

THE MESSIAH

The image is a book cover for 'The Messiah'. It features a central, high-contrast portrait of a man's face, split vertically. The left side of the face is in shadow, while the right side is brightly lit. A white dove with an olive branch in its beak is flying across the top of the man's head. At the bottom of the cover, a hand is shown holding a red apple with a green leaf, and a globe is visible in the lower right corner. The background is dark with some orange and red tones.

SEQUEL TO
TWO MEN FROM EDEN

MORRIS
CERULLO

The Messiah

by

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Introduction

Waiting for a flight at the airport terminal gate, I watched as passengers exited. A beautiful, young girl of about five or six years of age came bounding through the gate as if she'd just been released from class at recess time.

"That was fun, Mommy," she said. "I can't wait to fly again."

To the young girl, the flight had been just another carnival ride. She had no idea she was fulfilling prophecy.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Daniel 12:4

The powerful, prophetic gift that Daniel received from God allowed him to see twenty-six centuries beyond the scope of his own imagination into an age of computer-driven jet aircraft surpassing the speed of sound.

Daniel saw a time in which men, women and even children could "run to and fro" to different places on the earth without even acknowledging that such a short time has passed since the explosion of technology has erupted.

In the last 150 years, man has increased in knowledge and technology at a level that surpasses all the knowledge accumulated by mankind since Adam until the 19th century. Until 150 years ago, our world did not include airplanes, telephones, automobiles, nuclear power,

computers, genetic engineering or even light bulbs!

From the time of Adam until 150 years ago, if you wanted to travel, you walked, sailed in a ship or rode an animal. If you wanted to communicate, you wrote a letter or spoke face to face. If you wanted to keep track of accounts or properties, you worked your arithmetic on paper or an abacus.

Today, if we want to travel, we fly, take a bus or train, or drive a car. When we want to communicate, we talk on the telephone or send electronic mail. We use computers to manage our businesses. Man has increased in knowledge and is going to and fro.

However, in the dawning of a new millennium, man sees himself faced with many questions dealing with technology, pollution, global warming, and other issues that will affect the entire human race. Future shock delivers greater blows to man's economic and technological development than ever before... With each wave coming faster than its predecessor and bringing with it, more sweeping changes to the way people will live.

Global satellite communications are reality. Genetic engineering is reality. Systems that can track personal and financial transactions globally are here today, and yet man is still dealing with the same existential questions he has faced for the last 6, 000 years...

Who am I?

Why am I here?

Where did I come from?

Introduction

Even in today's age of sophisticated technological advances, the heart of man still reaches out to find purpose for his existence. He must find the answers to his spiritual questions.

Technology has changed.

Travel has changed.

Communications have changed.

But the soul of man has not changed.

There is only one way a man can find what he seeks.

He cannot find the answers in a computer.

He cannot find the answers in technology.

Modern medical research and psychiatry cannot help.

Man must find the answer to his spiritual questions in the holy scriptures. It is in the scriptures all man's questions are answered as he finds the answer to the most important question in the universe:

How can I have a relationship with God?

The answer the scriptures give is this: Man must find the Messiah....

Chapter One

Do We Need a Messiah?

The scriptures give a clear picture of God's efforts to reach out to man in quest for relationship. They also tell of the methods by which man can overcome the nature of sin and rebellion living in his own flesh.

From the Garden of Eden onward, however, man has rebelled against the necessity of living a righteous life. He has kicked against the constant urging of a loving God, Who has continually reached out to man to deliver him of his unrighteousness.

The eternal rewards of righteousness or unrighteousness are clearly outlined in the scriptures, and if man is to rebel, he must absolutely reject the Word of God, beginning with creation, the law and throughout the prophets. The appearance of the Messiah would surely be a shock to such a one.

Our World Rejects Messiah

Today's society rejects the need for a Messiah by rejecting the notion of sin in an absolute term. Our sophisticated age explains away the absolute by saying that sin is relative to the society or age one lives in.

This line of thought molds society into a pattern of thought that disables any individual accountability for sin. The world is rapidly developing a mindset that if it feels

good, do it.

Morality and fear of God is being traded for atheism and situational ethics. The soul of man is dying a slow torturous death at the mercy of a society which will only show mercy to avoid punishment.

The abandonment of morality will cause national and civic authorities to embrace the legislation of human behavior. No longer can governments count on the moral values of a community to prevent most individuals from committing acts of evil and aggression against others.

Premarital sex, extramarital sex and homosexuality are openly accepted in the developed nations of the world, with popular media programming exalting them as viable lifestyles. The acceptance of these sins will shortly bring a wide acceptance of other activities once thought abhorrent in previous societies.

Violence, gang warfare and terrorism are acceptable ways to accomplish goals. Even on a worldwide scale, violence and terrorism eventually pay off! In the United States, in Los Angeles, California, many gang members selling crack, cocaine and heroin live affluent lifestyles, driving Mercedes and BMW automobiles with little interference from the local authorities.

Sin is on the rise, and righteousness is on the decline. Acceptance of sin is paving the way for a lawless and unconscionable generation.

These are the symptoms of societies which are trying to run from the reality of their need for a Messiah. The world needs a Savior. The world needs a Lord!

The Messiah's Greatest Challenge

The problem of sin has been wrestled with since Adam and Eve were banned from the Garden of Eden.

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed ... And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die...

Genesis 2:8, 15-17

Righteousness, well defined as rightstanding with God, cannot exist without a command from God to follow. All commands from God flow from His Godly nature and must be adhered to in order to achieve righteousness.

In the Garden of Eden, God gave a command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In order to retain rightstanding with God, Adam and Eve had to abstain from eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

A simple command.

Easy to follow?

It's so interesting about human nature that we are drawn to the very thing we are restricted from experiencing. This is so common in the human experience that psychologists have coined the term *reverse psychology* to describe a method of controlling children by asking them to do what you do not want them to do and asking

them not to do what you want them to do. The consistently rebellious nature of children keeps them predictable and controllable.

What gives mankind this tendency?

The answer is temptation.

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. -And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:1-6

This may be one of the saddest portions of the holy scriptures. Millions of murders, rapes, thefts, violent acts, lies and other sins have been allowed to manifest themselves in the world because of what happened in the story of Genesis. Unspeakable pain and suffering has been inflicted on innocent and guilty alike... All because of the nature of sin that entered Adam.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam

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and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked: and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:7-10

Notice that God called Adam asking where he was. This implies that Adam was usually in an obvious place in the garden during this time of day. It even implies that God came down to walk with Adam and have fellowship the same time each day.

Imagine the majesty.

Adam walked with God in the cool of the day... every day!

He talked with God.

He walked with God.

He knew God as his Father and Creator. He could ask questions and Almighty God would answer him.

But now there was a change in the routine. Adam was not where he usually waited for his Father to meet him.

Adam was hiding.

Adam was ashamed.

He said, "God, I hid myself because I was naked."

Look at God's reply:

And he said, Who told thee that thou was naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

Genesis 3:11

Here is the key to sin's problem and dominion over mankind. The nature of sin received by Adam, which we may call *Adamic nature*, gives in to temptation, then condemns man for the sin committed. It becomes a two-edged sword.

The nature of sin inhabited Adam and condemned him for eating the fruit and also being naked.

Notice here how one sin leads to another:

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:12

Immediately Adam abdicated his responsibility for his own sin and blamed it on Eve. There is an even more subtle blame mentioned here that shows Adam even tried to put part of the blame on God. He says, "*The woman whom thou gavest...*" Adam is saying, "Now remember God, you gave the woman to me, and she is the one who gave me the fruit. So you are partly to blame."

How shocking!

Of course, Eve did not blame herself either. She immediately laid the blame on the serpent.

Then God spoke the very first Messianic prophecy. A glimmer of hope entered the earth. A plan of God was in the works which would bring redemption and forgiveness to mankind.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou has done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between

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thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:14-15

God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Master of the Universe, spoke of the seed of a woman. The seed which would bruise the head of Satan, and yet receive only a bruise to his heel.

What does this mean?

It means that the Messiah will suffer at the hands of Satan, but in the end, His sufferings, no matter how great as they are endured, will be only as a bruised heel... No consequence. On the other hand, the sufferings of Satan will not be to the heel, but to the head. It will be a fatal blow.

Of course, after this great prophecy, God spoke of the curse of sin falling on Adam and Eve. He then removed them from the Garden after killing an animal and clothing the first man and woman with skins.

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God.

They were free to make a choice.

They did not choose the good that they knew.

They chose to know both good and evil.

Evil entered into man.

Now man had a problem with sin. Adam and Eve sinned. Now the sin was genetically passed from the father to the children. Adam passed the nature of sin on to his children. It manifested in that first begotten generation with the murder of Abel.

The righteous son died.

Why did this murder happen?

Because after the sin of Adam, all mankind was born with the nature of sin in their natural bodies.

The sinful son had children and passed a greater and more well developed nature of sin on to the next generation. The evil unleashed in the Garden of Eden by one simple act of disobedience multiplied exponentially as the generations passed until God, vexed by the sin of the Earth, had to destroy mankind with a flood.

Man's need for a Savior and Messiah is self-evident but also illustrated by the fall of Adam and Eve. Before the experience with disobedience, Adam and Eve had a regular relationship with God. Now they were cut off from fellowship with the Father Who created them. They were spiritually dead.

Their children were spiritually dead. Their children's children were spiritually dead. It was generations before men even began to pray.

The greatest challenge and primary purpose of the Messiah is to reunite us with the Father as Adam was before the fall. He must undo the damage that was done in Adam. He must overcome sin. He must overcome temptation. He must be sinless. And...

We must find Him.

Questions on Chapter One

1. Do we live in a society that recognizes the need for the Messiah? Explain.

Do We Need a Messiah?

2. What kind of relationship did Adam have with the Father before the Fall?
3. How did you and I inherit the nature of sin?
4. What kind of relationship did Adam have with the Father after the Fall?
5. What is the primary purpose of the Messiah?

Chapter Two

Progressive Revelation of the Messiah

To understand who the Messiah is and what He must do, we must first understand the spiritual revelation of the Messiah as it came to Israel through the years.

What is known as *Messianism* must be distinguished from the Messiah in many ways. Israeli nationalism itself, is sometimes referred to as *Messianism*. Our study here is not in the terms of political or cultural analysis, although the Messiah will affect both, but in the area of spiritual revelation.

The human mind will not reveal to Israel who the Messiah is. Flesh and blood cannot reveal the Messiah. Only the Spirit of God can reveal the Messiah to Israel and to individual Jews according to the holy scriptures.

The Messiah, a Force or a Man

For generations Israel has had a national and personal expectation from God... A personal conviction and acknowledgment of greatness. Jews throughout Millennia have been acutely aware that there was God's greatness woven into the fabric of Israel and every Jew.

Today, sociologists would call this national pride or just nationalism, but Israel did not always think of herself as a great nation, and yet, this sense of greatness has always permeated Jewish society.

Whether rejoicing at the entrance to the temple of God built by Solomon or climbing the ladder of success in bondage to Babylon, Jews have always had a great sense of greatness and destiny. The members of this great nation of Israel have always relentlessly pursued the best and most excellent standards to obtain. They have been driven to success by some force unknown to the Gentile world.

This force is the expectation of the Messiah.

How can a man be one of God's chosen people, through whom He will bless the whole world, and not be successful?

Impossible.

God's people are destined to success. They are actually sentenced to success. Every Word spoken by God concerning them, pushes them onward to achieve, to succeed and to obtain superiority in every area.

Of course, this very drive for success has brought the children of Israel into many areas of persecution from those who do not understand the reason behind the pursuit of success. Gentiles have blamed Jews for many ills of our society and tried, without success, to eliminate them from the top echelon of society.

Israel has an expectation of greatness. Israel has an expectation of success. Israel has an expectation of forming a perfected, free, happy society.

Furthermore, Israel desires to be the catalyst for that same situation being propagated throughout the world.¹

¹ *The Men and the Message of the Old Testament*, Peter F. Ellis, S. SS. R., S. T. L., S. S. L., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1963, page 314.

This drive for success... this national pride has caused many to look at Israel and claim that their mere expectation of greatness is *Messianism*. Some equate *Messianism* with Israel's utopian ideal rather than with a central figure known as the Messiah.

This line of thought by those who observe Israel in a purely academic view without spiritual discernment, eliminates much of the nature of the Messiah which God desires to share with mankind.

Also, any understanding is further clouded with the knowledge that Jews have not always had the same understanding of the Messiah.

Many Jews have thought of the Messiah as the One they hope for, while other Jews constantly think of him as the means by which they receive what they are hoping for, either as a nation or as an individual.²

However, the Messiah will be both.

The Messiah will bring political solutions.

He will bring economic solutions.

He will bring social solutions.

He will bring happiness.

He will bring personal salvation and unification with God.

The Messiah must be a man, not an ideal societal force.

How the Promise Was Revealed

Also, in our pursuit of the Messiah, we can learn much

² Ibid.

from early rabbinical teachings concerning the Messiah. God began speaking about the Messiah from the Garden of Eden, but man did not begin to think of the Messiah in a fully developed way for many generations.

At the time of King David, there were many intimations toward the role of the Messiah, even though Israel was in a glorious age. Here it was seen that David had a special revelation of the Messiah that may have begun with God's word through Nathan, the prophet to King David.

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be stablished for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

11 Samuel 7:12-16

It is clear that God was speaking through the mouth of Nathan, a prophecy which was referring to Solomon. However, God makes a very distinct promise that the seed of David would sit on the throne forever. He says He would establish the throne of the seed of David forever, and He would become a father to those that sit on the throne.

God was making an eternal promise not subject to interpretation, situational explanations or the theology of

man.

God made a covenant with David.

The Preexistent Messiah

Since we have seen over the years that there are temporal situations in which the offspring of David are not sitting on the throne (as today), we must understand that God is setting up a spiritual eternal principle based on His promise to David that will ensure that a Son of David will sit upon the throne of David forever.

Look at the following Psalm:

*The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand,
until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Psalm 110:1

King David sings a new song here about the Messiah's identity. He talks about the Lord *Jehovah* speaking to his (David's) Lord (the Messiah) about making His enemies His footstool.

What can we learn from this passage?

We can learn that David considered the Messiah to be preexistent. He considered that the One Who would later come as David's seed, one of his offspring, already existed in the Spirit. He also believed that this One Who would come is the one God was speaking about through the prophet Nathan, One Who would sit on the throne of David, His father, for ever.

In David's time, men began to understand that the Messiah was more than an expectation of Israel's greatness, but a Man whose Spirit existed before the spirit

of His ancestor, King David.

David knew the Messiah was greater than he because the Messiah was the Son of God.

Further Evidence of an Eternal Preexisting Messiah

There are two outstanding passages of scripture that indicate the existence of the Messiah long before the end of the fourth Millennium since Adam.

You probably recall the story from the third chapter of Daniel which tells of the desperate plight of the three Hebrew children who were the captives of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The king was duped into making a decree that during the time of worship whoever would not bow down to the idol he set up would be cast into the fiery furnace.

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Daniel 3:22-25

A king of Babylon actually acknowledged the Son of God! How could he do otherwise? Here was the Deliverer

right in the middle of his kingdom.

The display of the sovereignty of God and His power over the elements of nature testified that the God of the three Hebrew children was no ordinary God made of hands. He had power over nature. His own Son showed up to validate the claims of those Jews persecuted by the Babylonian empire, and the demonstration was so great that any blasphemy against the God of Israel was made punishable by death.

Now let us take a look further back at the history of Israel to see yet another place in scripture where the Messiah showed himself as the eternal Captain of the Hosts of the Lord.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13-15

The key to this passage is this:

... And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship...

Here Joshua actually worshiped the man he saw, and the man did not forbid Joshua to worship him. It would have been abhorrent for Joshua to actually worship a

mortal man or even an angel. Furthermore, an angel would have forbidden Joshua to worship him.

What is the explanation to this passage?

The Captain of the Lord's Hosts had to be the Messiah! It had to be the Son of God, begotten by God in the Spirit, equal to God, in order to be worthy to receive worship.

Joshua knew the Messiah.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew the Messiah.

He was the Deliverer.

He was a personal deliverer to the three Hebrew children in Babylonian captivity, and he was a national deliverer to Joshua and the Israelites who were destroying the sinful city of Jericho.

The Messiah was not just an idea.

He was not just an expectation.

He was not just someone who would be born later.

He is preexistent in the Spirit and able to manifest His Presence as He wished according to the will of Jehovah.

Israel's Changing Messianic Perspective

How Israel perceived the Messiah has changed over the generations, but only because the goals and desires of society over that time span has constantly shifted in relation to the pure Word of God concerning the Messiah.

Israel always had hope. Even when segments of society had lost hope or had been scattered abroad, there was always a remnant that continued to keep the hope alive. As Israel's concept of the Kingdom of God evolved,

so did their notion of the identity of the Messiah.

As the history of Israel unfolded, man began to think of the Messiah as a savior. This savior would bring salvation in both a spiritual and human arena. This was first manifested from the time of Abraham to the time of Joshua in the hope for the promised land. Israel looked to God for supernatural intervention to deliver into their hands, the land that God had promised them.

Of course, the actual Messiah was not the one who led them to the promised land. A forerunner of the Messiah did... Moses, and later, Joshua.

The acts of Moses, the mighty miraculous acts of God in conjunction with the ministry of Moses, were absolute confirmation that the hand of God was on Israel and her destiny would be accomplished.

By the time of Moses, the idea of the Messiah was already ingrained in the people of Israel, and no wonder, considering the deplorable conditions of their captivity in Egypt.

The miracles God worked on behalf of the Israelites were miraculous confirmation on top of miraculous confirmation that the glory of Israel would never fade away, but be perpetuated by the constant intervention of God himself.

The Messiah would come.

Chapter Two Questions

1. Was the nature of the Messiah revealed all at once or gradually?

The Messiah

2. Did King David believe in a preexistent Messiah?
3. In what two places did the Messiah show up to be a personal or a national deliverer.
4. How can we be sure that the person speaking to Joshua was not an angel?
5. What confirmations did Israel receive under the leadership of Moses that confirmed the hope of the Messiah and a glorious future for Israel?

Chapter Three

Progressive Revelation of the Messiah

Part II

The revelation of the Messiah to Israel through the prophet Nathan brought a feeling of worldwide destiny to the people of Israel. The God of Israel, after all, was the God Who created the entire universe! Wouldn't it stand to reason then, that the king of Israel could indeed claim the right to rule the entire earth? Look carefully at the following portion of scripture:

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Psalm 2:6-8

Obviously the author and singers of this Psalm believed it was the destiny of Israel, through the lineage of David, to rule the world by the power of the Messiah.

The great difference between the driving force behind the desire of Israel to be the ruling force of the world and the driving force behind most groups who have desired the same rule is the nature of Israeli rulership.

Israel wanted and wants not only an earthly kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom as well. In this kingdom, man will live in peace with one another, as well as with God.

Prosperity for all men, not just Israel, will abound. The true desire of Israel, rather than world conquest, is a restoration of the rule of God over earth to a pre-Adamic state. The restoration would bring all men into fellowship with God as Adam was before the fall.

It would bring all people into perfect health and plentiful provision.

The Shift From a Dynastic Messiah to a Personal Messiah

This hope was, in the time of David, placed in the dynasty which David would leave behind as his legacy, not just an individual. The entire lineage of David, as they followed the covenants of God, were thought to have been the vehicle by which God would bring about the reversal of all evil and the establishment of God's kingdom of earth.

In about 587 B.C., Israel, especially the prophets, have realized that the kings have not followed God's laws and were basically unfit to be the fulfillment of Israel's expectation, even as a collective legacy.

Israel, at this time, began to abandon the idea that the dynasty of Davidic kings would bring about Israel's destiny. They began to see their hope in an individual who would come, rather than in the entire line of David. Their hope became narrowed to the work of one man who was to come.¹

In essence, Israel began to see the Messiah as One Who

¹ *The Men and the Message of the Old Testament*, by Peter F. Ellis, C. SS. R, S. T. L., S. S. L., The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1963, Page 319.

would reverse the defeat Adam suffered in the Garden of Eden.

Jeremiah began to echo this line of thought in the prophecies that God gave him during this same time period:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband, unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new beginning was here! Israel was heavy under the weight of the law, but now, there was a new hope on the horizon. God would give Israel a new covenant. All would know the Lord and His ways! Their sin would be forgiven and the laws of God would not only be engraved in stone, but in the heart of man.

The prospects of this covenant were much better than the old. Neighbors and relatives in the house of Israel would no longer have to watch one another to make sure all were following the law, for all would know more than

the law. All would know the Lord.

This was a great concept which must have brought great joy in its day. To think, not only would the prophets, priests and kings know the Lord, but each and every man, woman and child know God... from the greatest to the least!

The Divine Nature of the Messiah

With this new spiritual expectation came a new Messianic expectation from the house of David.

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord. Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days, Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 23:3-6

Not only did Israel now have a new covenant to look forward to, but a new king from the line of David who would not fail them. He will be a righteous branch of David who will have great success in prosperity and justice.

Jeremiah is not only describing a son of David who has more ability and integrity than the rest of the kings of Israel. He is describing a supernatural man who is more than a mere man. Here is a great indication that the

Messiah would also be divine.

Jeremiah writes, "... And this is his name whereby he shall be called *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*." Now, the divine term, *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS* is translated from the Hebrew words, *Jehovah-tsidkenu*.

This is a magnificent shift into the revelatory realm of the Spirit of God. As prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel began spiritual journeys through the prophetic realm, God gave them divine glimpses into the eternal kingdom of the Messiah which revealed things not known to man before.

Jeremiah prophesied that the Messiah, who was to come, would be called *Jehovah-tsidkenu*, *THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*! He would have divine nature and be equal with God. For this to happen, the Messiah would have to be parallel with God and actually be the Son of God.

Chapter Three Questions

1. How did the Israelites view the concept of Messiah before 587 B.C.?
2. Why was the view of Messianism before 587 B.C. strained in the hearts of Israel?
3. Although Israel abandoned a collective Davidian dynastic concept of Messianism, did their concept totally abandon the house of David? Explain.
4. How can we be sure that the Messiah is divine?
5. What is the meaning of *Jehovah-tsidkenu*?

Chapter Four

Progressive Revelation of the Messiah

Part III

Today's Expectation

In light of the continual Messianic prophecies, the people of Israel refused to reminisce about their Golden Age as a source of delight in their race or to give themselves a reason to continue in greatness. The focus of the Israelite was always on the future, looking for the kingdom to come under the rule of Messiah.

Over the years, this has caused a great cultural gap between the psychology of Israel and many other ethnic groups.

Israel is not looking back at her golden age.

Even with the great kingdom of David and his son Solomon, the chosen people... The Jews... Look forward to a time when an even greater kingdom will be established... A time when the kingdom of David will continue under a man in David's line... The Messiah.

The Messiah is the culmination of the groanings and longings of all creation since the fall of Adam. He is the fulfillment of the holy desire of the nation of Israel to lead the world to peace, the answer to the eternity hidden in the heart of man.¹

¹ Ecclesiastes 3:11

The Messiah is God in the flesh.

He is the Son of God.

He is the Kinsman-Redeemer.

He is the Passover Lamb.

He is *Jehovah-tsidkenu*.

How the Expectation Molds Israel

Because of this basic difference in philosophy between Israel and the rest of the world, there is an expectancy in Israel that one cannot find elsewhere.

Even through hardships and disappointments, difficulties and wars, treachery and hidden agendas, Israel remains optimistic about its future.

God is still in control of Israel.

Israel is still the chosen nation blessed by God.

The greatest facet of Israeli philosophy among those who await the Messiah is that their hope for the future is not destroyed by the world events that erupt at every turn.

Famine does not destroy their hope.

War does not diminish their zeal for the future.

Nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war do not negate their belief that mankind will live on and see an even greater age than ever before.

Why?

Because the Messiah will come.

All evil in the world cannot quench the hope of His

coming. All destruction cannot erase the memory of the reality of Israel's expectation.

The Messiah will come... And some day, the memory of all tribulation and oppression that has come on Israel, God's chosen people, will fade away forever.

The Reality of Expectation Today

Today, there is varied expectation of the Messiah in the world. Although most believe the Messiah to be a Jew, at least one religion, Islam, believes him to be the Arab, Muhammad. However, both Judaism and Christianity believe the Messiah to be a Jew and the son of David.

Regardless of the identity of the Messiah, it is true that the entire world is awaiting his emergence.

Jews are awaiting the first-time emergence of the Messiah to be both the personal deliverer and the national and world leader.

Christians are awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to sit on His Throne in Jerusalem.

Muslims are awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Whom, they believe, will tell the world that Allah is God and Muhammad is His prophet.

The world is ready and waiting.

Tensions between nations are rising.

Open conflict and secret plotting go both noticed and unnoticed throughout the world.

Time is ripe for the Messiah.

Even atheists and agnostics agree that something must

be done in the world before chaos reigns. Madmen are still ruling nations in some parts of the world. Nuclear armaments still abound despite agreements between Russia and the United States. Diseases and epidemics like AIDS and the Ebola virus foreshadow dooming ends for much of mankind.

The world is at a breaking point. The Messiah must come. Of course, Israel is preparing for His appearing.

Certain factions in Israel are moving forward to pave the way for the Messiah. Plans include the rebuilding of the temple and the reinstatement of temple sacrifice.

There is a growing movement among the Israel Torah Foundation and other orthodox groups to elect a new Sanhedrin of the seventy-one most qualified rabbis in Israel.²

Carefully read the following:

The prophecy of redemption is being fulfilled in our days with the ingathering of the Exiles and the liberation of the Land. Yet the great task of rebuilding the Temple is still before us. It is written that the Temple of Jerusalem will be rebuilt by a king of the Davidic line, who will be installed by the High Court of Seventy-One, that is, the Sanhedrin.³

This quote from the brochure, *The Sanhedrin in the Sixth Millennium* surely shows how certain elements in Israel are eager to receive the Messiah and are not only awaiting His appearing, but are actively participating in the needed steps toward His dominion.

² *Messiah*, by Grant Jeffrey, Frontier Research Publications, Ontario, Canada, pg. 303.

³ *The Sanhedrin in the Sixth Millennium*: Source: *Messiah*, by Grant Jeffrey, Frontier Research Publications, Ontario, Canada, pg. 303

The time for the Messiah is here.

Chapter Four Questions

1. What is different in the national philosophy of Israel from that of other nations?
2. How does this affect the outlook on life for the Israeli who awaits the Messiah?
3. Will Israel, and the rest of the world, live in a greater age than Solomon's kingdom?
4. What is the Sanhedrin's role in relation to the rebuilding of the temple?
5. What are Israelis doing to usher in the Messiah's reign?

Chapter Five

Parallels and Contrasts of Adam and the Messiah

God does not want His people misled concerning the identity of the Messiah. He does not want us deceived, but desires us to receive the Messiah and benefit from His redeeming power, as well as His leadership.

In chapter ten of this book, we will deal with Messianic deception which may cause some people to receive a false Messiah, but for now, we will look at the characteristics and qualities the Messiah must have.

The greatest challenge the Messiah will face is to undo the damage caused by the first man, Adam.

Through the sin of Adam, we are separated from God and cannot have fellowship with Him except through the work of the Messiah.

Because of the Adamic nature that every man has inherited through his father, we have all inherited sin. Even if we live a perfect life, we are hopelessly stained with the sin of our fathers... unless the Messiah comes to deliver us from our sin and reunite us with the Father.

Through the man, Adam, sin entered into the world and into the lives of every man, woman and child. Because sin came into the world, death came as well. Now all men are sentenced to death. We must all die because of what Adam did in the Garden.

Adam was created in God's image: sinless and immortal. But as soon as he sinned, he lost his immortality. The processes of death and corruption entered his body and began their evil work.

However, we can rejoice in that even though through the sin of Adam, we all have become sinners, through the righteousness of the Messiah, we all can be made righteous!

Through Adam's sin, we became sinners and were judged of the law when Moses came. By our own righteousness, we cannot escape the law. We cannot escape the sentence of death. But through the life of the Messiah, we can escape sin. Through His righteousness, we can escape the law. We can escape judgment. We can escape death!

How Can the Messiah Escape Sin?

It is very important to understand that in order to liberate us from sin, the Messiah must be sinless Himself. He must be parallel to Adam in the state of creation before Adam sinned. In essence, in His relation to sin and temptation, the Messiah must become the Second Adam.

He must triumph where Adam failed!

He must be the victor where Adam was the villain!

He must succeed where Adam succumbed!

He must also be born sinless as Adam was created sinless.

After Adam sinned, God asked Adam how he knew he was naked because He did not create Adam with

knowledge of evil. Adam was created sinless.

The real question is: How will the Messiah be born sinless since all men are corrupted with the seed of Adam?

The secret is in the seed.

God prophesied in the Garden of Eden it would be the seed of woman that would bruise Satan's head, not the seed of Adam.

In other words, the nature of sin is passed down only through the father, not the mother. It is a spiritual sex-linked characteristic. A woman cannot pass the nature of sin down to her children. Only a man has that ability.

The Son of God

The Messiah must be born of a virgin in order to escape Adamic nature and live a sinless life. He must be born with no earthly father. His father must be God. He must be the Son of God.

It makes perfect spiritual sense that the Messiah be the Son of God. Look at this passage from Genesis:

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7

Adam had no earthly father. He was not born. He was formed. God took special care and delicately molded the dust of the earth into a man's body. However, it was still just a body. It had no life in it. There was no life force, no spirit, no soul, no senses, no thinking, just a body.

Then God did something absolutely awesome.

He took the body, lifted it to himself and breathed the very breath of life into it.

You could say he breathed a spirit-man into the body. When the spirit was united with the body, it brought life to it.

Man was alive.

He had a piece of God's Spirit inside him to keep him alive.

He was the son of God.

In the same way, the Messiah must be the Son of God. Now, he doesn't have to be formed out of the dust. But his seed must be only of woman and of the Holy Ghost.

Tempted Like Adam

Furthermore, the Messiah must endure all temptation Adam endured. He must be exposed to the same temptations all men are exposed to, but without giving in to the power of sin.

Why Must the Messiah Be Sinless?

The Messiah has been represented by many prophetic Symbols in the scripture. Not the least of which is the Passover lamb.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats...

Exodus 12:3, 5

Here the Word of God speaks of the Passover lamb being one taken from the flock because it was without blemish. God's people were not allowed to offer as a sacrifice something that was second-rate. They had to offer their best.

Why?

Because God was going to offer His best. He was going to send to the earth a Messiah. That Messiah would be a man who was sinless. One who was not the son of sinful man, but the Son of God. He would go through all the temptations that come upon man, but remain without blemish of sin.

He would become the perfect Passover lamb.

What is the Result of the Passover Lamb?

The Passover lamb did great things for Israel. First of all, it prevented human death. The lamb actually took the place of the firstborn of Israel who would have to otherwise die.

In this same way, the Messiah will, through His righteousness, take the place of people who would have to die for their own sin, in contrast to Adam, who through disobedience gave death to his offspring instead of life.

The blood of the Passover lamb was the key to survival of the firstborn of Israel. The death angel came through Egypt and destroyed the firstborn in every home except those which had the blood of the lamb applied to the two side posts and the upper doorpost of the house.

The shedding of blood was a key, but the correct

application of the blood was the second key.

In the same manner, the Messiah must shed His blood to die for the sins of mankind. As in sacrifices of repentance, the Messiah, although sinless, must receive the sins of mankind in His own body and die, shedding his blood, so that man can be free.

However, it is not enough that any man should die for mankind. The sacrifice must be the perfect Man, the Second Adam, the sinless Messiah, who dies.

Furthermore, the person wanting to be redeemed from sin, the curse of the law, and death, must receive the blood of the Messiah in a public manner, just as those who followed Moses publicly displayed the blood on the doorpost of their homes.

You Will Be a Peculiar People

There was no mistake in Egypt about who believed in the power of the blood of the lamb and who did not.

The next thing the blood of the lamb did for Israel was to give them the power to be liberated from Egypt. If the firstborn of every Israelite family died along with the Egyptian firstborn, the Pharaoh would not have believed it was by the power of God that the Egyptians were slain or the Israelites were delivered.

It took a supernatural distinction that the blood supplied.

The blood makes the distinction!

Everyone who finds and receives the Messiah will have a distinction over their life. They will be spiritually

set apart from those who do not receive the Messiah!

Deliverance from Bondage

The deliverance from Egypt marked an historic moment in Israel. For over 400 years, the Israelites were in bondage to Egypt. Now they were free.

Likewise the Messiah will be the driving force that leads God's people out of spiritual Egypt.

Spiritual Egypt can be seen as a place in man's life where he is dominated by idolatry, sin or a worldly lifestyle. Egypt represents sin. The Messiah, if you receive Him, will deliver you from sin.

Now, just as the first Adam delivered mankind into the claws of sin, the Messiah, or Second Adam, will deliver mankind out of the claws of sin and into the kind of life that God has promised us.

He will set man free.

Free of sin!

Free of death!

Free of sickness!

Free of worry!

Free of doubt!

Man will be absolutely, totally free in every area if he trusts in the Messiah.

Chapter Five Questions

1. What damage did the first Adam do that the Second Adam must undo?

The Messiah

2. How will the Second Adam defeat sin?
3. What is the purpose of the Passover lamb?
4. How will the Messiah be like the Passover lamb?
5. What does it mean when we say we will be delivered from Egypt in today's context? Explain.

Chapter Six

Echoes of Isaiah Part I

One of the most powerful and articulate voices of the scripture foretelling the Messiah was Isaiah. Isaiah, whose prophetic utterances spanned the reign of four kings, knew the need for man's redemption and became the scriptural source of hope for many who feel the need to be delivered from sin.

Isaiah, quite probably the greatest of the prophets, prophesied redemption.

His prophecies not only proclaim the coming of the Messiah, but their literary power and elegance is unparalleled by any prophetic utterances anywhere, anytime. The anointing and power of the Spirit of the Lord so fully and freely flowed through Isaiah, that the scriptures penned so long ago have the power to point men in search of the Messiah today.

It is in the writing of Isaiah, and the Spirit of God which flowed through him, that we must immerse ourselves in now if we are to find the Messiah.

The Birth of the Messiah

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that

The Messiah

thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Isaiah 7:14-16

This foreshadow of the Messiah is probably the most vivid parallel between the Messiah and the first Man, Adam. Of course, Adam, being formed by God Himself, out of the dust of the earth¹, is called the “son of God.” Adam had no mother, and his only father was God. The relationship God had with Adam was both in the place of Father and Creator. This is a paradigm shift between our own experiences having both an earthly or biological father as well as a heavenly Father.

The Messiah must also be called “the Son of God.” He must have no biological father... only a virgin mother with the Spirit of God as His father. This is the greatest and most difficult qualification the Messiah must fill.

No man can claim to be the Messiah if he has a biological father.

No man can just decide to be the Messiah.

No man can just decide to be the Son of God.

The Messiah must have been ordained to be the Messiah from the beginning of time. Isaiah makes this very clear.

The Messiah’s Right to Rule

Isaiah confirms the lineage of the Messiah in other prophecies:

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

¹ Genesis 2:7

Echoes of Isaiah Part I

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 judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

In this scenario Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah, although the Son of God, will be able to sit on the throne of David and rule Israel. Not only will He have the right to rule Israel, but the inspired words of Isaiah that read, “*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end....*”, leads us to the fact that the Messiah will ultimately not only rule Israel, but the entire world through His throne in Jerusalem.

The true Messiah will eventually sit on His throne in Jerusalem and rule the entire world.

Many have tried to rule the world.

Many have conquered nations.

Many have fought and spent the lives of countless soldiers to achieve this dream.

Many have failed.

The Messiah will not fail. From Jerusalem will go out His decrees which will be held in perfect obedience and peace throughout the world.

But first, how can any man sit on the throne of David now?

Israel has no king.

The Messiah must be able to trace His earthly lineage

through both His mother's family line as well as His mother's husband, or the man that most would assume to be His biological father. This way there will be no question to the legitimacy of His claim to the throne of David.

Would Israel receive a king?

Only if He was the Messiah.

Absolutely!

This would happen only as the Messiah exhibited the qualities mentioned earlier in the holy writings of Isaiah calling Him, "*Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*" His name being called, "*The Mighty God*" also shows his unique characteristic of being the Son of God and his oneness with the Father.

Further expounding on the lineage of the Messiah, Isaiah writes:

*And, there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots:*

Isaiah 11:1

The confirmation of the lineage of "the stem of Jesse" or King David is clear and undeniable. The Messiah simply must come from the house of David. No other explanation is acceptable.

The Rule of the Messiah

To some, a world ruler or government is absolutely frightening. Dictatorships are abhorred and coercive statesmen are reviled. However the government of the

Messiah will not be so. Let's take a look at how his rule will be tempered.

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:2-6/

Here we see that although the Messiah will rule in righteousness and benevolence, he also will have a great power to judge wickedness, and with a word of His lips, wicked people are slain. Surely in the time of His rule, there shall be a greater discipline to be holy before the Lord than ever before, but the righteous are never cut off from his government and this life—only the wicked.

Isaiah does not speak of bloodthirsty killing as we have seen on the earth in past attempts at world conquests. The military campaigns of Alexander the Great, Napoleon, the Caesars of Rome, Saddam Hussein and the demonically inspired Hitler brought merciless senseless killing, rape and destruction to the world.

The Messiah, however, will bring peace. There will be judgment, but there will be peace.

His righteous judgment will flow from the gifts and ability of God resident within Him. He will have the spirit

of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel and strength. These are not self-developed characteristics, but abilities that come through the Spirit of God.

He will not be fooled by what He sees or hears, but only what He hears the Father God speak to Him.

Even in nature, the Messiah will extend His supernatural ability to bring peace.

He will not only be a political master.

He will not only be a conquering king.

He will not only be the greatest ruler known to mankind. He will also exercise control over nature.

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. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the hearth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:6-10

What kind of power is this that causes lamb and the lion to lie down together? Isaiah echoes a time in the future when all manner of animals will dwell peacefully together. What's more, children will fearlessly and safely lead the most powerful members of the animal kingdom to do their bidding!

This kind of power over nature points to a Messiah of superior spiritual ability... One who has more than a political mind or an ability to understand the intricacies of economics.

This Messiah is real.

He's not a phony.

He has real power.

He does not thrive on controlling the whims of the masses through masterful communication through the media.

Simply, He has the power of God working through His life and the ability to speak commands which are enforced by the power and glory of God.

Chapter Six Questions:

1. What is the most unique characteristic of the Messiah's birth? How does this separate the Messiah from other men and make him parallel to Adam?
2. What will give the Messiah the right to rule Israel? What will be the nature of His rule?
3. How will the Messiah rule on a personal level as well as a world level? What is the nature of the rulership on personal levels?
4. What is the only factor which would cause Israel to accept a king? Explain.
5. Will the Messiah's rule affect even the beasts of the earth? In what way?

Chapter Seven

Echoes of Isaiah Part II

Lawgiver and Liberator Parallels of Moses and the Messiah

In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses prophesies of a man who will be like him, but will captivate the ears of Israel in a way that he never did.

And the Lord said unto me... I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deuteronomy 18:17-18

Moses longed for the day when the ears of Israel would hearken unto the Law of God. He welcomed the Messiah who would not only confirm the Law, but would command obedience to it.

... Like unto thee...

The Messiah would have to be parallel to Moses in many ways. He would have to be parallel in power, giving of the Law and parallel in liberating Israel.

This is no easy feat to accomplish.

Moses had power.

Moses had authority.

Moses gave the Law.

Moses was the main human instrument who brought about the liberation of God's people from the slavery and tyranny of Pharaoh of Egypt.

How can anyone come close to what Moses has done?

How can anyone be parallel to Moses?

The Messiah simply must.

If he cannot... he is not the Messiah.

No questions.

No doubts.

We have already seen how the Messiah will liberate Israel from the rest of the world by making Jerusalem the eternal capital of the entire world and the seat of God's power. The questions that remain are about His ability in the giving of the law as well as His ability in liberating individuals from their own bondages.

We must, however, be very careful in our interpretation of this scripture paralleling the Messiah to Moses. Some groups have claimed that the term, "*from among their brethren like unto thee*" means that the Messiah could have come from some relation of Abraham's, including the line of Ishmael. This leads them to the false conclusion that Muhammad is the Messiah. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice Isaac, God called Isaac Abraham's only son, showing that the spiritual connection between Abraham and Ishmael was broken when Abraham forced Ishmael and Hagar to

leave.¹

God had already told Abraham that in Isaac would his seed be named.² Therefore the relationship between Isaac and Ishmael was forever broken. Muhammad, born of the seed of Ishmael, would never have been mistaken by Moses to be of the brethren of Israel. Therefore, it is impossible for Muhammad to be the Messiah.

His Rulership and Law Giving

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgement unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgement in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Isaiah 42:1-4

The Messiah will be a lawgiver like Moses, but His jurisdiction shall be increased according to Isaiah. His law will go forth beyond Jerusalem, beyond Judea to the uttermost parts of the earth. His law shall even envelope the Gentiles. Even those in the islands of the sea will wait in eagerness to hear His law. He will be known as the greatest lawgiver mankind has ever known.

His Tenderness and Liberation

No ruler the earth has ever known has ever had such power and yet such caring for the smallest of human

1 Genesis 22:2

2 Genesis 21:12

elements.

A bruised reed shall he not break....

What tenderness the world's rightful ruler shall have.
What power, and yet with what meekness, He will wield.

Moses, the lawgiver, was the meekest man of his time. Yet, he ruled the entire nation of Israel, leading them out of Egypt, through the wilderness and to the border of the promised land.

Until Moses, man had been servants of the Most High God, but never considered a friend to God. Yet the Messiah will be so careful as not to break a bruised reed. In addition to His strength and power, He will have many compassionate qualities.

He will love children.

He will care for families.

He will despise the destruction of the innocent.

God speaks to the Messiah:

I the Lord have called, thee in righteousness, and will keep thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Isaiah 42:6-7

This Messiah will care for those who cannot care for themselves. He will liberate those who are in prison.

He will liberate those in natural prison.

He will liberate those in spiritual prison.

He will liberate those in emotional prison.

He will operate in caring and compassion.

The Messiah will be the ultimate liberator. He will liberate all of mankind from all kinds of bondage, no matter what the source.

As we will learn in the following chapter of this book, the Messiah must be a redeemer as well as a great leader.

Chapter Seven Questions

1. Why can we definitely say that Muhammad is not the Messiah?
2. Can a man be the Messiah and yet not be parallel to Moses? Explain.
3. How can the Messiah be meek and a powerful ruler at the same time?
4. What are the greatest parallels between Moses and the Messiah? Describe each.
5. Why would Israel, and the rest of the world, accept the Messiah as the world's leader?

Chapter Eight

Echoes of Isaiah Part III

The Messiah will always be known as both a spiritual and natural redeemer as well as a spiritual and natural leader.

There are many prophecies in the scripture which deal with the Messiah in different fashions. The scripture shows the Messiah to be the Redeemer who will be the final sacrifice, dying for our sins, and the King who will rule the world.

How can one man be both?

This question has led some rabbis to believe in two Messiahs—one who will suffer and die and one who will rule.

As we study this chapter, we will understand that one Messiah must be both.

The Messiah as Redeemer

The principle purpose of the Messiah toward mankind is not primarily national leadership although it is the more sought after and romantic type of the Messiah propagated by literature. Even though the Messiah will rule Israel and the world, His primary purpose is to seek out mankind and redeem him from sin for the Father.

The Messiah is a bridge between God and man. He is the one who will deal with the aftermath of the first

Adam. He will take human beings who are stained with the sin of Adam and redeem them from Satan, thus purchasing them for the Father.

In the most beautiful passage proclaiming the coming Messiah, Isaiah illustrates the vicarious nature of Messiah and His willingness to suffer for man's redemption.

Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant

Echoes of Isaiah Part III

justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:1-12

The very first verse may be puzzling at first until we understand the nature of man. We have been studying God's Word and seeking and waiting for the Messiah for so long, it is easy for us to believe deep in our hearts that, even though we believe He will come, He couldn't be coming in our time.

How strange would it have been for Isaiah or Jeremiah or Ezekiel to come in our time instead of the time they came? Would we receive their prophecies? Would we believe every word they spoke under the anointing of the Spirit of the Lord?

How sad to have been a contemporary of one of the prophets and rejected his words... But even more sad it would be to have seen, heard or read of the Messiah and not have responded to His Word.

Yet the prophet speaks... Yet he cries out from his writings, *"Who hath believed our report?"*

When the Messiah presents Himself to you, will you believe?

This passage shows that many will not accept the Messiah, but reject him as He comes as the Suffering Messiah—the one who redeems mankind. Here we see Him despised and rejected by those who should accept

Him.

Why?

Because mankind is carnal.

We want power!

We want authority!

We want strength!

We don't want to hear about someone else's sufferings. We want to find out how we can gain power in God's Kingdom.

The Messiah will not initially bring power to Israel. He will first bring redemption from sin. It will not be an Israel with sin which will rule the world, but an Israel which is without spot or wrinkle, whose garments are white and clean. This is the Israel that God desires. It will take a Messiah Who is willing to suffer to bring Israel to purity. The effects of the first Adam must be reversed. The curse of sin must be lifted.

The powerful role of the suffering and redemptive Messiah is to be the bridge we must cross to fellowship with God. He will not only bring us to redemption from sin, however. When we are redeemed from sin, we will also be redeemed of our emotional pain as well as our sickness.

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...
But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised
for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him;
and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:4-5

We can clearly see that in addition to reconciling us to

God, it is the function and purpose of the Messiah to heal us of all emotional pain and physical problems.

The Messiah is not just a nationalist military genius. He is a person who is interested in healing your pain... Both the pain of your heart as well as the pain of your body.

The Messiah will lift the entire curse of sin from your life. Sin will be forgiven.

Fellowship with God will be established.

Emotional pain will be healed.

Physical infirmity will be healed.

The entire curse of sin will be lifted.

The Messiah's role as redeemer requires Him to bear our sin so we can be free from that sin. He must bear our sin, but he must be sinless.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...

Isaiah 53:9-10

Here is divulged the secret of His redemptive power. The Messiah must receive, in his body, the sins of the world and take these sins to the grave. He must become the offering for sin.

How else could the Father be pleased to bruise Him? The only way the Father could be pleased is that the sins of the world are being atoned for. The Messiah bridges the gap by His own death.

How then can the Messiah be King if He must die?
Resurrection!!!

*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou
suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Psalm 16:10

Here the psalmist again prophesies about the Messiah... this time, intimating that the Messiah will be resurrected!

This is the key which explains how the Messiah can be the Redeemer as well as the Ruler!

The Messiah as Righteous King

We studied previously how the Messiah is called by many names, including: Immanuel, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace and others. Now we will get to know him by terms related to his leadership abilities.

Remember, here we are talking about the Kingly Messiah, not the Suffering Messiah.

The thirty-second chapter of Isaiah begins by foretelling the blessings of the Kingdom of the Messiah and the nature of his rulership:

Behold a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.

Isaiah 32:1-4

Here, clearly the prophet suggests a Messianic Kingdom not divided over such trivialities as health care programs and tax assessment. The King's rule in utter and absolute righteousness does not end in the political arena, but permeates the very fabric of society and invades every facet of man's existence.

The righteousness of the Messianic King also causes the sick to be healed. His power over sin is demonstrated by destruction of every problem known to man which has its source in sin.

In this kingdom there will be no sickness.

There will be no blindness.

There will be no deafness.

There will be no lameness.

AIDS will be eradicated from the earth!

There will be no prostitution.

There will be no alcoholism.

There will be no mental illness.

The power of the Messiah which enables Him to be king and rule over all the earth also gives him power over sin, sickness and disease and the ability to cure social ills which have plagued mankind since Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden.

Every evil that came upon the earth through the sin of Adam will be reversed. Every curse against mankind will die. The Messiah will even demonstrate power over the natural elements such as winds, waves, storms, etc.

His rulership abilities enter the affairs of man and

rewards men as they should be rewarded and not as our society rewards man.

The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful.

Isaiah 32:5-6

In the reign of the Messiah, the power of God will cause absolute justice. Iniquity will not be rewarded, but retribution will be instant.

The Kingly authority of the Messiah as prophesied by Isaiah is further illustrated in the Psalms.

The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou has the dew of thy youth. The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath

Psalm 110:1-5

The Messiah is a King as well as a priest of the Most High God. He is both Ruler and Redeemer.

Chapter Eight Questions

1. What is the primary purpose of the Messiah toward mankind?
2. How will the Messiah complete His primary purpose?
3. Will the Messiah, as Redeemer, do more than

Echoes of Isaiah Part III

forgive sin?

4. How is the Messiah like Melchizedek? Explain.
5. How is it possible that the Messiah will fulfill the roles of both Redeemer and King?

Chapter Nine

The Messiah Must Be Parallel to God

One of the most difficult things to understand about the Messiah is that He must be parallel to God. He cannot be the Father, but He must be parallel to Him.

We must admit that some rabbis do not want to accept this facet of the Messiah. Why? Because it too closely resembles the Christian point of view. If we were to admit that the Messiah could be the Son of God, we would have to take a closer look at Yeshua. It would invalidate the grounds our forefathers had Him crucified for and cause us to have to consider His case again. This would be most embarrassing.

Nevertheless, the scriptures are very clear in this area.

The Messiah Must Be the Son of God

I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalm 2:7

Here it is very plain that the second psalm is speaking about the Son of God... A Son not like Adam who was formed from the dust of the ground, but a Son Who was begotten of God... With no earthly father, but a part of the Father God.

The entire second psalm speaks about the reign of God's Anointed or the Messiah. It parallels the Messiah

with *Jehovah* by calling Him *Jehovah's* Son. A begotten Son of God would definitely have the same supernatural powers as His Father.

This will be the most difficult area for the Messiah to qualify Himself in. If a man is to prove to the world that He is the Messiah, He must be able to demonstrate powers and abilities that belong to God alone. Here there is little room for impostors.

The Messiah Will Have Power to Forgive Sin

The Messiah, one Who is parallel to *Jehovah*, must be parallel in abilities and powers as well. The Messiah must also have the ability to forgive sin.

... for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

Jeremiah prophesies that God will forgive the sins of Israel during the reign of the Messiah. Furthermore, God will not only forgive, but forget forever that the sins of Israel ever existed. This passage implies that it is the direct intervention of the Messiah that causes sin to be forgiven. There is no mention of animals slain for blood sacrifice... Only the presence of the Messiah.

Further, if the Messiah has power to forgive sin, He must also have power to do other things that only *Jehovah* can do. He must have supernatural powers. He must be able to heal the sick. He must be able to cast out devils. He must be able to do all manner of supernatural acts including knowing the hearts of men.

The Messiah Must Be Parallel to God

... and this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jeremiah 23:3-6

The most glaring evidence that the Messiah must parallel God is that Jeremiah prophesies that we will call Him, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, or *Jehovah-tsidkenu*.

No one but God, or the Son of God, could claim that title without committing blasphemy against *Jehovah*. So any man who could properly be called *Jehovah-tsidkenu*, must be the Son of God, and must be the Messiah. It is by Him that sins are forgiven. It is through Him that righteousness is attained.

The Messiah Will Be Worshiped as God Is Worshiped

Let's look again at the names Isaiah ascribes to the Messiah:

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.

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah is even more bold with his Messianic declarations. He speaks of a Man who will carry the government of the world upon His own shoulders. Who beside the Messiah could carry world government upon His own shoulders? The man that Isaiah speaks of has subdued the entire world and rules it greatly and successfully.

The nations of the world are grateful and thankful and call him names such as Wonderful! They don't resist His leadership. They do not despise Him as if He had conquered them in a bloodthirsty war. They love Him!

When the Messiah comes and sets up His kingdom on earth, He will be loved by all nations for his great leadership. All of Africa will love Him. All of Asia will love Him. All Arab nations will love Him. All of Europe will love Him. North and South America will love Him. Australia will love Him!

They will praise Him for his wisdom, calling Him Counsellor! His rule will bring plenty to all the earth! There will be food and prosperity for all citizens of all nations. His wisdom will be known throughout the entire world.

They will also call him the following names which directly correspond to God: The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

During the reign of the Messiah, man will see Him as interchangeable with God. They will see God and His Son as being distinct and yet the same. They will not be called unlearned or ignorant for this view. Isaiah records this prophecy as if it would be the normal thing to believe. In fact, the tone of this passage leads the reader to believe that the worship of the Messiah is not at all blasphemous. If anything, we have, in the past, not given the coming Messiah His due in the form of respect and reverence.

No one is rebuking Israel or the world in Isaiah chapter 9 for worshipping the Messiah. It is not blasphemy, but righteous worship seeing that the Messiah is truly the

Son of God.

The Son of David Shall Be the Lord of David

Look at the following scripture carefully:

*The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand,
until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Psalms 110:1

Here we could translate the personal references into English better by saying, "*The Eternal God said unto my Master....*"

By the word, "Master," David was referring to his own Master, the Messiah. The word I have translated "Master" here is used for earthly authorities or divine authority. David, however, was king of Israel, the most successful warrior of his time. David had no earthly authorities over him. He had only divine authorities.

Therefore, by using the different words translated Lord and Lord, more correctly, *Jehovah-God*, and Master, David is making a distinction between God and Messiah, Father and Son. He reverences both as his authorities, but realizes that though they are one, they are also distinct and interact with one another.

This brings us to a great paradox in the scripture. The Messiah is the Son of David, and yet He is greater than David. David's offspring shall be His Master.

How can the offspring of a man be his master? Because as we studied earlier, the Messiah is preexistent and divine.

Chapter Nine Questions

1. How can a man be parallel to God?
2. Can any man on earth forgive sin? Why or Why not?
3. Can any man who is not the Son of God be the Messiah? Why or Why not?
4. Would it be blasphemous for mankind to worship the Messiah? Why or Why not?
5. How can David's offspring be his Master?

Chapter Ten

Don't Be Fooled By a False Messiah

In our search for the Messiah, we must not be duped by the many pretenders in the world today. Make no mistake about it. The scriptures predict that there will be a false messiah who will deceive many. By the grace and provision of God, we have prophetic understanding about the spirit of false messiah and how to see through the charade of Satan.

This spirit of false messiah has always been in the earth in opposition to God. There are many false messiahs, but there will also be one main false messiah who will deceive many.

The religion of the Babylonian empire has always been in direct opposition to the true God. Consider the following prophecies written by the hand of Isaiah:

That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! The golden city ceased! The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers... The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing... All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? Art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How are thou fallen from heaven O [Day Star], son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:4-5; 7; 10-12

The prophet speaks concerning the spirit of false messiah whose origin is the religion of Babylon. This abhorrent spirit continually mocks the true God and seeks to replace Him in worship.

These events have obviously not yet occurred in their fullness even though the ancient Babylonian civilization has fallen. There is great evidence that the Babylonian empire is back on the rise today.

Notice how the scripture speaks of the destruction of the Golden City. It is very interesting how Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government has spent almost one billion dollars reconstructing the city of Babylon.¹ The time for the Messiah as well as the false messiah has come.

This false messiah will be accepted by the nations of the world as the true Messiah. He will trick them into believing he is the true Anointed of God. However, after gaining control of the nations of the world, he will become the greatest oppressor that mankind has ever known.

At his fall, the people of the world gather around and say, "*Have you become weak like us?*" This shows that the false messiah will exhibit supernatural powers similar to what we will expect the Messiah to exhibit.

How Can We Discern the False Messiah?

And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams.

¹ *Prince of Darkness*, Grant Jeffrey, Frontier Research Publications, Ontario, Canada, page 33.

Don't Be Fooled By a False Messiah

So they came and stood before the king...

Daniel 2:1-2, 4

As we know, none of the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar could interpret the dream because Nebuchadnezzar could not tell them the dream, however, Daniel prayed to God, who showed him both the dream and the interpretation thereof. Here is the dream:

Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:31-35

The different parts of the body, according to Daniel's interpretation, represent different Babylonian kingdoms. The legs are the Roman Empire, which subdued all nations that stood in its way. The feet and toes are representative of the revived Roman empire of today, a loose confederation of nations which will be led by the false messiah.

The stone which was carved without hands which will destroy all previous kingdoms is the Messiah. Please note that before the Messiah comes and sets up His kingdom,

He will destroy the kingdom of the false messiah which is being set up in the earth today.

Do not accept this false messiah. He will be accepted by many as the Messiah, but will bring great oppression.

Today, when the European Community is rapidly becoming the world's superpower, the stage is set for a master politician of Jewish descent to take control of the empire of iron and clay. This is the man to fear.

More Signs of the False Messiah

The False messiah will use the power of the ten most powerful members of the European Community and make himself a new Caesar. It is not fruitful to speculate as to his real title, whether it be Caesar, Messiah, Christ or otherwise. Those with discernment and an ear open to the Spirit of God will be the only people who will know his true identity.

This false messiah will bring prosperity and peace to those he rules, causing the world to think that he is the great leader they are looking for. He will even sign an agreement with the government of Israel² and win the hearts of the people with peace and prosperity brought to them by his cunning.³ However, in the end, he will be defeated by the true Messiah.

Many in Israel will realize that the false messiah is a phony when three and one half years after the agreement he signs with Israel takes effect, the false messiah causes the temple sacrifices to stop. This obviously implies that

² Daniel 9:27

³ Daniel 8:25

there will be a third temple built before the true Messiah sets up His kingdom. This third temple will be built in Israel and desecrated by the false messiah.⁴

It is very important for Jews to note that the Messiah will not set up His kingdom until after the false messiah is destroyed. We cannot afford to be caught off guard by a deceiver. Many will suffer torture and death at the hands of the great deceiver, the false messiah, because they accepted him.

We must use all available discernment and understanding to protect ourselves from the deception of the false messiah.

After the true Messiah has come, He will then build the fourth temple in Jerusalem.

Chapter 10 Questions

1. Does the scripture predict a false messiah or false messiahs?
2. What is the connection between the false messiah and Babylon?
3. Will there be a revived Babylon? Explain.
4. When will the Messiah come to set up His Kingdom?
5. Will any in Israel be deceived by the false messiah?

⁴ Daniel 9:27

Chapter Eleven

Could the Messiah Have Already Come?

The title of this chapter is also one of the greatest questions facing mankind. It is multifaceted as it means different things to different people particularly Jews and Christians.

For the Jew, the question is really, "Could the Messiah have already come?" for the Christian, the question is "Could the Messiah have already returned?"

Of course, we know the Messiah, whether He has come once or not, could not have returned yet. This would have left too many unfulfilled prophecies about His identity and His purpose for coming.

And obviously, the object of our study for this chapter of this book is this: Could Jesus of Nazareth have been the Messiah as many claim? You will have to decide for yourself.

Obviously, there is only one way to correctly identify the Messiah. He MUST fulfill the prophecies which predict His lineage, His arrival, His purpose and His actions.

Jesus and Messianic Prophecies

Let's look now at prophecies concerning the Messiah and see how Jesus did according to our comparison of scriptures from the Old and New Testaments:

The Seed of a Woman

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:15

This scripture claims that the Messiah would be the seed of a woman. This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, as reported in the Gospel of Luke 1:26-35 and Matthew 1:24-25:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-35

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew

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her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1:24-25

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, when she was espoused to Joseph. She remained a virgin until she had delivered her firstborn Son, Jesus.

The Son of David

The scriptures predict that the Messiah would be of the seed of David. Any person claiming to be the Messiah who is not in the line of David is surely a pretender.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Isaiah 11:1-4

And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy

The Messiah

kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

II Samuel 7:12-17

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Jeremiah 23:5

We know that both Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus, and Joseph, his supposed father, were both direct descendants of David. The Gospel of Luke attests to this fact.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:31-33

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli, Which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of Janna, which was the son of Joseph, Which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Amos, which was the son of Naum, which was the son of Esli, which was the son of Nagge, Which was the son of Maath, which was the son of Mattathias, which was the son of Semei, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Juda, Which was the son of Joanna, which was the son of Rhesa, which was the son of Zorobabel, which was the son of Salathiel, which was the son of Neri, Which was the son of Melchi, which was the son of

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Addi, which was the son of Cosam, which was the son of Elmodam, which was the son of Er, Which was the son of Jose, which was the son of Eliezer, which was the son of Jorim, which was the son of Matthat, which was the son of Levi, Which was the son of Simeon, which was the son of Juda, which was the son of Joseph, which was the son of Jonan, which was the son of Eliakim, Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David,

Luke 3:23-31

The Messiah's Birth Place

But thou, Bethlehem ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Micah 5:2

Notice that even while prophesying the birthplace of the Messiah, Micah reinforces the idea that the Messiah is one eternal being.

Now compare this scripture to the testimony of Matthew concerning the birth place of Jesus:

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem....

Matthew 2:1

Even secular history testifies that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Caesar Augustus was causing the world to be taxed and required each man to take his family to the city of their fathers for this purpose. Joseph, a direct descendant of King David, took his wife, who was ready

to deliver Jesus at any time, to Bethlehem, the city of David, to be taxed. It was there that Jesus was born as the Gospel of Luke chapter two concurs.

The Time of His Birth

Know therefore, and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Daniel 9:25

Daniel here prophesies that the Messiah would come 69 weeks of years or 483 years after the decree given to Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The scribes and priests expected the Messiah around 32 a.d. This coincides with the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

A Slaughter of Infants

Thus saith the Lord; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Jeremiah 31:15

Jeremiah describes a massacre of infants which took place after Jesus was born, as described in the Gospel of Matthew 2:16.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he

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had diligently inquired of the wise men.

Matthew 2:16

Called Out of Egypt

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Hosea 11:1

Hosea prophesies the Messiah would flee into Egypt. This was fulfilled when Joseph took Jesus to Egypt, as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Matthew 2:14

Rejected by His Own

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53:3

Isaiah shows that the Messiah would be rejected by Israel. The Gospel of John declares it did happen, as it is still happening.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

John 1:11

Riding into Jerusalem on the Foal of an Ass

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a

colt the foal of an ass.

Zechariah 9:9

One great sign of the office of Jesus as Messiah is His fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah which says He would come to Jerusalem riding on the foal of an ass. The Gospel of John declares how it actually happened.

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt. These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him. The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle.

John 12:12-18

Betrayed by a Friend

The Psalms declare a friend would betray the Messiah.

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Psalm 41:9

Zechariah names the price of thirty pieces of silver as the price of betrayal and that this price would be used to buy a potter's field.

Could the Messiah Have Already Come?

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.

Zechariah 11:12-13

The Gospel of Mark reveals Judas Iscariot as the traitor

And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Mark 14:10

Note the fulfillment of these scriptures in the Gospel of Matthew:

And [Judas Iscariot] said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:15

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Matthew 27:3-7

His Torture and Crucifixion

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:5, 7-12

Isaiah chapter 53 describes the Messiah's torture and crucifixion in direct parallel with the description of his suffering and death in the Gospel of Matthew.

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness

Could the Messiah Have Already Come?

against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly... Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him... When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Matthew 27: 11-14; 27-31; 57-60

As a lamb led to the slaughter, he did not resist by speaking. He was beaten, crucified and buried in a rich man's tomb. It happened as reported in the Gospel of Matthew exactly as Isaiah prophesied.

His Resurrection

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psalms 16:10

The scriptures also attest to His resurrection in the Psalms as the disciples of Jesus and all Christians have attested for the last two millennium.

The Messiah

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Matthew 28:1-9

Could Jesus have been the Messiah? He has surely fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning Himself which show Him as the suffering Messiah.

You must decide.

No one can decide for you.

Why don't you take a moment right now and pray. Ask God to reveal to you the truth about Jesus. Let God show you the truth and give you a witness of His Spirit in your heart about the identity of the Messiah.

Chapter Eleven Study Questions

1. Why do some scholars mistakenly claim that there will be two Messiahs?

Could the Messiah Have Already Come?

2. If we are to look at the life of Jesus, how can we determine whether or not He is the Messiah?
3. List some prophetic fulfillment in the life of Jesus that indicates that He is the Messiah.
4. Is it possible that the Messiah could come for the first time and be rejected by Israel? Why?
5. Could Jesus have fulfilled all the prophecies concerning the suffering Messiah and still return to fulfill the prophecies of the kingly Messiah? Explain.

Chapter Twelve

What Must We Do?

It is important to understand that if a Jew accepts Jesus as the Messiah, that Jew does not in any way have to sacrifice any of his or her Jewishness.

Every aspect of Jewish life is supported by the life of Jesus Who lived according to the law, fulfilled the law, and whose life is constantly reaffirmed by the law.

All Jewish holidays and festivals are also positive for the Jew who accepts the Messiah. They all speak of the coming of the Messiah. It is even more natural for a Jew to accept the Messiah than for a Gentile to live as a Christian.

What does it mean to accept the Messiah?

Acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah actually means total forgiveness from all sin in a permanent manner not requiring a yearly atonement.

By the which will we are sanctified, through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:10-14

Once and for all, Jesus is the atonement through His

The Messiah

death and resurrection. This peace, this forgiveness is for the Jew.

Salvation through Jesus, the Messiah does not mean that one forsakes the law. It means that the law is fulfilled through identification with the ultimate sacrifice.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

II Corinthians 5:21

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

I Peter 2:24

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

When Jesus was crucified, he took upon himself the sins of the world, including yours and mine. Jesus took those sins into his own body when He died on the cross. It took the shedding of His blood to give us forgiveness of our sin.

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:22

In Jesus' death was the death of all sin, provided we look upon the cross and accept Jesus. We are forgiven of

all of our sin through the sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah. We are atoned for through His blood. Jesus died in our place.

The atonement reverses everything that was lost in the Garden of Eden through man's disobedience. This atonement of Jesus reunites man with God, the Father, and causes us to have the ability to have a relationship with God, Jehovah, through the death of His son Jesus.

Jesus Rose From the Dead

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Matthew 28:5-7

On the third day after Jesus was crucified, something marvelous happened. God raised Him from the dead.

The disciples of Jesus were fearful and afraid, but a few women went to the tomb to anoint the dead body of Jesus. At the tomb, they were confronted with an angel who told them Jesus was no longer dead!

He is not dead!

He is alive today!

What is He doing?

He sits at the Father's right hand and intercedes for you and me.

... we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

I John 2:1

The resurrection sets Jesus apart from all Messianic pretenders and prophets. He rose from the dead and is alive today.

The resurrection of Jesus also allows Him to return soon to take up His role as King of the Earth.

This is the good news. The apostle Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, who was educated by the great Gamaliel, spoke of this Gospel in His epistle to the Romans.

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

The gift of salvation through Jesus delivers us from the nature of sin that was present in Adam.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23

Because we are the offspring of Adam, we have in our bodies, the nature of sin as Adam did after he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was passed down through the generations to us from our fathers. We were born in sin.

When we accept Jesus, we are free from sin! We are free from the curses that were brought upon man because of the sin of Adam and Eve. We are free from the curse of the law! We are free to live for God!

The apostle Paul had great hopes and desires for the

salvation of Israel.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Romans 10:1

Paul had great desire for the salvation of Israel and prayed for it daily. He even said once that he desired that he, himself, were cursed of God that all Israel might be saved.

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 9:1-5

The Way of Salvation

God has a plan that all Israel should accept salvation, and you can accept it today! Here is what the Bible says about salvation:

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith,

The Messiah

Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:8-11, 13

The Apostle Paul teaches here about the way of salvation. He tells exactly what one must do to be saved.

First: you must confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Messiah and Lord of your life. We are not ashamed to make a public profession of Jesus. You must not be ashamed of the Gospel. You cannot, therefore, be ashamed of the Messiah or fearful of what people might say because you have accepted Jesus.

Second: you must believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

This is a big step. This means you believe that the resurrection of Jesus was a reality in the literal sense.

Salvation is as simple as that. Through salvation, you have complete forgiveness of all your sins.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 1:13-14

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God...

Romans 3:23-25

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye

What Must We Do?

sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

I John 2:1-3

And through salvation, you can inherit eternal life in heaven with God!

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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 shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18

Dear friend, it is my prayer that the spiritual truths in this book will inspire you, and draw you nearer to the God of our fathers, Moses, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—*Jehovah*.

Even now I pray for you...

Receive the blessings of our Lord. May His peace reign in your heart. May all the members of your family be blessed! Amen. Shalom.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Psalms 122:6

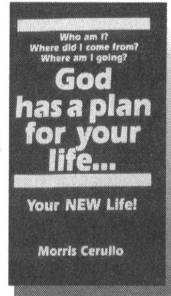
Chapter Twelve Questions

1. If a Jew accepts Jesus, does he or she cease to be a Jew? Explain.
2. To whom is salvation offered first?
3. What does salvation mean?
4. How does one accept salvation?
5. How can one have a deeper relationship with God after salvation?

MINISTRY RESPONSE FORM

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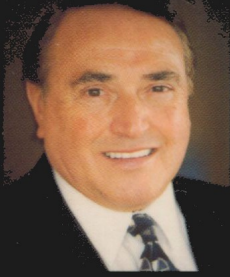
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Morris Cerullo's accreditation for spiritual teaching is, in itself, quite formidable: seven years under Jewish rabbis in a Jewish Orthodox orphanage...a divine, supernatural call from God to preach and evangelize when he was 15 years old...graduation from New England Bible College...close to half a century of experience as a pastor, teacher, author and

worldwide evangelist. Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including Honorary Doctorates of Divinity and Humanities, both by academic and spiritual leaders around the world in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization. Dr. Cerullo is respected and looked upon by thousands of Nationals as God's end time apostolic prophet to the nations of the world. Dr. Cerullo's ministry outreaches include:

Miracle Crusades – reaching the masses with the message of the Gospel in North America and the nations of the world, with up to as many as 100,000 or more people in a single service.

Schools of Ministry – training National pastors, ministers and laypeople to reach their nations for Christ through mass evangelistic crusades, with over 750,000 graduates.

Global Satellite Network Schools of Ministry – monthly, ongoing training for National ministers worldwide, via television satellite broadcasts.

God's Victorious Army presents VICTORY with Morris Cerullo – a daily television ministry to North America.

Victory Miracle Living – a 48-page study manual, teaching over 30,000 monthly, presenting revelational truths from the Bible to equip God's Victorious Army.

Jewish World Outreach – a Messianic Jewish outreach ministry to Israel and to Jews worldwide to reach every Jew with the message of the Messiah.

The New Inspirational Television Network – the 24-hour Christian satellite television network that provides Christian programming to the entire North American continent, with an ever-expanding outreach toward linking the world via satellite television.

Dr. Cerullo has also authored over 50 books. Few ministers have had such an impact on the destiny of the nations of the world. Morris Cerullo's life has been sacrificially dedicated to training and spiritually equipping pastors, laypeople and evangelists to reach their nations for Christ with a supernatural endowment of God's power.

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