

II. WHAT THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM LOOKS LIKE

We have the description of the Messiah's reign in different passages of scripture. David for example in Psalm (Psalms) 2 gives us an idea of what it will be like during the reign of The Messiah. We shall only quote a verse or two but it will be profitable for you to read the whole chapter "**He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision...9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.**" (Psalm 2:4,9)

The prophet Isaiah the also gives us many side lines to The Messiah reign. In Isaiah , , and chaps. , , 11, 12, 36 and chaps. 60, 61 and 62 contain graphic descriptions of when takes up the universal reign. We shall quote only a few verses from some of the chapters. "**The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea** (Isaiah 11:6-7,9).

In Isaiah chaps. 2 – 4 and in Micah 4:3 we read these words which will be fulfilled when the Messiah reigns —

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

III. RETURN OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO ISRAEL, POSSESSION OF IT, AND ITS FRUITFULNESS

Because Prophecy is being so wonderfully fulfilled

I. PROPHECIES YET TO BE FULFILLED

(1) Messiah is to come in the clouds of Heaven Old Testament " prophecy:

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." (Daniel 7:13-14). For the New Testament (New Testament) parallel, see — Mark 14:61–62. Acts 1:9,11; Rev 1:7.

(2) Messiah is to sit on the Throne of David Old Testament prophecy.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9: . 6-7 (to be fulfilled). The The New Testament parallel — Luke 1:32-33

(3) Messiah (The Messiah) to Reign over all the earth Prophecy. "

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him." (Psalm 72:8-11) The parallel in the New Testament, see cross references: Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:8;

"I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah; and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming" (from the 12th article of the creed of Maimonides,^[1] an outline of the foundations of Judaism)

The Prophecies in the Bible relating to the first Advent of the Messiah were fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. But, how are we to know that Messiah will come again? Exactly as we did with the first Advent. Search the Old Testament and find out from its' holy pages all about the coming again of the Messiah. Let us consider several important factors concerning the second Advent.

MESSAGE TO ISRAEL



1. See Chabad.org. The Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith

culminating in bitter warfare. If you see the kingdoms contending with each other, look...for the Messiah. Know it will be so, because thus in the days of Abraham. When the kingdoms strove with each other (Gen XLII), redemption came to Abraham.”³

Strange as it may seem to Orthodox and Liberal Jewry, the New Testament states certain signs mentioned by Jesus regarding His coming again which agree with the Orthodox writings.

In the article of the doctrine of the last things in the Jewish Encyclopedia, under the subheading of ‘*Travail of the Messianic Time*’

“Particularly prominent among the plagues of the time, of which Baruch xxviii. 2-3 counts twelve, will be “the sword, famine, earthquake, and fire”; according to Book of Jubilees, xxiii. 13, “illness and pain, frost and fever, famine and death, sword and captivity”; but greater than the terror and havoc caused by the elements will be the moral corruption and perversion, the wickedness and unchastity anticipated in prophetic visions, and the power of evil spirits.”^{4,5,6}

If you compare these signs with the signs given by Jesus in the Gospels and by Paul in some of his Epistles you will agree that they correspond very closely. Matthew’s Gospel records the following predictions given by Jesus Christ before HE would return again. In **Matthew 24:6-7** Jesus says, “**And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against**

3. Ibid. p.350

4. Syriac Apoc. Baruch, l.c. and lxx. 2-8; Book of Jubilees, xxiii. 13-19.

5. Kohler, K., ESCHATOLOGY

6. See entry for ESCHATOLOGY and sub-heading, ‘*Travail of the Messianic Time*’

— “*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. [2] It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.*” In verse 7, which says, “*And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*” Verse 6b says, “*...for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*” That is just what has been happening since Israel became an Independent State in 1948.

IV. MATIKVAH (THE JEWISH HOPE) — THE RETURN OF AND SIGNS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

Cohen (1995) expresses this idea of a coming The Messiah

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“The hope of the coming of the Messiah naturally became more fervent in the time of severe national eclipse. When the oppression of the conqueror grew intolerable, the Jews instinctively turned to the Messianic predictions contained in their Scriptures...The Rabbis preached the doctrine that there will be the travail of the Messiah, i.e. His coming will be attended by pangs of suffering in the same manner that a child is born at the cost of much pain to its mother. On the principle that night is darkest before dawn, they taught that the world would show signs of demoralisation before the [arrival of Messiah]...”² [Author’s emphasis]

Cohen goes on to explain —

“The time of the Messiah’s advent will be particularly marked by political unrest,

2. (Cohen, A. 1995, pp.348—349)

there is great reason to believe that the coming again of The Messiah must be very near. Another outstanding Prophecy which has been fulfilled only several decades ago in May 1948, is that of a 4,000 year promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Connected with this Nation’s birth, is the land to which the people of Israel have returned. A few verses from the word of God will convince us that He is a Covenant keeping God and though His promises may be delayed they are never denied.

First, let us look at the Promise from God to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3** says:

“**Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**” This promise was renewed both to Isaac and Jacob in **Genesis 5:5-6, Genesis 26:1-4, Genesis 28:13-18.**

This promise has been fulfilled in that the Jewish people who have been scattered for so many centuries, have now returned from over seventy countries and there are now nearly 8.5 million Jewish people in Israel. The Land also which was desert for so many generations has become a veritable “Garden of Eden.” All this also has been prophesied. For example, **Isaiah 11:1** — “**And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.**”

The prophet Isaiah says in 43:5-6 “**Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; [6] I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth**”; Not only has the prophecy, with regards to the Jews have people been fulfilled, but also the Land, not only in its possession but in its fruitfulness. See also **Isaiah 35:1-2**

up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Of course, Himself said that He would come again. **John 14:1-6** and **Acts 1:11**, explains that those who saw Jesus ascend into heaven were assured that He would come again. "...**this same Jesus...shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**" This corresponds with the" where it says in the prophet Zechariah that the Jewish people in time will see Jesus who was pierced. Do you know what questioning and controversies there are that have been kept over this verse? In Judaism Rabbinical circles, it is not admitted that it is God they have pierced. Hence the dispute about the "WHOM." The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed, and the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed—Jesus The Messiah, is the is first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, Aleph, and the last letter, Tav. From the verse, we identify—the Aleph-Tav. This word has no meaning. From Isaiah chaps. 40–48, He is the First and the Last. Do you wonder then that I was filled with awe and astonishment when I opened to the book of **Revelation 1:7-8** "**Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. [8] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**" The Lord is seeming to say, 'Do you now doubt who it is, "whom they have pierced." I am the Aleph and Tav of **Zechariah 12:10** and the Alpha and Omega of the gentiles, Jehovah the Almighty.

Another outstanding passage is that of the same prophet, , in his fourteenth chapter, verses 1-7, we quote only verse 4. "**And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives...and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**" (kindly read the whole chapter). Dr. Sale-Harrison (1954) has a note on this aspect when he explains in the following

The Babylonian Talmud states —

"...And when he will see that Messiah ben Joseph will be slain, he will say before Him: "Master of the World! I ask nothing of you except life! God will say to him: "Even before you said, 'life,' your father David prophesied about you as it is written, He asked life of the, Thou gavest it him."^[9] (Psalm 21:5)

Now what do the sacred Scriptures teach about this point of view? Could it be that both Messiahs and messianic prophecy are fulfilled in one person? Yes. Both the Old and the New Testaments.' They reveal that Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, was both of the tribe of Joseph and of the seed of David (see **Isaiah 11:1** and **Isaiah 9:6-7**, and compare with **Luke 1:31-33**). According to this prediction it seems that there is only one Messiah who fulfils both functions—first dies for the purpose of dealing with human sin in the lives of individuals, and after that He comes again to reign in power and glory. This is exactly what did fulfilling the first part at His first advent and will also fulfil the second part his coming again.

Before concluding this interesting and indeed vital subject, a few questions which might be in your mind, it may be helpful if we answered them for you.

V. HOW WILL THE MESSIAH COME AGAIN

We reply in the words of the Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians, ch. 4:13-17. Quoting on verses 16-17, "**For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ** (all believers in Messiah) **shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught**

9. Babylonian Talmud Sukkah 52a

kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." The whole chapter should be read as well as the book of Luke, ch. 21 and Mark, ch. 13.

Paul in his letter to 1st Timothy ch. 4:1 also says. "**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**" Again in his 2nd Epistle to Timothy, ch. 3:1-3, 5-7, we read as follows — "**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ... [5] Having a form of godliness, (a form of religion) but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ... [7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."**

A further aspect of this subject is the death of The Messiah. Orthodox Judaism does not believe and will not accept the idea of a meek and lowly Messiah who dies as a sacrifice for sin, but prefers that of a strong conquering king—the son of David. However, the Torah records in **Numbers 12:3** that Moses was the meekest man on earth. Deuteronomy 18 speaks of The Messiah as a person like unto Moses, meek. But how can The Messiah be both a dying victim and also a glorious victor? Only if there are two Messiahs, which, according to Jewish Law and Tradition, this is the case. Schochet (1992) explains that the first being Messiah Ben Yossef who is to suffer for Israel's sin,^[7] the "Suffering Servant", and to open the way for the coming of the second redeemer—the Victorious conquering King—Ben Messiah.^[8]

"...and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..."

וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁכַּח אֶת אֲשֶׁר-דָּקְרוּוּ
Schochet, Messiah Ben Yossef 1992, pp.93–94, 99; Cohen, A., p.348)

12:10 וְפָרְיָהּ See also weblink "http://www.chabad.org/library/moshiach/article_cdo/aid/101747/jewish/Appendix-II.htm"

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glory of God." The Bible also declares that "*the soul that sinneth it shall die*" (**Ezekiel 18:4,20**). But the Gospel or Good news is that whilst we yet sinners The Messiah died for the ungodly and that came into the world to save sinners (See **1 Corinthians 15:1-3**)

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (**Mark 8:36**). *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (**Matthew 11:28**). The Messiah has promised, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (**John 6:37**), *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (**Romans 10:13**)

The greatest question that Jew or Gentile can answer is —

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH Jesus?

Upon the answer you give depends your eternal destiny—either in a lost Eternity or as the Psalmist puts it so beautifully in Psalm . 6, 23:6 "... *I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*"

"It is remarkable that scientists have discovered weak strata right across Olivet east to west, and also great resources of water under Jerusalem. It is easy to see how an earthquake—a miraculous act of God—would cause a valley to appear, running east to west, opening great springs of water...thereby completely fulfilling prophecies of **Ezekiel 47:1** and **Zechariah 14:1-5**."^[10]

VI. WHAT WILL IT BENEFIT ME IF I DID BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST WAS / IS THE MESSIAH

Nothing much, unless I accept as my personal Saviour who died for mankind's sin, who rose again, and who is coming back again to reign in power in glory. He is coming to save His brethren, the Jewish people, when Jesus will defend and fight for them. This sincere heart belief and conviction will give you real lasting peace, joy and happiness as you have never had before. Millions of Jewish souls have had this experience, as well as Gentiles, since the The Messiah came two thousand years ago.

Lastly, you may want to know: what if we reject this message? The only answer we can give is what God has to say about it in his word from the Holy Scriptures. The Apostle Paul said in his second letter to Thessalonians ch. 1:7-9 and also Jude 14,15. Let us only quote one passage of Scripture from 2 Thess. 1:7-9 ***"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, [8] In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel*** (Good news that has come) ***of our Lord Jesus Christ: [9] Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.***"

The Bible declares in **Isaiah 6:64**. 6 that ***"...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...***, and in the New Testament in **Romans 3:23**, confirming the Isaiah passage, which says, ***"For all have sinned, and come short of the***

10. Sale-Harrison, Dr. L. 1954, p.141))