

The Messiah

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous shoot, and he shall reign as king and prosper, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The LORD is our righteousness.” (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

The coming of the Messiah is a fundamental belief of Judaism. Orthodox Jews pray every day for the coming of the Messiah. Most Jewish people believe that when the Messiah comes, there will be world peace. Fortunately, the Bible gives us much more detail about the coming of the Messiah and exactly what He will accomplish.

Thoughts for you to consider:

Who is the Messiah within Judaism? The Hebrew word for “Messiah” comes from the root word which means “to anoint.” There are numerous “anointed” ones in Israel’s history. Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed. When Israel’s kings continued to fail, the people began to realize their need for (the) Messiah, supernaturally anointed by God. Psalm 2 speaks of the worldwide reign of the Lord’s anointed which was not fulfilled by King David, or King Solomon, or King Hezekiah or any other King.

The traditional Jewish view of the Messiah teaches:

- The Messiah will be a great political leader and a descendant of King David (Jeremiah 23:5).
- The Messiah will be well-versed in Jewish law and observe God’s commandments (Isaiah 11:1-5).
- The Messiah will be a great military leader (Jeremiah 33:15).

Perhaps you’re thinking that Yeshua could not be the Messiah because He didn’t fulfill any of the accomplishments noted above. In fact, you very well might be thinking that circumstances worsened for the Jewish people after Yeshua’s arrival.

Regarding this question, *Who is the Messiah?*, Scripture teaches us a few more details that you might have never read or heard: (Again, we ask that you might take some time and read all of the Scripture verses for yourself in your own Bible)

- The Messiah is the Son of God (Psalm 2:7).
- The Messiah would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- The Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
- The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).
- The Messiah would even be the LORD Himself (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Questions to consider:

While growing up, did you hear about the Messiah?

If you had heard about the Messiah, what did you hear?

Were you surprised to read Isaiah, a Prophet of Israel, speaking of the virgin birth of the Messiah?

Were you surprised to read that King David describes the Messiah as the Son of God?

Do the above noted Messianic prophecies point to anyone about whom you've heard?
If so, share your thoughts.

Thoughts for you to consider:

What will the Messiah do? We will now focus on the activities of the Messiah, the Son of David. The traditional Jewish view of the Messiah teaches that:

- He will be victorious over the enemies of Israel (Zechariah 14:3).
- He will reign as King of Israel in Jerusalem as its capital (Isaiah 2:2-3).
- He will bring the Jewish people back to Israel (Ezekiel 36:24).
- He will rebuild the Temple (Zechariah 6:13).
- He will come on the clouds of heaven and will then establish His Kingdom (Daniel 7:13-14).

Regarding this question, *What will the Messiah do?*, the traditional view focuses on the end of days when He ushers in a time of peace. We agree with the Rabbis that He will do so. However, the Scripture reveals another aspect of the work of the Messiah that you might find quite fascinating:

- He will heal people (Isaiah 53:5-6).
- The Messiah would perform many miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6).
- He would ride into Jerusalem, hailed as a King by the people, yet riding humbly on the colt of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).
- He must come before the destruction of the second Temple in 70 CE (Daniel 9:26).
- He would die, having all His bones out of joint, and His hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22).
- He would be the sin-bearer, the ultimate sacrifice for sin (Isaiah 53:4).
- He would rise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10).

Questions to consider:

Have you ever heard of any of the miracles that Yeshua performed?
Can you describe any accounts of Yeshua's miracles?

Had you known that the Messiah's death was foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures?
Do you think it's possible that the Messiah would die?

Did you know that the timeframe of the Messiah was foretold in the book of Daniel?
How does that compare with your view of the coming of the Messiah?

Have these Scriptures changed your view of the Messiah?
If so, how?

Thoughts for you to consider:

Could Yeshua be this Messiah of Whom we read in the Jewish Bible? The Rabbis believe that when the Messiah comes, He will give us new insight into the Torah. When Yeshua came, He gave us new insights about the Messiah that were written centuries before in the Jewish Scriptures. Yeshua introduced us to the idea that there are two pictures painted of the Messiah in the Jewish Bible. The Rabbis focus on the victorious Son of David Messiah reigning in righteousness. Yeshua points us to the picture of a humble Messiah Who would die for the sins of humanity, commonly referred to as the Suffering Messiah. The New Testament is the book that paints this picture in vivid detail. It tells us that the Messiah would come first as a sacrifice for sin and then return as the reigning King.

Let's look at how Yeshua fulfilled the prophecies we have already read in the Hebrew Scriptures:

- Yeshua was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-23).
- Yeshua was from the lineage of David, from the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:1-2).
- Yeshua was born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:5-6; Luke 2:4-12).
- Yeshua performed miracles (Luke 4:16-21; Luke 7:17-23).
- Yeshua was declared the Son of God (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 17:1-13).
- Yeshua rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey while the people hailed Him as King (Matthew 21:6-9).
- Yeshua died (Matthew 27:35-50).
- Yeshua was born in the days of Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1) and died during the time that Caiaphas held the office of High Priest in Jerusalem (John 18:13-14, 24) before the second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE.
- Yeshua told the Jewish leaders, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58).
- Yeshua is our sin-bearer, our ultimate sacrifice for sin (Matthew 8:17).
- Yeshua suffered and was resurrected (Luke 24:25-27, 44).
- Yeshua, our Passover, was sacrificed for us (I Corinthians 5:7).
- Yeshua rose from the dead (Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-7; John 20:1-10).
- Yeshua will return on the clouds of heaven (Matthew 24:30).
- Yeshua will return to Jerusalem with His redeemed (Revelation 19:14).
- Yeshua will establish His eternal Kingdom in Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-2).

Questions to consider:

Are many of these verses new to you?

Please note the verse that has the biggest impact.

Have you, in the past, heard about or read of Yeshua fulfilling Messianic prophecies?

Can you put in your own words the two pictures of the Messiah found in the Bible?

Why is it important that the Messiah would come first as a suffering Servant?

Do you believe Yeshua could indeed be the Messiah described in the Jewish Bible?

Final thoughts for you to consider:

If God is real and did reveal the Messiah through the prophets of Israel as the suffering Servant and the reigning King, then perhaps the Messiah dying and returning might be within the realm of possibility. Many people claim Yeshua is not the Messiah because He did not bring peace to the earth. In our next study, we will explain how Yeshua came as a sin-bearer to give us an inner peace, and will return to bring an eternal peace.

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