

## Re: NASA Sending a MESSENGER to Mercury

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro/2004-07/1443.html>

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**From:** Alfred A. Aburto Jr. (*aburto\_at\_sbcglobal.net*)

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:~)

Humm, I had the same thought in reading this article too! I'll 69 in 2011

...

Al

> "*Jack Harrison*" <*jack.harrison@virgin.net*> wrote in message  
news:40f6e126\$0\$64223\$65c69314@mercury.nildram.net...

>

> "*Ron*" <*baalke@earthlink.net*> wrote

> > *MESSENGER's* voyage includes three flybys of

> > *Mercury* in 2008 and 2009 and a yearlong orbit of the planet starting in

> > *March* 2011.

>

> *I wonder if I am alone in finding this time scale a little depressing.*

>

> *There are so many discoveries being made at the minute (ammonia = life???*

> *Mars???) that I might well curl up my toes before the really interesting*

> *results are available. In 2011, I will be 72. I hope to still be around*

> *then to find out what Messenger discovers, but these long lead times are a*

> *little worrying.*

>

> *I suppose there's a parallel with the old days when building a Cathedral*

*was*

> *started in one century but not completed until two hundred years later.*

*You*

> *need faith.*

>

> *If I don't live long enough to find out about our encounter with*

> *intelligence on Beta Pictoris C/2 (or wherever) than at least on my death*

> *bed, I will have the knowledge that my own generation was trying (yes, at*

> *times, very trying)*

>

> *Jack*

>

>