing their unhappy state and condition.—Therefore I desire you to publish it to the world, as a warning to others that they may shun that most miserable place.”

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F I N I S.

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