

Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 1

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Introductory Explanation, What "Mashiach Ben David" Means, Christian Perspective Regarding The Messiah, Meaning Of The Name "Jesus Christ", Hebrew Greek English Transliterations, One In Christ: Watch Out For Jewish Legalism, Jesus Is The Prophesied Son Of King David, The Throne Of David Prophecies

While I have discussed the individual known as Mashiach ben David in a few of my older articles, I realized that it was important to write a new series which is wholly devoted to this particular topic. My decision to write this series is based on the following factors:

1. a heightened interest in this subject by both Christians and Orthodox Jews alike.
2. the persistence of the Orthodox Jews -- such as the Temple Mount Faithful, the Temple Institute and the Movement for the Establishment of the Temple -- in recent decades and years in their clear desire to construct a third temple on the summit of Mount Moriah -- that is, the Temple Mount -- which is also known as the "Noble Sanctuary" or "Haram Ash-Sharif" to the Muslims. In fact, this persistence has been ongoing since the the establishment of the Temple Mount Faithful during the late 1960s, who were the first significant group to advocate the Jewish takeover of the Temple Mount, even though such a takeover has repeatedly failed to come to fruition, to their frustration.
3. an increased expectation amongst the Orthodox Jews for the arrival of their long-awaited messiah, Mashiach ben David -- that is, King Messiah -- based on rabbinical teachings.
4. the ongoing preparations by the Orthodox Jews for the arrival of their messiah, which in fact includes the creation of the necessary priestly garments, as well as the required sacrificial instruments and furniture. If I recall correctly, there have even been classes given regarding how to properly

perform a ritual animal sacrifice, or oblation.

5. ongoing attempts to breed a pure red heifer -- or "parah adumah" -- through genetic engineering which will meet the strict requirements which are found Numbers 19:1-22, and in the Mishnah Tractate called "Parah".

As some of my readers will know, within both the Jewish faith and the Christian faith, the phrase "Mashiach ben David" has been known for many years. In fact, for quite a few centuries. But exactly who is this man? Has he already come? Is he yet to come? Well, that depends on who you talk to. But perhaps we should begin by first explaining what the phrase actually means. The first word "mashiach" is derived from a Hebrew word which literally means "anointed" or "the anointed one". In some sources, the English transliteration is also spelled as "mashiyach", "machayach" or "mashiah". In the Aramaic or Syriac language -- which happens to be one of the languages which Jesus spoke -- it is similar to "meshiha".

Regardless of which form of the word is used, they all mean the exact same thing. That is to say, "anointed", or "the anointed one". However, in the KJV Bible, the Hebrew word is translated as "Messiah", so that readers understand that the phrase "the anointed one" is referring to Jesus Christ, God's one true Messiah. Interestingly enough, the word "Messiah" is only found twice in the entire Authorized King James Version of the Bible. That is in the following two verses which are found in the Book of the Prophet Daniel:

"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. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Daniel 9:25-26, KJV

Being as I explain what the previous two verses mean in a number of other articles, I will not be going into detail in this current series. As I said, nowhere else is the English word "Messiah" found in the AKJV Bible. To continue, the word "ben" is likewise a Hebrew word which means "son". The final

word in the phrase "Mashiach ben David" refers to one of the most popular psalmists, warriors and kings who ruled Israel during the Old Testament era: King David. Furthermore, as you will learn a bit later in this same series, David was also a Prophet as well. So then, in its entirety, this phrase means "Messiah, son of David", and is referring to a Messiah who is a descendant of King David of old.

Now, of course, if you are a Bible-believing Christian, then it is more than likely that you already realize that from a Christian perspective, we believe and are convinced that the Messiah already arrived some two thousand years ago in the form of Jesus Christ. That is to say, Jesus the Anointed One. As some of you may be aware, "Christ" is not really the last name of our Savior. Our English word "Christ" is derived from the Koine Greek word "khristos" which simply means that God's spiritual anointing rested upon and filled Jesus bar Josef -- the word "bar" likewise meaning "son" -- who was the son of Joseph the carpenter and his wife Mary.

Concerning the name "Jesus", it is our westernized version of the Koine Greek name "Iesus", which is variably pronounced as "hay-soos", "ee-ay-soos" and "yay-soos". In original Hebrew, the common forms of the name are "Yeshua" -- which means "he is saved" -- as well as "Yehoshua" -- which is equivalent to our common English name "Joshua", and which means "Jehovah is salvation". Let me also add that when Hebrew is translated to Greek, the Hebrew "y" becomes an "i", or may even be dropped completely. As a result of this, "Yisrael" becomes "Israel", "Yhuwdah" becomes "Ioudas", and "Yeshua" becomes "Iesus" in the Koine Greek language.

Not only that, but with the formal separation of the letter "i" and the swash letter "i" -- or "j" -- sometime during the sixteenth century into two separate letters with two distinct sounds, the Hebrew letter "y" began to be exchanged for the modern letter "j". As a result, in the Authorized Version of the King James Bible, "Yhuwdah" becomes "Judah"; "Eliyahu" becomes "Elijah"; "Benyamin" becomes "Benjamin", "Yehoshua" becomes Joshua, "Yeshua" becomes "Jeshua", and "Iesus" also becomes "Jesus", to give just a few examples. As I explain in the article entitled "Jesus Christ or Yeshua Messiah?: More Christian Zionist Legalism", whatever you do, do not allow yourself to become ensnared in the legalists' trap who like to insist that we must use only Hebrew names. Use whatever name you feel comfortable with. After all, Jesus was only Jewish while He was in a body of flesh here on the Earth. As

far as God's perspective is concerned, consider this verse:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28, KJV

As I noted earlier, we Christians are convinced that Jesus the Christ was and is the prophesied Messiah who was to come, in order that He might redeem the world of sin, through His own Blood which was shed on a Roman cross. This point is made very clear in the Holy Scriptures, and it is a point which I also discuss in great detail in articles such as "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words". In addition to the many Old Testament prophecies which Jesus Christ fulfilled during His lifetime -- some of which I will be sharing with you shortly -- in the three synoptic Gospels -- that is to say, Matthew, Mark and Luke -- He is repeatedly called the "son of David"; as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham . . . But while he [Jospeh] thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

Matthew 1:1, 20-25, KJV

"And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us."

Matthew 9:27, KJV

"And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?"

Matthew 12:23, KJV

"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of

Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil."

Matthew 15:21-22, KJV

"And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David. And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David."

Matthew 20:30-31, KJV

"And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest . . . And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased,

Matthew 21:8-9, 15, KJV

"While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions."

Matthew 22:41-46, KJV

"And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

Mark 10:46-48, KJV

"And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the

temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly."

Mark 12:35-37, KJV

"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 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, Which was the son of Jesse, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson,"

Luke 3:23, 31-32, KJV

"And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

Luke 18:35-39, KJV

"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That CHRIST COMETH OF THE SEED OF DAVID, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him."

John 7:40-43, KJV

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHICH WAS MADE OF THE SEED OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"

Romans 1:1-4, KJV

"Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding

in all things. Remember that JESUS CHRIST OF THE SEED OF DAVID was raised from the dead according to my gospel:"
2 Timothy 2:7-8, KJV

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write;
These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, HE THAT HATH THE KEY OF DAVID, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;"
Revelation 3:7, KJV

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDA, THE ROOT OF DAVID, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."
Revelation 5:5-6, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I AM THE ROOT AND THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID, and the bright and morning star."
Revelation 22:16, KJV

So as you can see, not only did the people of First Century Israel recognize Jesus as a legitimate descendant and heir of King David, but even Jesus Himself plainly declares that He has the key of David, and that He is the root and the offspring of King David of old. As such, there should be no doubt about this point whatsoever, unless one is in denial of what is plainly stated in the Scriptures. What about you?

Now, perhaps you are wondering why so many people of First Century Israel were convinced that Jesus was the legitimate son and heir of King David. Aside from the fact that it was well known that He was born in the town of Bethlehem -- just like King David his ancestor -- there are many prophecies in the Old Testament which speak of a descendant of King David who would be a "righteous Branch", a King who would rule with justice and righteousness, and who would raise up the throne of King David of old. It is important to note that all of the following prophecies were written several hundred years after the reign of the original King David. Thus, they must be referring to someone else. I like to refer to this group of prophecies as the "Throne of David Prophecies".

Before sharing the actual prophecies with you, I would like

to make a very important point, lest some of you become a little bit confused. Because of the way in which the Bible is written, sometimes when certain names are used, they are not always referring to that actual person, but rather to their descendants. For example, oft times you will see the name Judah, or perhaps the name of another one of the sons of Jacob mentioned in the Old Testament. However, in many of these cases, the verses are not referring to the actual son of Jacob, but rather to his descendants, or tribe. I believe that this is likewise what occurs in some of the Scriptures which follow as well. While they use the name David, they are actually referring to a descendant of David; meaning, of course, Jesus. Here then are the prophecies:

"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. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 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 earth 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 11:1-10, KJV

"And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness." Isaiah 16:5, KJV

"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 his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Jeremiah 23:5-6, KJV

"But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them."

Jeremiah 30:9, KJV

"In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness."

Jeremiah 33:15-16, KJV

"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it."

Ezekiel 34:23-24, KJV

"And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever."

Ezekiel 37:21-25, KJV

"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days."

Hosea 3:4-5, KJV

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:"

Amos 9:11, KJV

Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH."

Zechariah 3:8, KJV

"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Zechariah 6:12-13, KJV

As you can no doubt see, the previous prophecies are not just talking about some earthly king. They are describing a person who is much more than that. They are talking about our Eternal King, Jesus Christ. The Apostles were very well aware of these prophecies, and they in fact quoted them in some of their public sermons. Some of the common people were aware as well. In fact, even the Angel Gabriel made it clear to Mary that Jesus would sit upon the throne of King David, as we see by the following group of verses:

"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I WILL RETURN, AND WILL BUILD AGAIN THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID, WHICH IS FALLEN DOWN; AND I WILL BUILD AGAIN THE RUINS THEREOF, AND I WILL SET IT UP: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the

Lord, who doeth all these things."

Acts 15:13-17, KJV

"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, HE WOULD RAISE UP CHRIST TO SIT ON HIS THRONE; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 2:29-36, KJV

"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 virgins 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."

Luke 1:26-33, KJV

"And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: BLESSED BE THE KINGDOM OF OUR FATHER DAVID, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest."

Mark 11:8-10, KJV

Perhaps you may recall that one of the verses of the Prophet Isaiah's amazing prophecy -- which I quoted to you earlier -- states the following:

"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 11:10, KJV

As it turns out, both the Gospel of Matthew and the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans confirm that this was another prophecy regarding Jesus Christ, as we see by these verses:

"Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. AND IN HIS NAME SHALL THE GENTILES TRUST."

Matthew 12:18-21, KJV

"And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES TRUST."

Romans 15:12, KJV

To reiterate, there should be no doubt that all the previous verses I have shared with you point to Jesus Christ being the God-ordained son, descendant and royal heir of King David of old, and the Eternal King to come. It is unmistakable, as far as I am concerned.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 2

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Other Old Testament Prophecies Regarding The Birth Sufferings And Resurrection Of Jesus Christ, Rejected Cornerstone: The Unbelieving Jews Despise And Reject Jesus Being True Messiah, Hypocrisy Of The Jews, Jesus Christ Is The Great Light Which Enlightens Men, We Condemn Ourselves When We Choose to Reject The Light, Unbelieving Jewish Religionists Plot Against Jesus

Continuing our discussion from part one, regarding other Old Testament prophecies which we Christians believe all find their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ, there are just so many of them -- in fact, around three hundred as I recall -- that I could not possibly list them all here. One excellent example with which many Christians are familiar is Isaiah chapter fifty-three, which describes not only how the Lord was rejected by the unbelieving Jews, but how He also suffered crucifixion at their wicked hands as well. Please consider reading this amazing chapter in its entirety, if you haven't done so already. Following are just a few examples of the many prophecies which were fulfilled by Jesus Christ in the First Century. They discuss His prophesied birth, as well as His betrayal by Judas, His sufferings on the Cross and how He was mocked by the unbelievers, and the blessed promise of His resurrection from the dead:

"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."

Isaiah 7:14-15, KJV

"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, KJV

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

Psalms 41:9, KJV

"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. 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."

Isaiah 53:4-8, KJV

"All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him."

Psalms 22:7-8, KJV

"Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion."

Psalms 22:12-13, KJV

"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death."

Psalms 22:14-15, KJV

"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me."

Psalms 22:16-17, KJV

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

Psalms 22:18, KJV

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

Psalms 16:7, KJV

"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

Psalms 34:20, KJV

If you are familiar with Christ's Crucifixion as mentioned in the Gospels, in the Book of Acts, and in the Epistles, then you will know that the previous group of prophecies match the Lord's sufferings to the letter. It is impossible to not see the similarities, unless an individual knowingly wants to be deceived, in my view. Truly, Jesus was and is Mashiach ben David. Messiah, son of David. Consider the following group of matching verses -- all of which we find in the pages of the New Testament -- as proof of this very point:

"Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Matthew 1:22-23, KJV

"And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

Matthew 2:4-6, KJV

"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 virgins 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."

Luke 1:26-31, KJV

"And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto

that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said."

Matthew 26:21-25, KJV

"And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born."

Mark 14:18-21, KJV

"And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth."

Matthew 27:39-44, KJV

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."

Matthew 27:35, KJV

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

Luke 23:34, KJV

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."

John 19:23-24, KJV

"The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:"

John 19:31-33, KJV

"For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."

John 19:36-37, KJV

"For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."

Acts 2:25-32, KJV

So again, there can be no denying that all of these verses from both the Old and the New Testaments fit together like a hand in a glove. Continuing our discussion, we are now going to turn our attention to the expectations of the Orthodox Jews. While Christians view Jesus Christ as the one and only true fulfillment of Mashiach ben David, or Messiah, son of David, as I pointed out to you at the beginning of part one, such is not the case with the Orthodox Jews. As we've seen, they are convinced that their messiah has not arrived yet. Furthermore, if one takes the time to carefully study Jewish

literature, what he will discover is that Judaism utterly rejects Jesus Christ in the most vulgar of terms, and paints Him as a blasphemous usurper, impostor, and a false prophet, who was born of a whore. That is, if they even believe that He existed at all.

But what is so interesting about the Jews' rejection of Jesus Christ is that even their very rejection of the Son of God was clearly prophesied in the Scriptures. We already covered the prophecies in the Book of Isaiah, as well as in Psalm 22. Following are some additional verses which describe how the unbelieving Jews -- symbolized as the "builders" in this set of verses -- despised and rejected the Cornerstone of God's spiritual temple. That is, Jesus Christ:

"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, KJV

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

Psalms 118:22-23, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:42, KJV

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

Mark 8:31, KJV

"And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Mark 12:10-11, KJV

"Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

Luke 9:22, KJV

"But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation."

Luke 17:25, KJV

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

John 1:11, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

Acts 4:11, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed [that is disapproved, rejected, repudiated] indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

1 Peter 2:4-8, KJV

But you see, just rejecting Jesus was not enough for those wicked people. Why not? Because everything that Jesus said and did fully exposed the hypocrisy and the deep corruption of the Jewish religionists of that era, and they obviously and utterly hated Him for it. Consider the following set of verses where Jesus repeatedly referred to those religionists as hypocrites, because they said one thing, while they did quite another:

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father

which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly . . . Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18, KJV

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15:7-9, KJV

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O YE HYPOCRITES, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed."

Matthew 16:1-4, KJV

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees,

hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone . . . Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

Matthew 23:1-3, 14, 23, 27-33, KJV

"Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Mark 7:5-7, KJV

As we read in the following Messianic Prophecies which are found in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ was ordained to be a spiritual light to the world. However, it is clear that not everyone -- beginning with the spiritually-dead Jewish religionists themselves -- wanted that great light shining on their sinful, hypocritical lives:

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give 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 42:5-7, KJV

"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

Isaiah 49:6, KJV

Just as occurs with the previous Messianic Prophecies that I shared with you earlier, we know that Jesus fulfilled every single one of Isaiah's prophecies regarding the "great light" which was to be born into the world of the First Century; a light which the Gentiles would trust. You may recall from part one that the Prophet Isaiah said the very same thing in Isaiah 11:10. The Apostle John confirms this point for us in the opening verses of his Gospel, as does the Lord Himself later on in the same Gospel. Please consider the following set of verses and see for yourself:

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

John 1:4-9, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:5, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth . . . I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

John 12:35, 46, KJV

Concerning Isaiah 42:5-7 above, as you may know, Jesus quoted those very verses when He first began preaching in Nazareth, His boyhood town. Tragically, as we saw earlier, His message was not received by those Jews at all. In fact, as this group of verses reveal, they viewed Him as a blasphemer; and they were so angry at the Lord, that they even attempted to kill Him by throwing Him off the top of a hill:

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth . . . And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country . . . And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong."

Luke 4:16-22, 24, 28-29, KJV

So, as I have already explained, in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Jesus shone like a brilliant light in the world. While some people gladly received the light which He offered to them, others rejected it, and Him, because it thoroughly exposed their sins of rebellion and unbelief, and they did not like it one bit. They in fact wanted to remain hiding in the darkness. Consider this group of verses which confirm this sad truth:

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprovèd."

John 3:19-20, KJV

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

So what were those rebellious unbelievers supposed to do? As I mentioned earlier, just rejecting Jesus was not enough for those wicked people. They had to do more. They had to silence Jesus permanently. Why? Because not only was Jesus' preaching and miracles exposing and upsetting their delicate religious order which kept the common people in total bondage, but the religious elders were really concerned that the Romans might re-evaluate the cozy relationship they had with those corrupt religious leaders, if Jesus stirred up too much trouble. This becomes evident by the following conversation which is found in the Gospel of John:

"Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."

John 11:47-53, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 3

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The Jewish Religionists Killed Jesus With Roman Cooperation, General Titus And Roman Legions Destroy Jerusalem And Temple, God's Desire Is For Us To Repent Of Unbelief And Not Perish, Free Will And Personal Choice, King Ahab Micaiah And False Prophets Of Baal, God Sends Strong Delusion Due To Unbelief, Modern Jewish Rejection: Anti-Missionary Law Bill 5738-1977, Unbelieving Jews Are Liars Children Of Hell And The Children Of Disobedience, Jewish Infiltration In The United States, Jewish Expectation For Soon Arrival Of Their False Messiah, Maimonides And His 13 Principles Of Judaism, Rambam's Mishneh Torah, Definitions Of Talmud Mishnah Gemara And Jewish Oral Law, Structure Of The Sanhedrin, Attempts To Re-establish The Sanhedrin In Modern Israel, The Amidah Prayer And Fifteenth Blessing, Nachmanides And The 1263 Disputation Of Barcelona

Continuing our discussion from part two, as most Christians already know, the Jewish religious elders not only formulated a permanent solution to their growing problem, but they also carried it out in due time as well, with the consent of the Romans, whom they used as their proxy executioners. This fact is plainly revealed in the following group of verses:

"Then assembled together the CHIEF PRIESTS, AND THE SCRIBES, and the ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might TAKE JESUS BY SUBTILTY, AND KILL HIM. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT KILL HIM; for they feared the people."

Luke 22:1,2, KJV

"And therefore did the JEWS PERSECUTE JESUS, AND SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

John 5:16-18, KJV

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM . . . Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who GOETH ABOUT TO KILL THEE? . . . Then said some of them of Jerusalem, IS NOT THIS HE, WHOM THEY SEEK TO KILL?"

John 7:1, 19-20, 25, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but YE SEEK TO KILL ME, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now YE SEEK TO KILL ME, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."

John 8:37-40, KJV

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore HE THAT DELIVERED ME UNTO THEE HATH THE GREATER SIN. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."

John 19:10-12, KJV

". . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be DELIVERED TO THE JEWS: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, WHOM YE SLEW AND HANGED ON A TREE."

Acts 5:27-30, KJV

Ironically, while those wicked Jewish religionists were able to temporarily silence Jesus, as I point out in a few other articles, their futile attempt to save their nation from the wrath of Rome was in vain. As some of my readers will know, forty years later, General Titus -- the son of Vespasian and a future emperor himself -- and his Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews' temple compound for the second time in their long history. So the Jewish religious hierarchy's efforts to save themselves was all for not.

The fact of the matter is that with their staunch rejection of Jesus Christ as God's appointed Savior, the unbelieving Jews set themselves up for a very long history of rejection and delusion. Please understand that the Lord gives all of us ample opportunity to accept the truth regarding Christ. God will bend over backwards to try to help us to see the Light. At different points in our life, He will send people to deliver the Gospel message to us. Why? Because He loves us so much that does not want anyone to perish. He desires for us to repent of our unbelief. He wants us to change our minds and to embrace Christ. This truth is made so evident by verses such as the following:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him SHOULD NOT PERISH, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. EVEN SO IT IS NOT THE WILL OF YOUR FATHER WHICH IS

IN HEAVEN, THAT ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES SHOULD PERISH."

Matthew 18:10-14, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. FOR THE SON OF MAN IS NOT COME TO DESTROY MEN'S LIVES, BUT TO SAVE THEM. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."

1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

So as you can surely see, God goes to great lengths to try to save us from our own rebellious, wicked natures. He wants us to repent and to turn away from our sins, beginning with our sin of unbelief in His Son. But normally, He won't force us to do so. He gives us free will and personal choice. God the Father allows us to choose whether we want to experience His great love, or be subjected to His great wrath. However, if in our foolish pride we continue to knowingly, willingly and stubbornly reject the truth of His Word; if we continue

to turn away from His Holy Light; then God has no recourse but to send us strong delusion that we might believe a lie, and thus be judged accordingly. God will indeed allow us to become deceived in such cases, and we will be plunged into spiritual darkness, if that is what we truly want.

I am reminded of the example of King Ahab who is mentioned in the twenty-second chapter of the first Book of the Kings. As the story explains, God purposely allowed a lying spirit to enter into the mouths of Ahab's false prophets, because Ahab did not want to listen to God's true Prophet, Micaiah. I encourage you to read the story in its entirety if you want a good lesson in human nature and strong delusion, and why God allows it. In the meantime, consider the following set of verses:

"And he [Micaiah] said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee."

1 Kings 22:19-23, KJV

"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

Isaiah 66:4, KJV

". . . because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

And that brings us to our modern day. While a minority of the Jewish people have thankfully come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and embrace Him as God's appointed and one true Savior and Messiah, tragically, both the historical and the

Biblical records point to the fact that the majority of Jews have not accepted Jesus Christ as their long-awaited Messiah. In fact, some Jews can be quite outspoken and very graphical when it comes to their strong rejection of Jesus Christ. As I mentioned earlier, trust me when I say that I have visited a few Jewish-run websites where they use very vulgar language in regard to our Lord and Savior. It is disgusting.

In fact, for those of you who may not be aware of it, as I've mentioned on previous occasions, there's a law in Israel that some people refer to as the Anti-Missionary Law. Technically known as Bill 5738-1977, it was intentionally passed by the Israeli Knesset on December 25, 1977. Based on this law, if the Israeli government chooses to enforce it, a Christian can face up to a five-year prison term if he or she endeavors to convert a Jewish person to the Christian faith. Furthermore, if there is evidence that any form of persuasion was used to try to convert a Jew to faith in Christ, the person accused will find it even more difficult to not be found "guilty".

In fact, according to an online friend of mine who has made multiple trips to Israel for the purpose of sharing our faith with the Jews, even attempting to distribute Christian Gospel tracts in Israel will attract the ire of the Orthodox Jewish authorities. As we discussed earlier, some people not only don't want the light of Christ, they in fact hate it, because they are truly the children of darkness, the children of hell and the Devil's spawn. The Apostle Paul also refers to those unbelieving Jews as the children of disobedience. Likewise, the Apostle John outright calls those Jews liars, just as the Lord also did in John chapter eight. Consider the following group of verses for clear proof of this point:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

"Ye [speaking to the unbelieving Jews] do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a

murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:41-44, KJV

"In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them [the Jews] which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"

Colossians 3:6, KJV

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, KJV

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Revelation 3:9, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:3, KJV

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

2 John 1:7, KJV

Sadly, this tragic story does not end in the Christ-hating nation of Israel. As I explain in the series "Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?", Jewish hostility against any Christian who dares to proselytize in the name of Christ is not limited to the state of Israel alone. As you may already realize, the USA is home to several Jewish-controlled groups whose primary goal seems to be to stop Christian evangelism in its tracks, and to make the USA as antichrist as Israel is. These groups include the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the People for the American Way, and others.

In case you were not aware of it, these organizations were either founded by Jews, or are run by Jews, or are funded by Jews. Under the disguise of supposedly upholding American law -- such as the grossly misinterpreted separation clause that is found in the US Bill of Rights -- they are endeavoring to slowly turn America into a secular and non-Christian nation. Just look at all of the causes and cases they have supported over the years, and you will begin to understand their true nature and purpose. It is not what you think.

So how do all of the previous paragraphs relate to Mashiach ben David? As I have already pointed out, if we knowingly and willfully reject the truth of the Bible regarding the nature and Divine Mission of Jesus Christ, then God will allow us to become deceived. In this case, because the Jews have for the most part rejected Jesus Christ, their delusion has been to believe that Mashiach ben David has not arrived on the scene yet. Thus, as we've already discussed, to this very day, the Orthodox Jews have been patiently waiting for the arrival of their "mashiach", and his prophet Eliyahu. As I mentioned at

the beginning of this series, it is for this very reason that at this current time -- July, 2022 -- there is a heightened expectation amongst them, that their messiah may soon appear in Israel, and thus fulfill all of those things which they expect of him.

This misguided belief is based on a variety of factors. To go into great detail concerning the history of the Jewish belief in, and their concept of, Mashiach ben David, as well as the anticipated construction of a third temple on the summit of Mount Moriah, would require quite a few pages. As such, while I am going to discuss these topics in an abbreviated fashion in the following paragraphs, I likewise encourage you to more deeply examine the following people and topics, being as they will assist you in acquiring a better understanding of the Jewish perspective concerning their long-awaited messiah, and the things which they expect him to accomplish, once he has been revealed to the people of Israel:

1. Maimonides and his 13 Principles of Faith
2. Maimonides' Mishnah Torah
3. The Talmud, Mishnah and Gemara
4. Structure of the Sanhedrin
5. Jewish prayers such as the Amidah
6. Nachmanides And Disputation Of Barcelona
7. Baal Shem Tov and Hasidic Judaism
8. Mishnah Torah: Laws of Kings and Wars

As I said, I will now offer you a brief word of explanation regarding each of the previous topics. Maimonides -- whose real name was Moses ben Maimon -- was a 12th century Jewish philosopher and Rabbinic scholar, who to this day is highly regarded amongst Orthodox Jews. He is also referred to as Rambam. During his lifetime, both Christians and Muslims were actively developing their theologies, while the core beliefs of Judaism were somewhat in a state of flux being as there no longer existed a central Jewish religious authority. While a number of efforts were made to formulate the central tenets of Judaism, it was not until Maimonides presented his list of thirteen principles that core Jewish beliefs were brought into sharper focus. But even then, it took several centuries before his 13 principles were widely accepted by a large number of Jews.

In the context of this series, while all thirteen principles shed light on the primary differences between Judaism and Christianity, the principle which is most relevant to our

current discussion is Principle 12 which states as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah; and even though he may tarry, nonetheless, I wait every day for his coming."

----- End Quote -----

As you can see, Maimonides -- and by extension, his followers -- did not believe that the Messiah had arrived on the Earth yet. In his view, the arrival of Mashiach ben David was to be a future event. As you will discover shortly, Rabbi Moses ben Maimon was not alone in this assertion, sad to say. If you are interested in reading all thirteen of the principles that he laid out, please refer to the URL below on the Wikipedia website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_principles_of_faith#Maimonides'_13_principles_of_faith

Maimonides is best known amongst Orthodox Jews for his magnum opus, the Mishneh Torah, meaning "Repetition of the Torah". This 12th century work is a code of Jewish religious law -- or Halakha -- which Maimonides authored while he was living in Egypt. It consists of fourteen books, which are further divided into sections, chapters and paragraphs. While it was at first strongly opposed and received a lot of criticism due to a variety of reasons, today, the Mishneh Torah is highly regarded and occupies an important place in Judaism. It is the fourteenth book entitled "Sefer Shoftim" -- or Judges -- and the last section of that book, which is most relevant to our current discussion. I will be explaining its significance momentarily.

The Talmud is the primary or central text of Rabbinic Judaism. It is the body of Jewish civil, ceremonial and religious law -- or Halakha -- and Jewish theology. The Talmud is comprised of two parts: the Mishnah and the Gemara. The most widely used version of the Talmud is the Babylonian Talmud. That is, the Talmud Bavli. There is a lesser-used Jerusalem Talmud as well.

The Mishnah and the Gemara are basically compendiums -- or collections -- of rabbinic thought, opinions and commentary, that both explain and define Jewish Oral Law and expound upon

other topics that are important to Orthodox Jews, in written form. The Torah is the law of God as revealed to Moses on the summit of Mount Sinai, and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures, or the Christian Old Testament. The Torah is also known by its Greek name, the Pentateuch.

Prior to the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D. by General Titus, Jewish law was primarily maintained in an oral form. However, after that time, as the years progressed, and with the whole of Jewish society in disarray, Jewish rabbis realized that in order to retain the Oral Law and rabbinical opinions in a cohesive form, they had to be written down. Thus, around 200 A.D., the first compendium -- that is, the Mishnah -- was redacted by Rabbi Judah haNasi.

Some three hundred years later, around 500 A.D., the Gemara -- which was an expansion and a clarification of the Mishnah -- was likewise redacted. As I said, together, the Mishnah and the Gemara form the whole Talmud. The Talmud consists of six orders, or primary subject divisions, which are likewise divided into more than sixty tractates. Tractates are more restricted and focus on the rabbis' legal opinions regarding specific topics.

The Sanhedrin -- consisting of the Greater Sanhedrin and the Lesser Sanhedrin -- was the highest court of justice and the supreme council in ancient Jerusalem. There existed only one Greater Sanhedrin, which consisted of seventy-one judges or elders, who were later known as rabbis. One of them -- the nasi, meaning "prince" -- served as the head or president of the body. A second rabbi -- the Av Beit Din -- served as the chief of the court. There were likewise sixty-nine general members, for a total of seventy-one. In contrast, the Lesser Sanhedrin consisted of twenty-three rabbis. These tribunals -- or Lesser Sanhedrin -- were established throughout the towns of ancient Israel to settle matters on the local level. The Sanhedrin was finally dissolved by the Byzantine emperor, Theodosius I, around 358 A.D.

Over the centuries, several attempts have been made to revive the Sanhedrin. The most recent attempt was made in 2004 by a group of rabbis representing various Orthodox communities in Israel. These Jews held a ceremony in Tiberias -- where the original Sanhedrin was disbanded -- in which they claimed to re-establish the Jewish religious council according to the recommendations offered by Maimonides in the fourteenth book of the Mishneh Torah, and according to the legal rulings of

Rabbi Yosef Karo. However, while their effort received the support of The Temple Institute, the re-establishment of the Sanhedrin has remained controversial, and the body does not have much legal teeth as of yet.

Now the reason why this point is important, is because during the time of Jesus, it was in fact the Pharisees who held the most power within the Sanhedrin, and modern Judaism is merely an extension of the religion of the Pharisees. In short, the re-establishment of the Sanhedrin is just another piece in the puzzle which religious Jews believe will eventually lead to the arrival of Mashiach ben David, the reconstruction of their temple, and everything else that that entails.

The Amidah -- or Tefilat HaAmidah, which means "The Standing Prayer" -- is the central prayer of the Jewish liturgy. It is found in the traditional Jewish prayer book, or siddur. This prayer consists of nineteen blessings. The fifteenth blessing -- which is called the Birkat David, meaning the "Blessing of David" -- asks God to bring the descendant of King David, who Orthodox Jews believe will be their messiah. So again we see that this prayer reflects the fact that the Orthodox Jews do not believe that their messiah has arrived yet. In short, it sets them up for deception.

Another very important religious figure within Judaism is the 13th century Jewish scholar Nachmanides, who was also known as Ramban, or Moses ben Nahman. Ramban was likewise a philosopher, physician and Kabbalist. It was during the well-known 1263 Disputation of Barcelona -- which took place before King James I of Aragon -- that Nachmanides argued that Jesus was not the Messiah, and that the Old Testament Prophets regarded the yet-to-come messiah as a mere human being of flesh and blood, and not as a divine being in any sense of the word. In his debate with Pablo Christiani -- who was a Jew who had become a Dominican friar -- Ramban stated the following before King James I of Aragon:

----- Begin Quote -----

"[. . . it seems most strange that . . .] the Creator of Heaven and Earth resorted to the womb of a certain Jewish lady, grew there for nine months and was born as an infant, and afterwards grew up and was betrayed into the hands of his enemies who sentenced him to death and executed him, and that afterwards . . . he came to life and returned to his original place. The mind of a Jew, or any other person, simply cannot

tolerate these assertions. If you have listened all your life to the priests who have filled your brain and the marrow of your bones with this doctrine, and it has settled into you because of that accustomed habit. [I would argue that if you were hearing these ideas for the first time, now, as a grown adult], you would never have accepted them."

----- End Quote -----

In regard to Jesus' sufferings as we find them described in the fifty-third chapter of the Book of Isaiah, Nachmanides soundly rejected the Christian interpretation of the verses, and stated that the passage was referring to the suffering of the Jewish people in general, as we see here:

----- Begin Quote -----

Friar Christiani: "Behold the passage in Isaiah, chapter 53, tells of the death of the messiah and how he was to fall into the hands of his enemies and how he was placed alongside the wicked, as happened to Jesus. Do you believe that this section speaks of the messiah?"

Nachmanides: "In terms of the true meaning of the section, it speaks only of the people of Israel, which the prophets regularly call 'Israel My servant' or 'Jacob My servant.'"

----- End Quote -----

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 4

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Baal Shem Tov's Claim Of Achieving "Devekut" And Ascending

To Heaven, There Is Only One Mediator Between God And Man, Baal Shem Tov's Bogus Conversation With The Messiah In The Heavenly Realm, A Centuries-Long Attempt To Discredit Jesus As God's One True Messiah, False Claims Of Being The True Messiah, List Of False Jewish Messiahs, Is Your Faith Based On The Interpretations Of Rabbis And Pastors Or On Your Own Spirit-Led Reading Of The Scriptures Themselves?, Beware Of The False Doctrines And Traditions Of Men, Meaning Of The Word "Messiah" From The Jewish Perspective: David Cyrus And Alexander The Great, Maimonides Mentions Two Messiahs: King David And King Messiah, Maimonides And Qualifications For Being Recognized As The Jewish King Messiah, Definition Of Messiah Changed Following The Roman Occupation Of Israel, Jesus Failed To Meet All Requirements For Being The King Messiah According To The Rabbis, Second Temple Destroyed

Continuing our discussion from part three, another notable Jew who has contributed to the false belief that the Messiah has not arrived yet is Baal Shem Tov, who was also known as Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, or Besht. He was a Jewish mystic and healer who hailed from 18th century Podolia, or Poland. In addition to being regarded as the founder of Hasidic Judaism, his followers -- the Hasidim -- believe him to be descended directly from the royal house of David. What was unique about Baal Shem Tov was his claim to have achieved "devekut" -- or adhesion. This means that his soul supposedly reached such a high level of spirituality, that he was able to ascend to Heaven, and speak with any soul there whomsoever he desired, and thereby intervene between humans and God. In other words, Besht claimed to act as a mediator between God and men. If that does not alarm you, then consider the following verses which are found in the New Testament:

"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

John 3:12-13, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

I am sure you can see the blasphemy of Baal Shem Tov's claim. According to the written record, Besht only did this on one

occasion; and on that occasion when he claims to have gone to Heaven, he supposedly chose to speak with the Messiah. In a letter written to Abraham Gershon, dated 1751, Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer describes his imaginary conversation with the "Messiah" on Rosh Ha-Shanah, 1747, in the following manner:

----- Begin Quote -----

"I asked the Messiah, 'When will you come, master,' and he answered me, 'When your learning will be made known and revealed to the world and its source will spread and all can recite yiudim and experience spiritual ascent as you can'; and I was astonished and deeply grieved by this, and wondered when this would come to pass."

----- End Quote -----

So as you can see, just like Nachmanides five hundred years before him, Baal Shem Tov did not believe that the Messiah had arrived on the Earth yet. There were other Jewish rabbis who I have not even named here, who taught this same thing over the long centuries. So, from Maimonides, to Nachmanides, to Baal Shem Tov, we see the same common thread of unbelief in regard to God's appointed Messiah, Jesus Christ. In fact, as I point out in a number of other articles, not only did the pharisaical religious Jews of First Century Israel try to discredit Jesus, but even after He had clearly risen from the dead, they still endeavored to conceal His divinity from the common people, as we can determine by the following verses:

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."
Matthew 28:11-15, KJV

In fact, if you delve even deeper into this subject, you will discover that on the opposite side of the spectrum, there were likewise certain rabbis and Jewish military leaders who claimed to be the messiah, or who were erroneously claimed to be the promised messiah by their misguided followers. It was believed that such men would usher in the "Olam HaBa" -- that

is, the "World to Come", or afterlife -- during the Messianic Age. You may recall that Jesus clearly warned His followers that such self-aggrandizing deceivers would arrive. Sadly, it began not long after Jesus returned to Heaven. Consider the following group of verses:

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many . . . For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Matthew 24:11, 24, KJV

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

Mark 13:22, KJV

The list of false Jewish messiahs is rather long, and in fact stretches from the First Century to the Twentieth Century. If you would like to see a full list of these deceivers, please refer to the page shown below which is found on the Wikipedia website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jewish_messiah_claimants

Sadly, as I have already made clear, this misguided belief that Jesus was not the Messiah, and that the Messiah has not arrived yet, is embraced by Orthodox Jews to this very day. It is in fact this very belief which feeds into the current expectation that the Jewish messiah will soon appear on the scene. While those of us who have embraced Christianity may have a hard time understanding the Jews' strong rejection of Jesus Christ, it is my hope that the information which I've presented thus far will help you to begin to comprehend how deeply this rejection has been engrained into the Jews for so many centuries now. I will be sharing more information with you momentarily.

Another important point I wish to make here is that Jewish rejection of Jesus Christ being the Messiah is NOT based on the Scriptures themselves. Rather, it is based entirely on the MISINTERPRETATION of the Scriptures by the aforementioned Jewish rabbis and others like them. In that regard, it really isn't too different from the current state of Christianity as well. In other words, in spite of the fact that there exists only one true Word of God, nevertheless, today we have a huge number of different Bible translations, as well as Christians

attending many different churches and denominations. It seems that every pastor and preacher has their own set of doctrines they like to preach, which may conflict with what is being taught in another church just down the street.

The end result is that so many Christians are placing their faith in their church leader's interpretations of the Word of God, instead of in the Scriptures themselves. As I have mentioned before, they erroneously assume that because their pastor or priest has a long list of impressive credentials from a notable Bible college, surely he must know what he is talking about. My friends, that is NOT always the case. It's rather evident that a lot of things are being taught today which basically amount to heresies and doctrines of devils.

In similar fashion, some Jewish believers do the very same thing. Their faith is NOT based directly on the Holy Bible itself. Rather, it is based on the interpretations of their rabbis, as found in the various Jewish commentaries we have already discussed, and in a number of other commentaries as well. Just as many Christians do not take the time to read the Bible for themselves, I suspect that many Jews probably do the very same thing. As I said, their beliefs are based on centuries of rabbinic tradition and interpretations -- which by nature are inherently antichrist -- and not on a straight, personal reading of the Scriptures.

The bottom line, in my view, is that whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, we all need to get back to reading the Scriptures for ourselves, instead of relying so much on our pastors or rabbis to spoon-feed us. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the proper understanding and interpretation of the Bible. Jews need to break away from the bondage of rabbinic tradition, and Christians need to break away from erroneous church tradition as well. This is precisely what the Lord advocated. Consider the following set of verses which prove this point:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will

shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Psalms 119:18, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

The truth of the matter is that there are so many verses in God's Word which clearly warn us to beware of the erroneous doctrines and traditions of men which contradict the Bible. Following is a small sample of them for your edification:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Colossians 2:8, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them . . . How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."

Matthew 16:6-8, 11-12, KJV

"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye

also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

Matthew 15:1-6, KJV

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Mark 7:6-13, KJV

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

2 Timothy 4:3-4, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

As we have now seen, because the Jews embrace the writings of their rabbis, some of whom promoted the belief in the future appearance of their messiah, Mashiach ben David -- thus rejecting the Messiahship of Jesus Christ -- at this current time, there's very high expectation that this great leader will soon make his appearance in Israel. But exactly how will the Jews recognize this man as such? As it turns out, in Book 14 of the Mishneh Torah called "Sefer Shoftim" -- or "Judges" -- Section 5 called "Melachim uMilhamoteyhem" -- or "Laws of Kings and Wars" -- chapters 11 and 12, Rambam -- that is, Maimonides -- explains all of the qualifications which the Jewish "Mashiach" -- or King Messiah -- must meet.

Before sharing these qualifications with you, let me remind you -- as I did in part three -- that based on the Jewish perspective and rabbinical tradition, Mashiach ben David is NOT any kind of Divine Being, as is Jesus Christ. Rather, he is a man of flesh and blood, just like you and I. Let me also add that in Judaism, the word "messiah" was originally used to refer to any divinely appointed king, or "anointed one". In fact, this word could be applied to Jewish priests, prophets and kings. For example, King David, Cyrus the Great, and even Alexander the Great were all viewed as messiahs in their own right, because they were each chosen and anointed

by God to perform certain tasks.

As I have mentioned before, even though Cyrus the Great -- or Koresh -- did not know the God of Israel, nevertheless, in the Book of Isaiah, chapter forty-five, the Lord clearly refers to Cyrus as His "anointed". According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, the word "anointed" is derived from the Hebrew "mashiyach". That is, messiah. Consider the following set of verses:

"Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me. I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else."

Isaiah 45:1-6, KJV

Regarding Alexander the Great being a type of messiah, you will find a much more expanded explanation of the word "Mashia" -- which is just another form of the Hebrew word for messiah -- in the Jewish Encyclopedia at the following URL. While it is somewhat lengthy, the explanation makes for very interesting reading:

<http://jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/10729-messiah#anchor6>

At the same time, in the Mishneh Torah, Book 14, Section 5, Chapter 11, Maimonides discusses two messiahs. However, he makes a big distinction between these two. The first one, Rambam tells us, is King David of old. The second messiah is the one who is yet to come, according to rabbinic tradition. This second one is King Messiah. He will be a descendant of King David who will restore the kingdom of David. Rambam also states that unlike Jesus, King Messiah will NOT perform any kind of miracles. As I mentioned earlier, he will NOT be a Divine Being, but only a man. Consider the following:

----- Begin Quotes -----

"The King Messiah will arise and re-establish the monarchy of David as it was in former times. He will build the Sanctuary and gather in the dispersed of Israel. All the earlier statutes will be restored as they once were. Sacrifices will be offered, the Sabbatical and Jubilee years will be observed, as commanded in the Torah. Anyone who does not believe in him or one who does not anticipate his coming not only denies the Prophets, but also the Torah and Moses our Teacher. It is even written in the Chapter of Balaam who prophesized about both the Messiahs. The first Messiah was David who saved Israel from her adversities. The final Messiah will be from his sons and will deliver Israel from the hands of the descendants of Esau . . . It should not occur to you that the King Messiah must bring wondrous signs or perform marvels or invent new things or revive the dead or anything like what the fools say. It is not so. For Rabbi Akiva, one of the wisest of the Sages of the Mishna, was King Ben Coziba's arms-bearer and said that he was the King Messiah. He and all the Sages of his generation thought that he was the King Messiah, until he was killed because of his sins. Since he was killed, they then understood that he was not the one. The Sages never asked of him neither a sign nor a wonder."

Chapter 11, Paragraphs 1-3, 6

----- End Quotes -----

In paragraph 8 of chapter 11, Maimonides likewise informs his readers that King Messiah will be well versed in the Laws of Moses -- that is, the Torah -- and that he will obey all of the Commandments, as did King David of old. Furthermore, he writes that King Messiah will encourage all of Israel to obey the Laws of God. In addition, if he fights and wins Israel's wars by defeating her enemies, this will be a clear sign that he is definitely King Messiah. Finally, if he is successful in rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, and inspires all Jews to return to Israel, this will be another confirmation that he is King Messiah. Consider the following quote:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Now, if a king should arise from the House of David who is versed in Torah and engages in Commandments, as did David his forefather, in accordance with both the Written and the

Oral Torahs, and he enjoins all of Israel to follow in its ways and encourages them to repair its breaches, and he fights the Wars of G-d, then he may be presumed to be the Messiah. If he succeeds in his efforts and defeats the enemies around and builds the Sanctuary in its proper place and gathers the dispersed of Israel, he is definitely the Messiah."

Chapter 11, Paragraphs 8

----- End Quote -----

In Chapter 12, Paragraph 8, Maimonides also informs us that during the reign of King Messiah, it will be a time of peace and plenty, in which famine and wars will no longer exist. It will be a time during which the world will only be engaged in knowing God. Rambam writes as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"At that time there will be no famines and no wars, no envy and no competition. For the Good will be very pervasive. All the delicacies will be as readily available as is dust. The world will only be engaged in knowing G-d. Then, there will be very wise people who will understand the deep, sealed matters. They will then achieve knowledge of the Creator to as high a degree as humanly possible, as it says, 'For the Earth shall be filled of knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea' (Isaiah 11:9)."

Chapter 12, Paragraph 8

----- End Quote -----

If we summarize the previous paragraphs and qualifications, we end up with the following list of requirements which Mashiach ben David must fulfill in order to prove that he is truly the long-anticipated King Messiah:

1. He must be a direct descendant of the bloodline of King David.
2. He must be extremely knowledgeable of the Torah. This includes the Pentateuch, or the five books of the Law of Moses, as well as the oral tradition which has been handed down over the centuries. His spiritual leadership should result in:
 - a. Renewed interest in and practice of the Torah.

- b. Eventual spread of the knowledge and Law of God throughout the world so that war, hunger and other human ills will cease.
3. He must prove himself to be an astute political leader and King of the Jewish nation who will do the following:
- a. Encourage Jews from around the world to return to their homeland of Israel, thus bringing an end to the "Diaspora", or Dispersion.
 - b. Fight and win the wars of Israel subduing her enemies all around her, thus bringing in an era of peace.
 - c. Rebuild the Temple of Solomon on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem and re-implement the daily sacrifice.

Please note that I have only included some of the key points from chapters 11 and 12 in the previous paragraphs. If you are interested, you can download the PDF version of Book 14 Section 5 -- "Laws of Kings and Wars" -- of the Mishneh Torah from the following URL. Chapters 11 and 12 are the last two chapters in Section 5:

<https://halakhah.com/rst/kingsandwars.pdf>

What we see then is that while the Hebrew word "mashiach" -- or "mashiyach" or "mashiach" -- was originally applied to any prophet, king or priest who was anointed by God, even if they were Gentiles like Cyrus the Great, in the years following the decline of the Hasmonean Kingdom -- which was ruled by the Seleucids, who were a Greek Macedonian dynasty -- and the tragedies which resulted from the Jewish revolts during the Jewish-Roman wars, the Hebrew word "mashiach", or messiah, became more associated with a messianic liberator who would deliver the Jews from oppression, and usher in the Messianic Age. That is in fact what it means to this day in a Jewish eschatological sense. It is a purely political word which has nothing to do with any kind of divinity, other than the fact that this Jewish leader will be divinely anointed by God, according to rabbinic tradition.

So why did the Jewish religious hierarchy fail to acknowledge Jesus as the King Messiah? Based on the previous check list,

while Jesus clearly fulfilled the first requirement in that He was indeed of the bloodline of King David; and while the Lord also fulfilled the second qualification in that He was extremely knowledgeable of the Torah; from a purely Jewish perspective, He "failed" miserably in regard to all of the other requirements. For example, while Jesus knew the Torah better than the Scribes and Pharisees themselves, oft times He said and did things which seemed to contradict the Laws of Moses. Jesus would say something like "Moses wrote such and such, but I say unto you . . ." As you will see in just a moment, Maimonides complained about this very point.

But that is not all. Jesus' earthly ministry did not result in the spread of the knowledge and Law of God throughout the world. Neither did He bring an end to war, hunger and other human ills. Furthermore, the Lord was not an astute political leader who encouraged Jews from around the world to return to Israel. Quite to the contrary, as He told Pontius Pilate, His Kingdom is not of this world, as we see by this verse:

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

Neither did Jesus fight and win the wars of Israel, or usher in an era of peace and plenty. Lastly, He did not physically rebuild the temple of Solomon, much less re-implement the daily sacrifice. In fact, the second temple still existed at the time that Jesus walked on the Earth, and the sacrifices were still occurring as well. Clearly then, from the Jewish perspective, there was no way that the Lord could possibly be the promised King Messiah that they were expecting.

As Maimonides points out in Book 14 Chapter 11 of the Mishneh Torah, quite to the contrary, he accused Jesus of being a Law breaker, and blamed Him for the suffering and devastation which the Romans inflicted upon the land of Israel, just a few decades after the Lord returned to the Heavenly Realm. As many of you will already know, in His end-of-the-age sermons, Jesus in fact clearly prophesied the total destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Roman general Titus and his legions, as we can determine by these verses:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I

have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! BEHOLD, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT UNTO YOU DESOLATE. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Matthew 23:37-24:2, KJV

"And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Mark 13:1-2, KJV

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Luke 13:34-35, KJV

"And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down . . . And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh."

Luke 21:5-6, 20, KJV

Please go to part five for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 5

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Why Jesus Was Rejected As Promised Messiah Based On Rabbinic Teachings, Jesus' Doctrine Divided The Jews, Three Diasporas, Maimonides Strongly Condemns Jesus In The Mishneh Torah, Jews Had An Erroneous Perspective Regarding The Promised Messiah, Spiritually Blind Without The Holy Spirit, The Zealots Hoped Jesus Would Lead Them To Victory Over Rome, John The Baptist Comes With The Anointing Of Prophet Elijah, Maimonides Didn't Recognize John The Baptist As Elijah, John And Jesus Are Both Slain Dashing Messianic Hopes, Jesus Wasn't Expected Warrior King, As A Lamb Led To The Slaughter, Teshuvah: A Sign Of The Approaching King Messiah?, Purpose Of Practicing Teshuvah Is To Merit The "World To Come" During The Messianic Age, Rabbis Failed To Understand That Spirit Of Teshuvah Came To Israel During Ministries Of Jesus John The Baptist And The Apostles, Teshuvah Is Vain Attempt To Establish One's Own Righteousness Without Christ Through Observance Of The Torah, Apostle Paul Labored To Point Misguided Jewish Brethren To Jesus And Not To The Law For Their Salvation, No Man Is Justified By The Law

As we concluded in part four of this series, according to the rabbinical teachings, Jesus failed to meet all of the necessary requirements for being the King Messiah. Not only did He seem to often contradict the Laws of Moses -- that is to say, the Torah -- but His Jewish critics also accused Him of being a drunk and a glutton who associated Himself with a lot of questionable characters. Furthermore, He constantly opposed and exposed the Scribes and the Pharisees, and also prophesied the destruction of the Second Temple. Thus we see that rather than unite the Jews, He divided them. Of course, the Lord knew beforehand that this would happen. Thus, He said the following in the Gospels:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of

me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 10:34-38, KJV

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Mark 13:12-13, KJV

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

Luke 12:51-53, KJV

Clearly, Jesus was not a uniter, but a divider. Furthermore, neither was the Lord an astute political or military leader as was expected of the prophesied King Messiah. The 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem and the temple resulted in an even further dispersion of the Jews from their homeland during the third Diaspora, the first two of which occurred hundreds of years earlier at the time of the Assyrian conquests, and then culminated in 587 B.C. with the invasion and destruction of Jerusalem, and the second exile of the Jews, by the forces of King Nebuchadnezzar.

In condemning Jesus for supposedly being the catalyst for all of these tragic events, Rambam wrote the following in Book 14 of the Mishneh Torah called "Sefer Shoftim" -- or "Judges" -- Section 5 called "Melachim uMilhamoteyhem" -- or "Laws of Kings and Wars" -- chapters 11, paragraph 10:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Even Jesus the Nazarene who imagined he would be the Messiah and was killed by the Court was prophesized about by Daniel as it says, 'and also the children of the violent among your people will lift themselves up to establish the vision, but they shall stumble' (Daniel 11:14). Was there ever a greater impediment than this one? All the Prophets spoke of the Messiah, Redeemer of Israel and Savior and Gatherer of the

Exiles and Strengtheners of the Commandments. But this one -- meaning Jesus -- caused the ruin of Israel by the sword and the dispersal of its remnant and its humiliation and reversed the Torah, and caused most of the world to err and worship a god other than HaShem (G-d)."

----- End Quote -----

Of course, as we learned in the first two parts of this same series, it is not that Jesus wasn't the promised Messiah, it is that the Jews' understanding of the Scriptures, and their expectations regarding the Messiah were all wrong. In other words, they failed dismally to understand the true nature of God's Kingdom, and the specific mission which Jesus came to fulfill. The Jews were looking for a political and military leader who would free them from Roman oppression, and also re-establish the physical throne of King David on Earth. But Jesus really came to atone for the sins of the world, and to open the way to Salvation and Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God. As Jesus stated in the Gospels, the Jewish religious leaders were the blind leading the blind. And, as we saw in part four, the Apostle Paul wrote as follows:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

When Jesus was born into the world during the First Century, it was possibly their knowledge of the prophesied "Mashiach" which caused the radical Zealots to look to Him as the one they had been waiting for. The same thing had happened during the reign of the Maccabees about two hundred years before. In fact, as we discussed earlier, there were a number of hopeful messiahs who seemed to fit the bill to one degree or another. However, they all ultimately failed to meet every requirement for being King Messiah. So perhaps just like other Jews, the Zealots were hoping that, finally, Jesus would be the one to lead them to victory over the Romans.

According to the Old Testament Scriptures, "Eliyahu" -- that is, Elijah -- would precede the coming of "Mashiach". As some of you will know, some of the Jews -- as well as King Herod himself -- recognized John the Baptist as being a Prophet. In fact, as I point out in articles such as "Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?", Jesus plainly said that John the Baptist was indeed the fulfillment of Isaiah's and Malachi's

prophecies regarding the coming of Elijah. Consider this set of Bible verses:

"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

Malachi 3:1, KJV

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4:5-6, KJV

"But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him."

Mark 9:13, KJV

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

Isaiah 40:3-5, KJV

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:1-2, KJV

The tragedy is that even though Jesus plainly declared that John the Baptist was the "Elijah" who was to come and prepare the way before Him, as had been prophesied by both Isaiah and Malachi, just as they had rejected Jesus being the prophesied King Messiah -- or Mashiach ben David -- later Jewish rabbis also refused to believe that John the Baptist was the Elijah who had been prophesied in the Scriptures. This is evidenced in paragraphs 3 and 4 of chapter 12 of Maimonides' "Laws of Kings and Wars", which is Section 5 of Book 14 -- "Judges" -- in the Mishneh Torah. Bear in mind that Maimonides wrote the following during the 12th century:

----- Begin Quote -----

"From the plain meaning of the words of the prophets we understand that at the beginning of the days of the Messiah there will be the War of Gog and Magog. Before the War of Gog and Magog, a prophet will arise to correct Israel and prepare their hearts, as it says, 'Behold, I will send you Elijah' (Malachi 3:23). He will not come to make the pure impure, nor purify the impure, nor disqualify people who are presumed to have legitimate lineage, nor qualify those who are disqualified. He will only come to bring peace to the world, as it says, 'And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers on the children' (Malachi 3:24).

Some of the Sages say that Elijah will come before the coming of the Messiah. But regarding all these matters and similar, no one knows how it will be until it will be. For these matters were unclear to the Prophets. Even the Sages themselves did not have a Tradition regarding these matters and only could attempt to understand the verses. Thus, there were disagreements in these matters. Nevertheless, neither the order that these events will occur nor their details are fundamental to the religion."

----- End Quote -----

As you can see, Maimonides describes the arrival of Elijah and King Messiah as future events. That is why Orthodox Jews continue to wait for their appearance in Israel to this very day. In fact, as we have already discussed, said Jews expect and anticipate that these figures will make themselves known in Israel very soon. According to their beliefs, this will also result in the construction of the third temple, and the resumption of ritual sacrifices.

When John the Baptist was unjustifiably beheaded by King Herod due to pressure from his wife Herodias' sly daughter, and then when Jesus was also later crucified by the Romans at the instigation of the wicked Sanhedrin, due to their not properly understanding the Old Testament prophecies, perhaps the Zealots interpreted these developments to mean that John and Jesus were not the ones they had been waiting for. In fact, there is evidence in the Scriptures that even some of the Apostles did not fully understand Jesus' mission on the Earth. They too thought that Jesus had come to restore the physical kingdom of David. You may recall that Peter even

tried to prevent Jesus from going to Jerusalem so that He would not die. After all, what was a revolution without its leader? Consider the following verses:

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Matthew 16:21-23, KJV

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

Acts 1:6-7, KJV

So from common Jews, to the Zealots, to the Sanhedrin, to the Apostles themselves, very few people truly understood why Jesus had come to the Earth. They were all looking for the wrong kind of messiah. They wanted a warrior king who would lead them to victory over their Roman oppressors. But instead, they got a lamb who went quietly to the slaughter, as we see by these prophetic verses:

"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."

Isaiah 53:7, KJV

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world . . . And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God . . . And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"

John 1:29, 34, 36, KJV

"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:"

Acts 8:32, KJV

What they all failed to understand was that Jesus was and is a warrior king in the truest sense of the word. Furthermore, as we modern Christians fully recognize, Jesus both waged war against and overcame death, sin and Satan himself. So He was indeed victorious. However, as I said, that is not the kind of messiah the First Century Jews were all looking for. Neither is it the kind of messiah that the Orthodox Jews are looking for today either. They do not believe that they need or require a Divine Savior. As you will now learn, they in fact believe that they can merit the "World to Come" through their own efforts and good actions.

According to rabbinic tradition, one of the things which will result from the appearance of "Mashiach" -- or King Messiah -- or possibly occur right before his arrival, is what is known in the Hebrew language as "Teshuvah". In a literal sense, "Teshuvah" means "return". More specifically, this word means to turn away from, to repent of, to confess, to forsake, and to atone for one's sins. It means to alter one's behavior, and to return to belief in and practice of the Torah, so that one's life is pleasing to God. It is a change of mind, heart, spirit and behavior. As Maimonides points out in paragraph 7 of chapter 12 of "Laws of Kings and Wars", the purpose for doing this is so that one "may merit the World to Come" -- or "Olam HaBa" -- during the Messianic Age. The rabbi wrote as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The Sages and the Prophets did not long for the days of the Messiah because they wanted to rule the world or because they wanted to have dominion over the non-Jews or because they wanted the nations to exalt them or because they wanted to eat, drink and be merry. Rather, they desired this so that they would have time for Torah and its Wisdom. And there would be no one who would oppress them or force them to be idle (from Torah). This, in order that they may merit the World to Come, as we have explained regarding the Laws of Repentance."

----- End Quote -----

In the previous paragraph, Maimonides is simply repeating what he has already more amply discussed earlier in Book 1, Section 5 -- called "Teshuvah" -- Chapter 9 of the Mishneh Torah, where he writes the following regarding why they

craved for the arrival of King Messiah, and thus also the Messianic era:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Because of this, all Israel their prophets and their scholars craved for the Messianic era so that they may rest up from tyrannical government which do not give them the tranquility to study the Torah and observe the precepts as they ought to, and so that they may find the peacefulness of mind to increase wisdom in order to acquire life in the World to Come. For, in those days knowledge and wisdom and truth will increase, even as it is said: "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord" (Is. 11.9); and it is again said: "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother" (Jer. 31.34); and it is yet again said: "And I will take the stony heart out of your flesh" (Ez. 36.26), as that king who will arise from the seed of David will be gifted with wisdom more than Solomon, and great in prophecy nigh unto Moses our Master. He will, therefore, teach the whole people and point out to them the Lord's path, and all nations will come to listen to him, even as it is said: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains" (Is. 2.2). Nevertheless, the end of the whole reward, and the last good which has neither interruption nor diminution is life in the World to Come. As for the Messianic era, it is in this world, and the world goes on after its fashion, save only that Israel will again have a government. Indeed, the ancient sages have long since said: "There is no difference between this world and the Messianic era, save alone in the oppression of government."

----- End Quote -----

For those of you who may wish to delve deeper into the topic of Teshuvah, and what it all entails according to the Jewish faith, the "Laws of Repentance" -- which are also known as Hilkhos Teshuva, Laws of Teshuvah, Laws of Return, or Rules of Repentance -- form Section 5 of Book 1 of the Mishneh Torah, which is called "HaMadda", or Knowledge. You can find online versions of Section 5 regarding repentance, such as at the following URL which offers a version in both Hebrew and English. You can download it in text format from this same URL as well:

The irony of this sad situation is that because Jewish rabbis such as Maimonides all rejected the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus, and did not view them as the fulfillment of the prophesied Elijah and King Messiah who were to come, they failed to recognize that both of them did in fact very clearly preach Teshuvah, or repentance, in preparation for the "World to Come". Furthermore, the Apostles continued to preach repentance, or Teshuvah, after Jesus returned to the Heavenly Realm. This fact becomes so evident in verses such as the following:

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:1-2, 11-12, KJV

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17, KJV

"Then began he [Jesus] to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."

Matthew 11:20-23, KJV

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Mark 1:14-15, KJV

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Acts 3:19-21, KJV

"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

Acts 5:31, KJV

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Acts 17:30, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."

Revelation 2:16, KJV

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Revelation 3:19, KJV

What we see then, is that due to their own unbelief, just as these Jewish rabbis pushed the coming of the Prophet Elijah and the long-awaited arrival of the Messiah into the future, they have done the very same thing in regard to Teshuvah. They totally failed to recognize that all of these events have already occurred, and that they in fact happened almost two thousand years ago when John and Jesus walked the Earth.

Sadly, contrary to the Christian concept of repentance, the Jewish practice of Teshuvah has nothing to do with receiving forgiveness for our sins through faith in Jesus Christ. As such, to me, Teshuvah seems much more like a modern form of self-improvement. In fact, it is actually described as being ethical self-transformation. It is all a work of the flesh, and not much different from humanism. It's a vain attempt to

achieve one's own righteousness without Christ, by striving to adhere to the mandates of the Torah. That is, the Laws of Moses, as found in the first five Books of the Bible. As we have already clearly seen, the Jewish belief was -- and still remains -- that if one recognizes, confesses and repents of his sins, hopefully, he will merit a place in the "World to Come" during the Messianic Age. As I said, it is all about a person's own self-improvement and goodness. This is precisely what Maimonides and other Jewish rabbis teach in their writings.

As I have mentioned many times before, the Apostle Paul was very concerned about this. He saw how misguided his Jewish brethren were; and so he repeatedly tried to steer them in the right direction, by pointing them to Christ as the only means of obtaining Righteousness, Atonement and Salvation, WITHOUT dependence on the Law -- or Torah -- and on their own perceived level of goodness. This point is made evident by verses such as the following:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:1-4, KJV

"And by him -- Jesus -- all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Acts 13:39, KJV

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 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; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith."

Romans 3:19-27, KJV

"Knowing that A MAN IS NOT JUSTIFIED BY THE WORKS OF THE LAW, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified . . . I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

Galatians 2:16, 21, KJV

"But that NO MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:11, KJV

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Galatians 5:4, KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

"And be found in him, NOT HAVING MINE OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

Philippians 3:9, KJV

"NOT BY WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WE HAVE DONE, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

James 2:10, KJV

"And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

Luke 18:9-14, KJV

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"As it is written, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE . . . But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 21-23, KJV

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

Romans 11:6, KJV

Please go to part six for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 6

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No Man Is Justified By The Law, True Repentance Depends On God's Mercy Alone, Psalm 51: David's Prayer Of Repentance, The Legalists And Torah Observers Demonize The Apostle Paul, Jesus Came To Free Us From The Legalistic Yoke Of The Law, Without The Shedding Of Blood There Is No Remission Of Our Sins, Washed In The Blood Of The Lamb, Orthodox Jews Intend To Re-implement Animal Sacrifices When King Messiah Arrives, Will Animal Welfare Organizations Protest Animal Sacrifices?, Jesus Was Final Sacrifice For Sin Who Died Once For All Men, Jesus Is Our Only High Priest, Jesus Fully Paid The Ransom Price For Our Salvation, Remission Of Our Sins Through Faith In Christ Means Ritual Sin Offerings Are No Longer Necessary, Mashiach Ben David's Crowning Achievement Will Be The Temple

As we concluded in part five, no man is justified by the Law. Regardless of what legalists and Torah-observant Jews want to believe, the Law -- meaning the Torah -- cannot save anyone. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Furthermore, as James wrote, if we violate even a single law in the Torah, then we are guilty of breaking all of them. So much for trying to establish our own righteousness. It is an impossible task. The only way to merit Salvation and the "World to Come", is through genuine repentance -- or Teshuvah -- and embracing Christ. If one's repentance does not turn him away from sin and towards Jesus for his Salvation, then it merely amounts to a bogus display of self-righteousness and nothing more.

As we learned in part five, the Lord demonstrated what true repentance is like when He shared the Parable concerning the two men who went into the temple to pray. The one man -- who was a self-righteous Pharisee -- patted himself on the back and boasted of how much better he was than everyone else. Oh how he bragged of his "good deeds"! On the other hand, the Publican fully and humbly recognized his sinful condition, and said "God be merciful to me a sinner." That is a true

attitude of repentance, because it depends solely on God's Mercy and Grace, and on nothing else. This is the very same attitude we see in King David's prayer in Psalm 51. David depended totally on God's Mercy and Grace alone, and not on some perceived righteousness of his own. David knew that he had sinned grievously before the Lord when he committed adultery with Bathsheba, and then had her husband murdered. Allow me to share Psalm 51 with you in its entirety:

"[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.] Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar." Psalm 51:1-19, KJV

To reiterate our previous point, no man is justified by the Law. Observing the 613 mitzvot -- or commandments -- of the Torah -- if it were even possible -- won't get any of us a single inch closer to Salvation. It is through Christ alone.

There is simply no way around this Scriptural truth. Unless, of course, one chooses to intentionally reject what Paul and others have written regarding this issue. Tragically, that's precisely what so many legalistic, supposedly Torah-observing Jews -- and even certain legalistic Christians -- have done. They have simply written off the Apostle Paul, and accused him of being a blasphemer, usurper, false prophet and false apostle who started his own brand of Christianity. That is to say, Pauline Christianity. But this is an absolute lie.

Why do these misguided legalists attack Paul so viciously? Because Paul had been freed from the bondage of the Law, and he encouraged his readers to do the same. He totally exposed the error in the legalists' thinking by focusing on Christ, and by his refusal to place his faith in keeping in the Law for his Salvation. That is why they hate Paul. Personally, I have seen these Paul bashers launch their tirades a number of times on Facebook, sad to say. The truth of the matter is that Jesus preached this very same message. Jesus wanted to free men from the legalistic burden of the Mosaic Law, as becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

"For they [the Scribes and the Pharisees] bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

Matthew 23:4, KJV

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:31-32, 36, KJV

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

Luke 4:18, KJV

"And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers."

Luke 11:46, KJV

As I explain in a number of other articles, such as "Is Jesus the Only-Begotten Son of God?", "The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words" and "The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution", a key component of God's Salvation plan is Christ's Blood. This is precisely why practicing Teshuvah is meaningless if it does not involve turning to Christ. As any Torah-observant Jew knows, and as many Christians also know, during the Old Testament period, animal sacrifices involving the shedding of blood was a very essential part of religious observance. Why was this necessary? Because as we read in the Scriptures, "without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]." As I point out in the aforementioned articles, these Old Testament animal sacrifices were merely a reflection and a foreshadow of what Jesus Christ would accomplish for us as the sacrificial Lamb of God in the New Testament. That is to say, we can be symbolically washed clean of our sins through faith in His Blood, just as Moses sprinkled the people with lamb's blood in the Old Testament. Consider the following group of verses which verify this important point:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION."

Hebrews 9:22, KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

"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 3:24-25, KJV

"And he [Jesus] commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive REMISSION OF SINS."

Acts 10:42-43, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS."

1 John 4:10, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and MADE THEM WHITE IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to THE BLOOD OF SPRINKLING, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

Hebrews 12:22-24, KJV

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and SPRINKLING OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:1-2, KJV

Now, here is where the dilemma lies. Because these Jewish rabbis and Orthodox Jews have rejected Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross, they have a serious problem. That problem is that the Torah not only demands repentance, but it also requires a blood sacrifice for the remission of their sins. So for the sake of argument, if we assume that a third temple will be built in East Jerusalem as they desire, how do these Jews intend to navigate around this problem? Actually, I already provided you with the answer to this question. In part four of this series, I quoted part of Rambam's Mishneh Torah from Book 14, Section 5 Chapter 11 where he writes the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The King Messiah will arise and re-establish the monarchy of David as it was in former times. He will build the Sanctuary and gather in the dispersed of Israel. All the earlier statutes will be restored as they once were. SACRIFICES WILL BE OFFERED, the Sabbatical and Jubilee years will be observed, as commanded in the Torah."

----- End Quote -----

So you see, according to rabbinic tradition, at some point in the future, once the King Messiah appears on the scene, he will re-establish the throne of David, rebuild the temple of Solomon, gather the Jews back into the State of Israel, and re-implement animal sacrifices, because Christ's Blood apparently was not good enough for them. Are all of these events really going to occur as outlined by Maimonides and other respected Jewish rabbis? As we learned in part one, many Orthodox Jews in modern Israel obviously believe so. After all, they have been preparing for these events for literally decades now. In fact, some time ago, I read an interesting news article which described how the Orthodox Jews had performed an animal sacrifice test run.

Personally, I have my doubts about all of the aforementioned events really happening for a variety of reasons. Allow me to give you one simple example. Considering the mentality of the world today, and in particular, the attitude of organizations such as PETA -- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals -- Greenpeace, ASPCA -- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, AHS -- American Humane Society, HSUS -- Humane Society of the US, RSPCA -- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals -- Eurogroup for Animals, and so many other organizations, do you honestly believe that people will just stand quietly by while the Orthodox Jews of Israel abuse live animals by sacrificing them during their religious rituals? Won't said organizations view such killing as an extremely barbaric act? It is very hard to imagine that Jewish ritual animal sacrifices would be permitted. No doubt it would result in very swift condemnation of the nation of Israel from around the world.

Yet, at the same time, it is likewise true that the Jewish people, and Israeli leaders, have a record of thumbing their noses at the rest of the world, including at the presidents of the United States of America, when it suits their purpose. Sometimes they will do something which is very unpopular and opposed by the rest of the world, and then just hunker down until the wave of criticism passes. One case in point are the illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jewish expansionism. So, it is possible that if a third temple were to be built, ritual animal sacrifices -- or oblations -- could possibly be re-implemented, despite what the rest of the world thinks.

But that is not the only problem I see in regard to animal sacrifices being conducted in a rebuilt temple. Even if the Orthodox Jews really do manage to get that far with their

misguided plans, and such sacrifices are somehow initiated, as a Bible-believing Christian, are you convinced that said sacrifices will even be acceptable to God? Well, if you are sufficiently familiar with the Scriptures, then your answer should be a resounding "No!" Why? Because as I explain in the aforementioned series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", the Bible makes it very plain that not only did Jesus become our High Priest, but He also offered up Himself as the Final Sacrifice for sin. He died ONCE for the sins of all men, and He is not going to do it again, as we see by the following group of verses:

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin ONCE: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

Romans 6:9-10, KJV

"But this man, [Jesus] because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did ONCE, when he offered up himself."

Hebrews 7:24-27, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Hebrews 9:11-12, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time

without sin unto salvation."

Hebrews 9:24-26, 28, KJV

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all."

Hebrews 10:10, KJV

"For Christ also hath ONCE suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

1 Peter 3:18, KJV

Regarding Jesus Christ becoming our final and only necessary High Priest -- meaning that there is no need for any future human high priest as seems to be anticipated and expected by these misguided rabbis and other Orthodox Jews -- consider the following group of verses as well. Their meaning is quite clear:

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings . . . Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil . . . For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, THAT HE MIGHT BE A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

Hebrews 2:9-10, 14, 16-17, KJV

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, CONSIDER THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR PROFESSION, CHRIST JESUS;"

Hebrews 3:1, KJV

"Seeing then that WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST, THAT IS PASSED INTO THE HEAVENS, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 4:14-15, KJV

"So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, THOU ART A PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC. Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; CALLED OF GOD AN HIGH PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC."

Hebrews 5:5-10, KJV

"Whither the forerunner is for us entered, EVEN JESUS, MADE AN HIGH PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC."

Hebrews 6:20, KJV

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: WE HAVE SUCH AN HIGH PRIEST, WHO IS SET ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF THE MAJESTY IN THE HEAVENS;"

Hebrews 8:1, KJV

"But CHRIST BEING COME AN HIGH PRIEST of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;"

Hebrews 9:11, KJV

Let me also add that the ransom price for our Salvation has been paid in full through the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As such, what possible need could there even be for any future animal sacrifices on an altar in a rebuilt Jewish temple in Israel? Obviously, there is no such need whatsoever. If the price was already paid in full by Christ when He poured out His Blood on the Cross, and when He said "It is finished", as all Christians believe, then any future animal sacrifice in Israel in which blood is shed, is a moot point. Consider the following group of verses which verify this point:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY."

Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY."

Mark 10:45, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, WHICH HE HATH PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD."

Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? FOR YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"YE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE; be not ye the servants of men."

1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION, unto the praise of his glory."

Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; WHO GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

As we have already seen, God's Word is abundantly clear in stating that remission of our sins has already been granted through Jesus' shed Blood. Now, because we receive remission of our sins through our faith in Christ's Sacrifice, there is no longer any need to make any additional offerings for sin. Period. In other words, as I said a minute ago, any kind of animal sacrifice in the future in Israel is really totally unnecessary. In fact, I am inclined to believe that God would view any such animal sacrifices as an abomination, an insult, and a slap in His face, being as He has already offered up His own Son as the Final Offering for sin. That such sin offerings are no longer necessary is made quite clear by the following verse:

"Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

Hebrews 10:18, KJV

So as you can plainly see by that one verse alone, remission of our sins through faith in Christ's Sacrifice means that ritual sin offerings -- as is desired by legalistic Orthodox Jews -- are no longer necessary whatsoever. To not believe this is to contradict the Scriptures, and that is why any future blood sacrifices will be an abomination to God.

As I have likewise already explained, based on rabbinical teachings, one clear sign that Mashiach ben David -- or King Messiah -- has finally arrived in the nation of Israel, will be that after almost two thousand years without a central place of worship, this false messiah will be responsible for rebuilding the temple of Solomon. This feat will in fact be one of his crowning achievements; and it will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt to the Orthodox Jews that he is indeed the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy and rabbinic teachings. He is their long-awaited Jewish messiah. However, in light of everything I've already shared with you, will such a rebuilt temple even be necessary? This is a question I will be fully addressing as we continue our discussion in part seven of this series.

Please go to part seven for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 7

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Mashiach Ben David's Crowning Achievement Would Be The Third Temple, Delicate Political Situation Regarding Temple Mount, Why Temple Mount Is Holy To Judaism Christianity And Islam, Temple Mount Is Controlled By The Muslim Waqf, A Decades Old Status Quo, Prohibitions For Non-Muslims, Peace To Prosperity Proposal: Trump Administration's Confusing Position, Orthodox Jews Pressuring For Change In Status Quo, Riots And Radicals, Alternative Proposals For The Temple Mount, Temple Denial And

Challenges Regarding Location Of Original Temple, History Of Antonia Fortress, Alexander The Great And Rise Of Seleucids, Love Affair And Suicide of Mark Antony And Queen Cleopatra, Flavius Josephus Describes The Location Of Antonia Fortress In Relation To Second Temple, Four Bronze Roman Coins Refute Legitimacy Of Temple Mount, Caiaphas Is Appointed By Valerius Gratus, Western Wall Was Built 50 Years After Death Of Herod The Great By Herod Agrippa II, Were First And Second Temples Built On Mount Ophel?, Gihon Spring And No Water Sources On Mount Moriah, Solomon Anointed King At Gihon, Gihon Spring Is Located In Kidron Valley Outside Of Mount Moriah, The Pool Of Siloam Was Located Outside of Temple Mount At Bottom of Mount Ophel, Were City Of David Temple And Solomon's Palace Built On Crescent-Shaped Ridge Comprised Of Mount Ophel And Mount Zion?

As I concluded in part six, according to rabbinic teachings, Mashiach ben David's crowning achievement -- which will in fact convince many Orthodox Jews of his messiahship -- will be the construction of a third and final temple in Israel. Now, before we begin to examine this issue from a Scriptural perspective, let's look at the reality on the ground in the state of Israel. If this King Messiah does appear in Israel as many Orthodox Jews expect, and if he is somehow successful in having the temple rebuilt, it will indeed be a monumental feat. Why? Well, for one thing, because the temple ceased to exist almost two thousand years ago, and no one has been able to build a new one since then, although a few people -- such as Julian the Apostate -- have tried over the centuries, and failed.

As many of my readers will know, in our modern day, one of the primary impediments to building a new temple is directly related to the political situation surrounding the Temple Mount, or the "Noble Sanctuary" -- or "Haram Ash-Sharif" -- as it is known to the Muslims. While the Temple Mount is viewed as a holy site by both Jews and Christians due to the long-held belief that it is there where both the first and second temples stood many centuries ago, it is also viewed as the third most holy site in the Islamic religion -- after Mecca and Medina -- as well for a variety of reasons. Some of the reasons why the three major Abrahamic religions -- that is, Judaism, Christianity and Islam -- reverence the Temple Mount are due to the following beliefs:

1. God created the world there.

2. God created Adam there.
3. Abraham tried to sacrifice Isaac on the rock there.
4. God's divine presence is most strongly manifest there.
5. The Foundation Stone under the Dome of the Rock is where the Holy of Holies was located during the temple period.
6. Muhammad's Night Journey to heaven started there from the Dome of the Rock.

Regarding item number one above, according to ancient Jewish tradition, when God created the Universe, the first place He created was the Foundation Stone on the Temple Mount. In an article entitled "The Real Location of the First, Second, and the Third Holy Temple, Which Is Soon to Be Built, Is Only on the Holy Temple Mount in Jerusalem," Gershon Salomon -- who is a former IDF officer and the founder of the Temple Mount and Eretz Yisrael Faithful Movement -- writes the following regarding this Jewish belief:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The intention of G-d from the beginning was to create 'first' the place which would be the location of His Holy House where He would dwell in the midst of His people Israel. So G-d created first the 'foundation rock', which is located until today on the top of Mount Moriah or the Holy Temple Mount, as it is commonly called. A very old tradition that was passed along the Jewish people from father to son says that this rock was the 'foundation rock' upon which G-d created the entire universe. G-d created the universe in circles of holiness. The first circle which is the most holy place in the world is the foundation rock. The second circle which is also very holy is the location of the Holy Temple Mount until today. The third circle of holiness is Jerusalem. The fourth circle of holiness that G-d created is the Holy Land of Israel. The fifth circle is the rest of the world."

----- End Quote -----

While the Israelis seized the West Bank -- including East Jerusalem -- from Jordan during the 1967 Six-Day War, in a strange twist of events, shortly after the Israeli flag was hoisted over the Temple Mount in 1967, General Moshe Dayan ordered that the flag be lowered, and that the Muslim Waqf -- or religious trust -- be given the authority to manage the Temple Mount. It is said that he made this decision in order to maintain the peace. Thus, to this very day, the Jordanian Islamic Waqf retains full control over Judaism's most holy

site, with little interference from the Israelis. In fact, while they are given limited access to the Mount, religious Jews and other non-Muslims are not allowed to pray on, bring prayer books to, or wear religious apparel on the Temple Mount. Furthermore, ironically, the Israeli police enforce these restrictions, because the government of Israel views this measure as an important deterrent to Muslim violence, which could potentially result in a greater Middle East war.

While some Orthodox rabbis do encourage Jews to visit the Temple Mount, most of them forbid entry to the Mount out of concern that said visitors may possibly violate some aspect of Jewish law. In fact, even Jewish rabbis who do encourage visits to the Temple Mount prohibit entrance to the actual Dome of the Rock. This position is based on concern that the Jewish visitors to the Mount may inadvertently tread on holy and forbidden ground.

Similar to the Israeli government, in its much-touted Middle East peace plan, even the administration of President Donald Trump of the United States seemed to support a continuation of the current status quo. In a fifty-page document called the "Peace to Prosperity" proposal, on page sixteen the plan describes the US's position regarding the Temple Mount. Not surprisingly, as occurred with a number of other statements that were issued by the Trump administration, the following statement is very confusing, because on one hand it supports the status quo, while on the other it states that everyone should be able to pray on the Temple Mount, which is clearly contrary to the current status quo:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Unlike many previous powers that had ruled Jerusalem, and had destroyed the holy sites of other faiths, the State of Israel is to be commended for safeguarding the religious sites of all and maintaining a religious status quo. Given this commendable record for more than half a century, as well as the extreme sensitivity regarding some of Jerusalem's holy sites, we believe that this practice should remain, and that all of Jerusalem's holy sites should be subject to the same governance regimes that exist today. In particular the status quo at the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif should continue uninterrupted.

Jerusalem's holy sites should remain open and available for peaceful worshippers and tourists of all faiths. People of

every faith should be permitted to pray on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, in a manner that is fully respectful to their religion, taking into account the times of each religion's prayers and holidays, as well as other religious factors."

----- End Quote -----

As I mentioned at the very beginning of this series, despite this situation being the status quo for many decades now in Israel, with each passing year, calls to change the current arrangement with the Muslims have been growing stronger. This push for change particularly comes from the Orthodox Jewish community, and influential organizations such as the Temple Mount Faithful, the Movement for the Establishment of the Temple, and the Temple Institute. For example, in an October 2019 article in the Tablet Magazine, writer Matthew Ackerman offered the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"In light of this, it's worth reconsidering Israeli policy regarding the Temple Mount. Even after gaining control of the site in 1967, Israel has maintained the preexisting "status quo" in which the area is administered by a foreign religious authority that maintains a blanket ban on all non-Muslim prayer. For peace, security, and justice, Israel should now take formal control of the Temple Mount, open the site to prayer for all, erect a large and beautiful synagogue so the point is made plainly, and do it quickly.

A few years of the sight of a beautiful synagogue on the Temple Mount would rewrite humanity's mental map of Jerusalem, and the Jewish state beyond it. The synagogue would in short order become an extremely powerful version of what Pierre Nora has termed a 'memory site,' or a 'symbolic element of the memorial heritage of any community.'

I am not promoting the construction of the Third Temple, the long prophesied event believed to herald the messianic age. I do promote the construction of a synagogue, which confirms the Jewish right to pray only.

To confirm the justice of Jewish rights, to secure Israel forever, to build toward peace among Jews and all peoples, the Jews should build a synagogue on the Temple Mount, and do it soon."

----- End Quote -----

Ackerman is not alone in his thoughts. As we have seen, the sense amongst Orthodox Jews is that the arrival time of their messiah, Mashiach ben David -- Messiah son of David, or King Messiah -- is drawing very near, and they are convinced that it is not only their right to rebuild the temple, but they are convinced that this man will do it just as soon as the conditions are right to do so. While Ackerman does not appear to fully support the construction of a third temple on the Temple Mount, others are not so quick to back down in their demands.

Obviously, this creates a very delicate situation in both a political and a religious sense. It has in fact created a dangerous situation, because some of the people who belong to these various organizations are quite radical in nature, and they will do whatever it takes to ensure that a new temple is eventually built on the summit of the Temple Mount. As you may already know, over the decades, this tension has resulted in a few riots occurring on the Temple Mount in which people -- primarily Palestinians -- have been killed. Furthermore, there has been talk by some individuals, and even plans made, to purposely destroy the Dome of the Rock, so that a temple can be built in its place. Clearly then, some individuals are very committed to seeing that a third temple is constructed on the Temple Mount.

Tragically, to our own shame, such plans of destruction have even involved certain misguided, radical Christians who have erroneously believed that it is their responsibility to bring about the End of Days. Thankfully, such evil plans have been detected by the Israeli authorities, and have been aborted before they were carried through. Make no mistake. Purposely destroying the Dome of the Rock would inevitably lead to a very major war in the Middle East. It would be the religious war of wars which would rile up Muslims worldwide.

Other more cool-headed individuals have looked for other more diplomatic ways to make a third Jewish temple a reality. One proposal I read quite some time ago suggested that based on satellite photographs, there is sufficient space next to the al-Aqsa Mosque for a third temple to be constructed there. In other words, based on this claim, all three edifices -- that is, the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock and the third temple -- could reside simultaneously on the Temple Mount. If

there's really any feasibility to this proposal, both Judaism and Islam could be represented on the Temple Mount without the need to resort to violence.

However, this immediately leads to a number of questions. For example, would the Muslims really be open to such a peaceful possibility and solution? After all, an Islamic waqf -- also known as an endowment, donation or trust -- whether it is for religious or charitable purposes, is traditionally bestowed in perpetuity, with no intention of reclaiming the assets. In other words, the Muslims will not easily surrender any part of the Haram al-Sharif compound for the purpose of building a third Jewish temple there.

What about the Orthodox Jews? After all, they are convinced by centuries of tradition -- whether true or not -- that the Foundation Stone which is located inside of the Dome of the Rock is where the Holy of Holies was once located. As such, it is highly unlikely that they would ever accept the temple being constructed anywhere else. Clearly then, there is very strong recalcitrance on the part of both of the parties, and religious tradition is extremely hard to break. But this is not the only problem plaguing the potential construction of a third temple on Mount Moriah. As you will now see, even the legitimacy of the Jewish claim to the Temple Mount has been questioned by certain parties.

Recently, I came across information on a number of websites which I found to be rather interesting. According to this information -- which bears a similar message to the "Temple Denial" campaign which has been promoted by the Palestinians and other Muslims for decades -- neither of the two temples was really ever located on the summit of the Temple Mount to begin with. If true -- I will leave it to you to decide what you want to believe once you have completely read this series -- then even calling Mount Moriah the Temple Mount is really a misnomer and a deception, and it would seem to negate any legitimate claim to the mount for the purpose of building a third temple.

According to the information, what Christians and Jews today refer to as the Temple Mount was in actuality the location of Antonia Fortress, Fortress Antonia, Fort Antonia, or whatever you wish to call it. This fort was originally a citadel which had been built by the Hasmonean dynasty, who ruled Judea from the Seleucid Empire, north and east of Israel. This empire in fact resulted from the division into four parts of the former

Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great following his death, as is mentioned by the Prophet Daniel. In these verses, the he goat represents the Macedonian/Greek Empire, and the great horn or notable horn represents Alexander the Great. The four notable ones represent the four generals who carved up what had been the Macedonian/Greek Empire:

"And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven."

Daniel 8:5-8, KJV

As I said, the Hasmonean citadel was later refurbished and given the new name of Antonia Fortress by Herod the Great in honor of his patron, Roman general Mark Antony, whose job it was to protect the Second Temple. This is the very same Mark Antony who had a love affair with Egyptian queen Cleopatra -- and had three children by her -- even though he was married to Octavia. Following the power struggle and breakdown of the Second Triumvirate, Mark Antony and Cleopatra were forced to eventually flee to Egypt, where they committed suicide.

But returning to Fortress Antonia, according to historians -- including Flavius Josephus -- the fortress housed part of the Roman garrison which was stationed in Jerusalem. One website I visited described the fortress as being a large enclosed military camp some thirty-six acres in size. It was basically a miniature Roman city with its own administration, living quarters and temple structures to accommodate approximately six thousand soldiers of the 10th Legion. The Romans likewise stored the high priest's vestments within Fortress Antonia as well. In Book XV, Chapter XI of his "Antiquity of the Jews", Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, informs us that Fortress Antonia was a completely separate and wall-enclosed structure that was located to the north of the temple. This is made evident by the following excerpt:

----- Begin Quote -----

Now on the north side [of the temple] was built a citadel, whose walls were square, and strong, and of extraordinary firmness. This citadel was built by the kings of the Asamonean race, who were also high priests before Herod, and they called it the Tower, in which were repositied the vestments of the high priest, which the high priest only put on at the time when he was to offer sacrifice. These vestments king Herod kept in that place, and after his death they were under the power of the Romans, until the time of Tiberius Caesar . . . But for the tower itself, when Herod the king of the Jews had fortified it more firmly than before, in order to secure and guard the temple, he gratified Antonius, who was his friend, and the Roman ruler, and then gave it the name of the Tower of Antonia."

----- End Quote -----

Where the conflict arises is in the fact that there are some historians who believe that Antonia Fortress was more than likely located at the eastern end of the great wall of the city, on the northeastern corner of the city, just OUTSIDE of the Temple Mount, and near the Pool of Bethesda. In contrast, the information I discovered suggests that Antonia Fortress was really located ON THE SUMMIT of the Temple Mount itself. In other words, as I mentioned a moment ago, the information proposes that Fortress Antonia occupied the entire thirty-six acres of the Temple Mount. As a result, what today is claimed to be the Wailing Wall -- and supposedly a retaining wall for the temple complex -- was in reality a part of Fort Antonia, and not a part of the temple complex whatsoever. If this is true -- I do not know one way or the other -- then there is nothing holy about the wall where the Jews pray everyday. It is a deception. Please note that I am not the first person to mention this important point. Please conduct your own online research if you doubt it.

This info regarding what may possibly be the true history of the controversial wall received strong support in 2011 when archaeologists with the Israel Antiquities Authority found four bronze coins underneath the massive foundation stones of the wall near a Roman-era drainage tunnel that begins at the Pool of Siloam. These coins were stamped around 17 A.D. by Valerius Gratus. For the record, Gratus was the prefect who immediately preceded Pontius Pilate as the governor of Judaea. Gratus is most known for the fact that he repeatedly

changed the appointment of the Jewish high priest. Caiaphas was his final appointment, who as many of you will know, in fact prophesied Jesus' death, as I mentioned to you at the end of part two. Here again are the same verses:

"Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death."

John 11:47-53, KJV

So why is the discovery of these four bronze Roman coins so important? Quite simply, because while Herod the Great -- who is also known as Herod I -- is credited with having built the Temple Mount compound, according to historical records, he died in 4 B.C., or about twenty years before the date of the coins. In other words, the coins indicate that Herod I didn't build that portion of the wall, and that construction of the wall was not near completion when he died. More specifically, certain historians are convinced that construction of the Western Wall had not even begun at the time of Herod's death. Instead, their view is that it was finished some five decades later by Herod's great grandson, King Herod Agrippa II. This is in fact what historian Flavius Josephus likewise writes in Book XX Chapter IX Paragraph VII of his "Antiquities of the Jews", as we see here:

----- Begin Quote -----

And now it was that the temple [meaning the courts around the temple] was finished. So, when the people saw that the workmen were unemployed, who were above eighteen thousand, and that they, receiving no wages, were in want, because they had earned their bread by their labours about the temple, and while they were unwilling to keep them by the treasures that were there deposited, out of fear of [their being carried away by] the Romans: and while they had a regard to the

making provision for the workmen, they had a mind to expend those treasures upon them; for if any one of them did but labour for a single hour, he received his pay immediately; so they persuaded him to rebuild the eastern cloisters. These cloisters belonged to the outer court, and were situated in a deep valley, and had walls that reached four hundred cubits [in length] and were built of square and very white stones, the length of each of which stones was twenty cubits, and their height six cubits. This was the work of king Solomon, who first of all built the entire temple. But king Agrippa, [meaning Herod Agrippa II] who had the care of the temple committed to him by Claudius Caesar, considering that it is easy to demolish any building, but hard to build it up again, and that it was particularly hard to do it to these cloisters, which would require a considerable time, and great sums of money, he denied the petitioners their request, about that matter; but he did not obstruct them when they desired the city might be paved with white stone. He also deprived Jesus the son of Gamaliel, of the high priesthood, and gave it to Matthias, the son of Theophilus, under whom the Jews' war with the Romans took its beginning.

----- End Quote -----

Furthermore, from a logistical standpoint, it does make sense that if the Romans wanted to build a fortress which had the best vantage point for seeing all of the surrounding area, they would in fact have chosen the summit of Mount Moriah.

Based on that assumption, this information goes on to claim that both the first and the second temples were not located on the Temple Mount itself, but approximately six hundred feet outside of it, and a little below it, on Mount Ophel, near the Gihon Spring. In fact, some sources state that the original temple was purposely built by King Solomon right on top of the Gihon Spring, because it was the only water source in Jerusalem, and water was necessary for the purification rituals which were conducted by the Jewish priests. There are no water sources on the summit of Mount Moriah. What is also interesting about this possibility is that this is also where Solomon was anointed as the next king by Zadok the priest, as witnessed by Nathan the Prophet. We're clearly told that upon arriving at the Gihon Spring, Zadok "took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon", as we see by the following verses:

"So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the

son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon."

1 Kings 1:38-39, KJV

To add to this ancient mystery, the Gihon Spring was located in the Kidron Valley. This famous valley originates slightly northeast of the Old City of Jerusalem, very near to and yet outside of the Temple Mount. In fact, the Kidron Valley is what separates the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives. In my view, the fact that the Gihon Spring is closely associated with the temple seems to add credence to the idea that both temples were located on Mount Ophel, and not on Mount Moriah. What is also interesting is the fact that at different times during their history, the Jews built the upper and lower pool of Siloam to store the water from the Gihon Spring. This pool is closely associated with the temple in the Gospels. You may recall that shortly after leaving the temple, Jesus healed the blind man and told him to go and wash his eyes in the Pool of Siloam in John chapter nine, as we see here:

"Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

John 8:59-9:7, KJV

My point is, in my view, these verses suggest that the Pool of Siloam was located very close to the temple complex. In other words, near the base of the temple complex, close to the bottom of Mount Ophel. In fact, ancient maps, as well as twenty-first century archeological excavations have solidly confirmed that the Pool of Siloam is located outside of the

Temple Mount, in the Kidron Valley far below. The Wikipedia website describes it as "a rock-cut pool on the southern slope of the City of David, the original site of Jerusalem, located outside the walls of the Old City to the southeast. The pool was fed by the waters of the Gihon Spring, carried there by two aqueducts." If all of this is difficult for you to visualize, you will find a map in part ten of this series which shows how everything was laid out. As you will clearly see on the map, Herod's temple complex is actually located to the south of Fortress Antonia on a separate ridge, and is connected to the fort by two 600-foot long colonnades.

In briefly summarizing the history of the original temple, the "Hope of Israel" website states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The original city of Jerusalem was in the southeastern part of present day Jerusalem, on a crescent shaped ridge. The ridge had two mounds, one on the north and the other on the south. The Temple was built on the northern mound called Ophel, very near to the Gihon Spring. The southern mound was called Mt. Zion, upon which stood David's city. Solomon's palace was in between the two on raised ground. The walls around the square Temple platform were very high, the southwestern corner being about 450 feet high. In Herod's time Fort Antonia which is about 600 feet north of the Temple platform was connected to the Temple premises by a double colonnade bridge on the western side. The present Haram-esh-Sharif was the original location of Fort Antonia which was a Roman encampment. The rock protruding at the center was considered sacred by early century Christians because Jesus had stood on it before Pilate; there was a Christian Church above it in the fourth to sixth centuries, but the Moslem rulers built the Dome of the Rock on the site. Caliph Omar built the original Al Aqsa mosque on the southern end of the Haram as the 'new' Temple of Solomon. The Western wall of the Haram has no sacredness attached to it as present day Jews believe because it is the retaining wall of Fort Antonia and later modifications. The original sites of David's city and the Temple are completely lost due to the total removal of the southeastern ridge by Simon the Hasmonean who leveled Mt. Zion, and the Roman legions which destroyed the Temple."

----- End Quote -----

Let me again refer you to the images which are included in part ten of this series, so that you can actually visualize what these different sources are proposing as being the real site of Fortress Antonia, the Temple Mount, Solomon's Palace and the City of David.

Please go to part eight for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 8

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Were City Of David The Temple And Solomon's Palace Built On Crescent-Shaped Ridge Made Up Of Mount Ophel And Mount Zion? No Clear Evidence That Either Temple Stood On Mount Moriah, The Supreme Muslim Council's 1925 "A Brief Guide to al-Haram al-Sharif" Confirms Solomon's Temple Existed On Mount Moriah, Entrenched Jewish And Muslim Points Of View, Grand Mufti Of Jerusalem, Explanation Concerning Extent Of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Overlooked Truth: The Spiritual Nature Of God's True Temple, God Questioned King David's Desire To Build A Temple, Solomon Recognized Limitations Of First Temple, Corruption Of Jewish Religious Worship, Apostasy Of Ancient Israelites, Most High Dwelleth Not In Temples Made With Hands, Jesus Christ Is The Rejected Cornerstone And Foundation Stone Of God's Spiritual Temple, Lively Stones In God's Temple, Holy Spirit Indwelling

Continuing our discussion from part seven, as we have come to see, there exists some rather compelling historical and topographical evidence which strongly suggests that neither Jewish temple ever stood on the summit of Mount Moriah, as has long been promoted by Jewish orthodoxy. Quite to the contrary, it is possible that both temples, as well as the City of David, and King Solomon's palace, stood on a ridge

which was located just outside of, and to the south of, the Temple Mount. This crescent-shaped ridge consisted of two lower hills: Mount Ophel and Mount Zion.

If this information is true and accurate, it totally negates the debate regarding the Jews' alleged historical right to construct a temple on the summit of Mount Moriah, referred to by the Jews as the Temple Mount, and known to Muslims as "Haram Ash-Sharif", or the "Noble Sanctuary". What further complicates this situation is the fact that the Muslim Waqf absolutely refuses to allow any excavations to be conducted under the mount. If that were not already enough, according to what I have read, no evidence has ever been found which conclusively demonstrates that Solomon's Temple stood on the summit of Mount Moriah. Also, there is only circumstantial evidence to support the belief that Herod's Temple -- which was an expanded and renovated version of the Second Temple -- may have stood there centuries ago.

Honestly speaking, I am not sure what is the truth here. I will tell you that I did conduct some Bible research in order to determine how much of this information could be verified by the Scriptures. The name "Ophel" is mentioned five times in the Old Testament. Of those five times, there are only three verses which are associated with construction going on around Mount Ophel, and none of it was done by King Solomon directly. Consider the following:

"And he [King Jotham] did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly. He built the high gate of the house of the LORD, and on the wall of Ophel he built much."
2 Chronicles 27:2-3, KJV

"Now after this he [King Mannaseh] built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah."
2 Chronicles 33:14, KJV

"Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out. After them the Tekoites repaired another piece, over against the great tower that lieth out, even unto the wall of Ophel."

According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, Ophel was "a ridge of hills in Jerusalem, fortified for defense of the city." The name "Ophel" in fact means "hill". So at the very least, we do know that a very high wall was built around Mount Ophel.

Regarding King Solomon's palace, the word "palace" itself is mentioned sixteen times in the Old Testament. This word is derived from the Hebrew word "biyrah". What I personally find rather interesting is the fact that while it is consistently translated as "palace" in all sixteen instances, according to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, "biyrah" can refer to a palace, or castle, or temple. The reason why I am emphasizing this point, is because in the following verses, it becomes quite apparent that when David says "palace", he is really referring to the temple which his son Solomon would build, and for which David has already made preparations, and NOT to an actual palace. Why else would David plainly state that "the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God"? Consider these verses:

"Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: FOR THE PALACE IS NOT FOR MAN, BUT FOR THE LORD GOD. Now I have prepared with all my might FOR THE HOUSE OF MY GOD the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. Moreover, because I have set my affection TO THE HOUSE OF MY GOD, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house . . . And gave for the service of THE HOUSE OF GOD of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite . . . And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to BUILD THE PALACE, for the which I have made provision."

1 Chronicles 29:1-3, 7-8, 19, KJV

As far as I can tell, in all of the other verses where the Hebrew word "biyrah" is used, it does in fact refer to the palace of a particular king. Regarding the actual location of King Solomon's palace, I am not absolutely certain at this point. However, I did find two verses which seem to suggest that the temple and Solomon's palace may have been close together. Consider the following verses where the word "terraces" is used. According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, it is translated from the Hebrew word "mecillah" which means a highway, raised way or public road. It is in fact translated in the KJV Bible as highway, causeway, path, way, courses or terraces.

"And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought alnum trees and precious stones. And the king made of the alnum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah."
2 Chronicles 9:10-11, KJV

Likewise, based on the Scriptures alone, I cannot say for certain exactly where Solomon's temple was located. Was it located on Mount Moriah, or was it located on Mount Ophel just below and to the south of Mount Moriah? Who's to say? Due to the lack of concrete evidence in the Scriptures -- at least according to my current understanding -- which tell us with clarity where the temple was built, it remains an open question, in my view.

Thus we have two strongly opposing points of view, as well as historical and topographical evidence which gives us a good reason to question the long-promoted Jewish narrative. Ironically, the debate regarding Mount Moriah does not end there. As if this problem isn't already complicated enough, you will no doubt find it interesting to learn that while for obvious political reasons many current-day Muslims deny that a Jewish temple ever stood on top of the Temple Mount, there's clear evidence that Muslims haven't always embraced this position. Consider, for example, that back in 1925, the Supreme Muslim Council -- the president of which at the time was Haj Amin al-Husseini, who was also the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem -- published a small, nine-page, English language pamphlet called "A Brief Guide to al-Haram al-Sharif". Page four of this pamphlet stated as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The site is one of the oldest in the world. Its sanctity dates from the earliest (perhaps from pre-historic) times. Its identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute. This, too, is the spot, according to the universal belief, on which 'David built there an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings (2 Samuel XXIV, 25)."

----- End Quote -----

Notice that it used the words "beyond dispute" in regard to Solomon's Temple being situated on the Temple Mount. That is a rather clear confirmation that the Muslims at the time -- beginning with the Grand Mufti himself -- were convinced that Mount Moriah was indeed the location of Solomon's Temple. But Middle Eastern politics being what they are, and the hatred towards Israel being what it is, today that belief has been buried, and replaced by the staunch view amongst Muslims that a Jewish temple never stood on the summit of Mount Moriah. Of course, back then in 1925, Israel had not yet declared itself a nation, and the 1948 war, followed by the 1967 Six-Day War, had not occurred yet. These events obviously radicalized the Muslim perspective, and both points of view -- Jewish and Muslim -- became deeply entrenched, and have remained so to this very day.

Let me mention that "Grand Mufti" was a position and title that was created by the British Mandate authorities during the British Mandate of Palestine in 1918. At that time, the British military government in Palestine was led by Ronald Storrs. The Grand Mufti was a Sunni Muslim cleric who was in charge of Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites. This included the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Since 2006, the position has been held by Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, who was appointed by the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, and not by the Jordanian Jerusalem Islamic Waqf.

Also of interest is the fact that the English name "Al-Aqsa Mosque" is derived from two different Arabic phrases. The first of these -- al-Masjid al-'Aqṣā -- means "the farthest mosque", and refers to the entire Temple Mount compound, or Haram al-Sharif, including the Dome of the Rock. The second phrase is "Jâmi' al-Aqṣā", and refers specifically to the silver-domed congregational mosque building, which is also

referred to as al-Qibli Mosque, being as it houses al-Qibli Chapel. So in actuality, the Grand Mufti was given charge over the entire Temple Mount/the Noble Sanctuary, and not just over the mosque building alone.

As we have already discussed, despite the fact that there is no clear, unquestionable evidence that the temple stood on the top of the Temple Mount, and some evidence suggesting that it may have been located elsewhere, Orthodox Jews today remain convinced that this is precisely where both temples stood. So even if they were really built at the alternative location I mentioned a moment ago, the Orthodox Jews will never accept such a view, and they will only be satisfied if a new temple is constructed on the summit of Mount Moriah in East Jerusalem.

Sadly, while the Muslims and the Jews squabble over Mount Moriah/the Temple Mount/the Noble Sanctuary, heatedly debate over the actual location of the ancient Jewish temples, and even protest and shed blood over this issue, both sides fail to recognize and embrace the full truth of the matter. What is the truth to which I refer? What is the truth which they both overlook due to their spiritual blindness? It is the following which is made so plain in the Scriptures.

The fact of the matter is that Jesus Christ -- who is the one true Messiah, the only "Mashiach ben David" or "Messiah, son of David", and the only "King Messiah" who there will ever be -- ALREADY began building His true temple two thousand years ago. That temple consists of you and me, and all the Saints of God who have existed throughout time. It is NOT a building that is made with human hands, or one that is constructed of cement and steel. God's true Temple is in actuality spiritual in nature, exactly as Jesus told the woman from Samaria that it would be, even before the Second Temple had been destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Consider the following verses which are found in chapter four of the Gospel of John:

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR YET AT JERUSALEM, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH."

John 4:21-24, KJV

Do you see that? In that very moment, the Lord told the woman that the physical temple in Jerusalem would one day cease to exist, because God was in the process of creating something better which could not be destroyed by human hands, as the first and second temple had been. God the Father was building a spiritual temple comprised of Believers in whom His Spirit would dwell directly. You see, while many Christians may not be aware of this fact, God never desired a physical temple on the Earth to begin with. While He did acquiesce and honored King David's desire to build a house for the Lord -- which as we all know occurred during the reign of David's son, King Solomon -- God questioned David, and made it clear to him via the Prophet Nathan that it was not necessary for the king to construct a physical temple. Even after the First Temple had been completed, King Solomon recognized the limitations of his endeavors. This is clearly shown by the following set of verses:

"And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?"
2 Samuel 7:4-7, KJV

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?"
1 Kings 8:27, KJV

As both the Biblical and the historical record reveal, and as I pointed out to you earlier in this series and have likewise explained in several other articles, eventually, the entire system of worship of the Jews became seriously corrupted. It became a cold, dead system of rigid laws and self-righteous works. In fact, worse yet, as the Old Testament attests, once the Israelites began to backslide from the Lord -- which they did on multiple occasions -- they even began to build temples to honor the false gods of the heathen nations around them.

Thus it was that Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Hosea

began to warn the people of their sins, and God's impending judgments against them due to their rebellion and apostasy. Centuries later, the Apostles of the First Century would also preach this very same message. That is, that God doesn't need or dwell in temples made with hands. This fact becomes quite evident by verses such as the following:

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

Isaiah 66:1, KJV

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 5:31, KJV

"Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these."

Jeremiah 7:4, KJV

"For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof."

Hosea 8:14, KJV

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"

Acts 7:48-49, KJV

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"

Acts 17:24, KJV

As we learned in part four of this series, in addition to what He had said to the woman of Samaria, Jesus prophesied that the Second Temple would eventually be destroyed, just as God had allowed the Babylonians to destroy the temple of Solomon over six hundred years earlier. God was simply sick and tired of a corrupt religious system which was based on buildings and spiritually-dead rituals, not to mention the oppression and the self-righteousness which characterized

such an evil system. So as I said, He decided to sweep it all away, and create something entirely new. God desired a spiritual temple. As many of you will already know, Jesus Christ in fact became the chief Cornerstone and the true Foundation Stone -- not the physical one under the Dome of the Rock -- of this spiritual temple. This is in fact even what He told His religious Jewish persecutors who rejected Him. Consider this set of verses, some of which I already shared with you in part two:

"And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU."

Luke 17:20-21, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? BUT HE SPAKE OF THE TEMPLE OF HIS BODY. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

John 2:19-22, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

Ephesians 2:20, KJV

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock [that is, Himself] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18, KJV

"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, KJV

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

Psalms 118:22-23, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:42, KJV

"And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."

Mark 8:31, KJV

"And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Mark 12:10-11, KJV

"Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

Luke 9:22, KJV

"But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation."

Luke 17:25, KJV

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

John 1:11, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

Acts 4:11, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed [that is disapproved, rejected, repudiated] indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious . . . Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be

confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

1 Peter 2:4, 6-8, KJV

Just as God's Spirit dwelt in Jesus' physical body without measure, Jesus and the Apostles taught -- as the Scriptures clearly confirm -- that the very same Holy Spirit not only dwells in us as well when we accept Christ, but we in fact symbolically become lively -- or living -- stones in God's spiritual Temple. This doctrinal truth is made very plain in verses such as the following:

"For he whom God hath sent [meaning Jesus] speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."

John 3:34, KJV

"For it pleased the Father that in him [in Jesus] should all fulness dwell;"

Colossians 1:19, KJV

"For in him [in Jesus] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Colossians 2:9, KJV

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; FOR HE DWELLETH WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU."

John 14:16-17, KJV

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but YE SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST not many days hence . . . But YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:4-5, 8, KJV

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELL IN YOU. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead DWELL IN YOU, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU."

Romans 8:9-11, KJV

"Know ye not that YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, and that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLETH IN YOU? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE."

1 Corinthians 3:16-17, KJV

"What? know ye not that YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; as God hath said, I WILL DWELL IN THEM, AND WALK IN THEM; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

2 Corinthians 6:16-18, KJV

"In whom all the building fitly framed together GROWETH UNTO AN HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD: In whom ye also are BUILDED TOGETHER FOR AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT."

Ephesians 2:21-22, KJV

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS BY FAITH; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, THAT YE MIGHT BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD."

Ephesians 3:14-19, KJV

"And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; WHOSE HOUSE ARE WE, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

Hebrews 3:5-6, KJV

"Ye also, AS LIVELY STONES, are built up A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ . . . But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:5, 9, KJV

"Him that overcometh WILL I MAKE A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

Revelation 3:12, KJV

"And I saw no temple therein: FOR THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY AND THE LAMB ARE THE TEMPLE OF IT."

Revelation 21:22, KJV

Please go to part nine for the continuation of this series.

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Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 9

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Contrast Between The Holy Scriptures And The Expectations Of The Orthodox Jews, Third Temple Deception And Abomination Of

Animal Sacrifices, God Made His Point, Review Of Key Points, False Spirit Of Teshuvah In Israel, Real Repentance Based On The New Testament, The Futility Of Endeavoring To Establish Our Own Righteousness, Teshuvah Began 2,000 Years Ago, Real Mashiach Ben David Arrived 2,000 Years Ago, Repentance Is An Ongoing Process, Ye Shall Die In Your Sins, Tel Aviv Is Gay Capital Of The World, Wickedness Of The United States, King Messiah Will Be Revealed To The World By His Deeds Not With Fanfare, Timing Of King Messiah's Arrival In Israel, David Ben-Gurion And Other Potential Mashiach Candidates, Diaspora And Creation Of The State Of Israel, Scriptures Regarding The Return To Israel, First Century Israel And Pax Romana, Modern Jewish Deception, Jesus: Future King David Who Already Came, Christians Deceived By Jewish Legalism, Misinterpretation Of Deuteronomy 18:15, Spiritual Blindness, Jesus Is The Only Mediator Between God And Men, Jesus Fulfilled The Law And The Prophets, We Are Under Christ And Not Under The Law, Without The Shedding Of Blood There Is No Remission Of Our Sins

Continuing our discussion from part eight, while I have gone into considerable detail regarding the possible location of the ancient Jewish temple, the Mount Moriah controversy and the spiritual nature of God's true temple, all of this has been for a very specific reason. That reason is to show you the contrast between what the Scriptures actually say and teach, and what the deceived Orthodox Jews believe will occur if and when their false messiah, Mashiach ben David, appears on the world stage. To state it more clearly, while I am personally inclined to believe at this current time that a third temple will never be built, if I am in error, and it should actually come to pass at some point in the future, it will be a total Jewish deception because God does not desire it, or require it.

As we previously discussed, God already destroyed the Jews' temple twice. Hasn't He already made His point rather clear? To reiterate the point I made in part six, if the Jews do build a third temple on Mount Moriah, and reinstitute animal sacrifices, it will be a total abomination to God, because Jesus already offered up Himself as the Final Sacrifice for sin, and has thus become our only Mediator, Intercessor, and High Priest in God's spiritual temple.

To continue, by examining one Bible verse after another, I have very meticulously exposed and torn down the lies and

deceptions of Jewish orthodoxy, as they have been expounded upon by their respected rabbis for literally centuries. It is precisely because these antichrist teachings have been so engrained in the Jewish mindset, that the Orthodox Jews now eagerly anticipate the soon appearance of their messiah in Israel. Let us stop now and consider some of the key points I have shared with you in this series which expose some of the serious flaws which are found in Jewish orthodoxy. They include the following important points:

1. No man is justified by keeping the Laws of Moses, a.k.a. the Torah
2. True repentance depends on God's Mercy and Grace alone
3. Jesus came to free us from the legalistic yoke of the Law
4. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin
5. Jesus was the final Sacrifice for our sins
6. Jesus died once for the sins of all men
7. Jesus is our only High Priest, Mediator and Intercessor
8. Jesus fully paid the ransom price for our Salvation
9. We are washed and cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb of God
10. Sin offerings/animal sacrifices are no longer necessary
11. Jesus is the Cornerstone/Foundation Stone of God's temple
12. A physical temple is no longer necessary because we are God's spiritual temple built upon Jesus Christ.

I've fully supported every single one of the previous points with multiple Scriptures. God's Word is very plain regarding all of these issues. As such, you should not have any doubts about them, no matter what the legalists try to tell you. By sharing all of this information with you, we can only arrive at one conclusion; and that is that if the Orthodox Jews of Israel somehow manage to achieve all of their goals at some point in the near future, under the guidance of their false messiah, Mashiach ben David, as I have already made clear to you, it will all be a lie and a deception. It will NOT be what God desires, but only what THEY desire; and it will be

because they have rejected the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Despite everything I have now shared with you regarding the flaws and deceptions which are found in Judaism -- which is really a modernized form of ancient Pharisaism -- and their misinterpretation of who Mashiach ben David is, the Orthodox Jews remain convinced that a spirit of Teshuvah is now present in Israel, as well as in other countries around the world to varying degrees. As you may recall from part five, in Judaism, Teshuvah refers to a process of repentance and atonement. It's a form of ethical self transformation. To religious Jews, it means to turn away from one's sins and to not return to them. You can learn more about this belief at the following URL:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Repentance_in_Judaism

At any rate, religious Jews are convinced that the generation of Teshuvah is alive today, and that because of this "fact", their messiah, Mashiach ben David -- or King Messiah -- will soon arrive on the world stage. Sadly, while this is what the Orthodox Jews believe, personally, I see no evidence of this whatsoever. After all, as far as I am aware, very few Jews in Israel are turning to Jesus Christ and recognizing Him as the Son of God, and their Lord and Savior. As I amply explain in my series "What It Means to Repent", according to what Jesus, John the Baptist and others taught in the New Testament, the act of repentance doesn't simply mean to turn away from one's personal sins in order to improve oneself. It is so much more than that.

In the context of the New Testament, repentance means to turn away from a state of unbelief in Jesus, to a state of belief in Christ, thus resulting in one's Salvation. In other words, contrary to the Jews' definition of Teshuvah, repentance is more than ethical self transformation, which is really just a work of the flesh and trying to establish one's own semblance of righteousness without Christ. Let me again share with you what the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans. We covered these same verses in part five of this series:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the

end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:1-4, KJV

As you can plainly see, Paul makes it very clear that belief in Christ, true righteousness and Salvation are all part of the same package deal. They are integrally tied together. It is impossible to have one without the others, and it begins with repenting of one's stubborn rejection of Jesus Christ.

In reality then, while modern Orthodox Jews promote their own unique brand of Teshuvah without Christ, almost two thousand years ago, John the Baptist, Jesus and the Twelve Apostles were ALREADY calling people to repentance, or Teshuvah. Not only did Teshuvah begin back then, but the true Mashiach ben David arrived on the world stage back then as well, in the form of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, according to the Bible, Teshuvah has been an ongoing process since that time, because God has been calling people to repent of their ignorance and unbelief ever since then. As we learned in part five, in the seventeenth chapter of the Book of Acts, the Apostle Paul stated the following to his audience on Mars' Hill in Athens:

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"

Acts 17:30, KJV

The fact of the matter is that the Orthodox Jews' brand of Teshuvah leads to death, because it is merely a work of the flesh, while New Testament Teshuvah leads to Eternal Life through faith in Jesus Christ, because it is a work of God's Spirit. This is the very same message that Jesus gave to the unbelieving Jews of His own day, as we can easily determine by the following two verses:

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:21, 24, KJV

Tragic, isn't it? Some two thousand years have passed since those words were first spoken by Jesus, and yet so many Jews today still just don't get it. They are still in bondage to the very same delusion. They are still trying to establish their righteousness without Christ, but it just won't work.

In fact, some of them are not even trying to understand. To the contrary, while Orthodox Jews deceive themselves into believing that a spirit of Teshuvah/repentance is present in modern-day Israel, I have to wonder how they reconcile their misguided belief with the disturbing fact that Tel Aviv is not only one of the most liberal cities in the world, but to their own shame, it also happens to be the most gay-friendly city in the world as well. So if Teshuvah is truly occurring in that antichrist nation, I for one would like to know where it is happening.

While I've pointed the finger directly at Israel, and exposed their hypocrisy, please understand that I am fully aware of the fact that Israel is not alone in her sins against God. My own country -- the United States of America -- is equally as wicked, and maybe even more so. From same-sex "marriage", to abortion on demand, to extreme violence at home and abroad, to rampant drug and alcohol abuse, to government corruption, to pedophilia, child trafficking, adultery and other sexual sins, to oppression of the poor and more, the USA has surely filled her cup of iniquity before God. I am sure that other countries are just as guilty. We live in a world which is in outright rebellion against God's holy Laws.

But let us return now to the idea of Teshuvah being linked to the arrival of Mashiach ben David, according to Jewish belief. While Orthodox Jews believe that their King Messiah may soon arrive on the world stage, they do not mean that he will arrive blowing his own trumpet, and announcing himself as the long-awaited prophet of God. To the contrary, based upon Jewish rabbinical tradition, Mashiach ben David shall arrive quietly without any fanfare whatsoever. It will be through his very actions of fulfilling the aforementioned requirements -- please refer to part four -- that Jews -- and supposedly the whole world -- will eventually come to recognize him for who he really is. At least that is what the Orthodox Jews believe. As I have already made clear, as far as Christians should be concerned, if this person ever truly does make an appearance, he will most certainly be a deceptive false messiah, and there will be nothing divine about him.

Exactly when are these events due to occur? According to the Jewish perspective, it can happen at any time. The belief is that there is always a potential "Mashiach" living somewhere in Israel. Whether or not he is the complete fulfillment of the prophecies regarding the "Messiah", rests upon how many

of the qualifications he meets. In other words, if this man succeeds in bringing peace to Israel and her surrounding Arab neighbors; if he succeeds in rebuilding the Jewish temple; if he succeeds in re-implementing the daily sacrifice; and if he succeeds in renewing study of, and adherence to, the Torah, then there will be little doubt in the minds of Orthodox Jews that he is indeed the one they have long been waiting for.

For example, over seventy years ago, many Jews considered the possibility that David Ben-Gurion might be their long-awaited messiah. Known as Israel's founding father, Ben-Gurion was the leader of the Jewish community during the British Mandate in Palestine. He for the most part led the Jewish struggle for independence, and on May 14, 1948, he formally proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel. He was the first to sign the Israeli Declaration of Independence, which he helped to write. Ben-Gurion led Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and he was responsible for uniting the various Jewish militias into the Israel Defense Forces, or IDF. At the war's conclusion, he also simultaneously served as Israel's first Prime Minister and Minister of Defense from 1955 to 1963.

Over the centuries, there have been other Israelis who have either claimed to be Mashiach ben David, or who were assumed to be the messiah by their followers, such as the late Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. For a complete list, check out the following URL:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Jewish_messiah_claimants

If we look at this issue from a purely Jewish perspective, as we discussed previously, another indication we can draw from the Old Testament Scriptures is that King Messiah will appear at a time when the "Diaspora" -- that is, the Dispersion -- has been fulfilled, and Jews from around the world have begun returning to Israel. It will be a time when "Jacob's Trouble" -- or Israel's Trouble" -- has ended. There are those Jews -- and even many deceived Christians -- who view the creation of the state of Israel in May of 1948 as the beginning of this period. I discuss this subject in more detail in some of my other articles, such as in "Sorry ... Jesus Is Not Coming At Any Moment!". There's actually one verse which is found in the Book of Isaiah which certain people have interpreted as being a prophecy regarding the creation of the Jewish state in one day, as occurred in 1948. That verse is the following:

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?

Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

Isaiah 66:8, KJV

Personally, I do not agree with their interpretation of the previous verse. I am convinced that the verse is referring to something entirely different which occurred long ago during the First Century. Again, you can read more about it in the series called "Sorry ... Jesus Is Not Coming At Any Moment!". Concerning the modern-day return of many thousands of Jews to the nation of Israel, following are some Scriptures which are believed by these very same people to prophesy and describe the Diaspora and the Jews' return to their nation:

"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment."

Ezekiel 34:11-16, KJV

In my view, a close reading of this chapter indicates that, in addition to the Jews' return to Jerusalem following the completion of the "Seventy Years Of Captivity" in Babylon, this prophecy may also be a reference to the arrival of the Messiah, the son of David -- meaning Jesus Christ -- during the First Century. Despite Roman occupation, nevertheless it was indeed a time of relative rest for the land of Palestine, when compared to the long history of wars which were fought by the Israelites against many foreign enemies during the Old Testament period. While the Jews were being oppressed by the Romans, "Pax Romana" still ruled the land; at least until the First Jewish-Roman War of 66 AD to 73 AD. In the Book of the

Prophet Jeremiah, we also find the following verse which some people have attributed to the Diaspora, and to the return to Israel in our modern times:

"For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."
Jeremiah 30:3, KJV

While this verse can be made to apply to our modern day, the fact of the matter is that just as I indicated with the last group of verses, following the invasion by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, and the fulfillment of the "Seventy Years of Captivity", the Jews were indeed allowed to return to Israel by Cyrus the Great, who is considered by many people to be the greatest king of the Medo-Persian Empire. This topic is discussed in detail in other articles. A few verses later, we find these additional verses which speak of the "time of Jacob's trouble" and the eventual return to Israel. As with the previous verses, while we can forcefully apply them to our current times, in my opinion, they again seem to refer to the exodus out of Babylon in the days of Cyrus the Great. I believe that the reference to David may possibly be a look into the future, when Jesus had His Ministry in Israel:

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them. Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."
Jeremiah 30:7-11, KJV

Please notice in particular that the Lord says "I will break his yoke from off thy neck". Who is the Lord referring to in that verse? Whose yoke is it? If you're at all familiar with

the Book of Jeremiah, then you will know that the Lord is in fact referring to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. If you even go back one chapter to chapter twenty-nine, you'll see that this is true. To reiterate, none of the previous verses have anything to do with a modern-day diaspora, or a modern return to Israel. It's all nonsense, and in my view, it's an intentional deception to deceive the world, and to deceive gullible Christians in particular.

As we have already seen, Mashiach ben David must be a direct descendant of the bloodline of King David. It is because of the fact that the above verses mention a future David, that the Orthodox Jews have erroneously applied them to a modern "Mashiach ben David". However, while these Scriptures aren't referring to the King David of old who lived three thousand years ago, neither are they referring to a King David of our present day, or of the near future. These verses, and those which will likewise follow, were all received starting at the beginning of the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar and thereafter. In other words, they were given literally hundreds of years after the original King David had died. Consider what the Prophet Jeremiah wrote regarding his own ministry to Israel:

"The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened."

Jeremiah 25:1-3, KJV

Thus, we can be certain that these verses do NOT apply to the King David of old. While these prophecies are referring to a future shepherd, prince and king of Israel who would be like the original King David, as I have already made clear, the mistake that Orthodox Jews make is that they totally and intentionally bypass the One to Whom these Scriptures really are directed -- meaning Jesus Christ -- and blindly continue to look for and promote the belief in a future fulfillment of all of these verses regarding the return, a nation being made in one day, and the arrival of the Messiah. They are forced to push these prophecies and events into the future, because they refuse to accept that they all ALREADY occurred

in the past. Worse yet, as I already said, they've convinced a lot of gullible Christians to believe their lies.

You see, if, like the deceived Orthodox Jews, we reject the simple truth that all of these Scriptures should be applied to Jesus Christ, who was in fact a descendant of David, then in our own confusion, it is very easy to come to the false conclusion that they are speaking of someone who is yet to come, and who will supposedly be the true Jewish "Messiah". Even if we do not have an understanding of Jewish teachings and doctrine, just by taking an English Bible such as the Authorized King James Version, we can find these verses and then convince ourselves that they are speaking of a future shepherd, prince and king named David. We could easily find ourselves deceived, just like the Orthodox Jews.

In fact, to be quite honest, I have witnessed so many of my Christian brethren who have already fallen under the spell of the Jews, and under the spell of Jewish legalism, in our modern day, that I would not be the least surprised if some of them were to become deceived by such a false messiah. Of course, that is if he were to actually make his appearance at some point in the future. According to everything I have read concerning Jewish beliefs regarding "Mashiach", he will be very similar to Moses of old. In fact, to support their wayward belief, Jewish scholars point to the following verse which is found in the Book of Deuteronomy, where Moses makes the following statement:

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;"

Deuteronomy 18:15, KJV

While Jewish rabbis claim that this verse is a reference to "Mashiach ben David", and while the Muslims erroneously claim that the verse is a reference to the coming of their prophet Mohammad, the fact of the matter is that Jesus made it rather clear that Moses was actually prophesying our Savior's very own coming during the First Century, as becomes quite evident by the following verses that are found in the Gospel of John:

"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

John 5:45-47, KJV

To reiterate what I said a moment ago, it should be clear to you that if an individual has rejected the plain truth of the Scriptures, meaning that they have rejected the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, they could rather easily become deceived into accepting all of the previous verses as a solid scriptural basis for believing in a future messiah known as Mashiach ben David. Doctrinally speaking, that is precisely where the Jews are at today. Sadly, the vast majority of them remain blind to the truth. They still slumber, despite the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached for 2,000 years. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans:

"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."

Romans 11:7-8, KJV

Personally, I firmly believe that Jesus Christ is God's one and only chosen Messiah and Savior of the world for all of humanity. As many of you will already know, my articles and series concerning the topics of Salvation and Eternal Life plainly attest to this fact. There should be no doubt as to what my personal beliefs are regarding this matter. Sadly, in contrast, as we have now seen, the religious Jews still wait for their savior and messiah, Mashiach ben David. It's for that reason that they have set themselves up for some very strong delusion -- possibly in the very near future -- should this man ever arrive on the world stage. But make no mistake. There can only be one Messiah for everyone, and as we Christians know, that is the man Christ Jesus. The Bible makes this very clear in verses such as the following:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

As we learned in part four, because Jesus didn't fulfill all of their qualifications to be the Jewish messiah -- at least not according to their understanding -- the Jewish religious leadership, the Sanhedrin, rejected Him two thousand years ago. In their eyes, the Lord was an imposter, a liar and a deceiver; this despite the fact that He was of the lineage of David, and extremely knowledgeable of the Torah, exactly as they had expected. As you may recall, even as a young boy of twelve years old teaching in the synagogue, the Jewish elders marvelled at Jesus' wisdom and familiarity with the Laws of Moses.

But then the crunch came. When Jesus became older and began His ministry in earnest, when He endeavored to open their darkened minds to the true meanings of the Scriptures, and how He had come to fulfill them, the Lord was met with very stiff resistance and all kinds of false accusations, which eventually led to His death on the Cross. In Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, the Lord said the following:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

Matthew 5:17, KJV

That is exactly what Jesus did. Not only did He fulfill the ancient prophecies which had been written regarding Him, but He also fulfilled, or brought an end, to our dependence upon the Mosaic Law by His final Blood Sacrifice on the Cross. In short, through the act of fulfilling, or meeting, all of the requirements of the Law, He has taken the place of the Law for us, and that is why we are now under Grace and not under the Law. We are under Christ, and not under the Law. As we learned in part six, Jesus' shed blood removes the stain of sin from our lives when we humbly come to Him in a state of repentance, and simply believe in what He did for us. Let me share that verse with you again:

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION."

Hebrews 9:22, KJV

Please go to the part ten for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

Who Is Mashiach Ben David? - Part 10

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It Is Impossible For Any Of Us To Keep Whole Law Or Merit
Our Salvation, God's True Messiah Versus The Jewish False
Messiah, Concluding Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part nine, if we are really honest with ourselves, we all know that there is no way on Earth that any of us could ever possibly fulfill, or keep, the entire Mosaic Law. After all, there are 613 mitzvot, or commandments, according to Jewish belief. As we have already discussed, it is impossible for any of us to be good enough to merit God's Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness and Salvation. That is why Christ had to come and do it for us. He had to become our righteousness, as we have already learned. In fact, both the Apostles Paul and the Apostle James wrote about the utter futility of trying to keep the entirety of the Laws of Moses, as becomes quite evident by the following set of verses:

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."
James 2:10, KJV

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a

law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Romans 7:14-25, KJV

Because Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, and because He met the stiff requirements of the Mosaic Law -- meaning His own blood shed on the Cross -- as I shared with you in part six, that is why He was also able to say "It is finished" in the final seconds of His earthly life. He was signaling that He had completed what He had come to do. While He may not have met the misguided expectations of the religious elders of His day, He most certainly met God's requirements. Thus, Jesus is worthy to be our Savior, and there is absolutely no need for any other messiah, now or ever.

In contrast, if some day the Jews' false messiah, Mashiach ben David, should ever appear on the world stage, he will not be divine. He won't be the Son of God. He won't be able to forgive anyone for their sins. He won't be able to offer anyone Salvation. He will just be a man. He may meet the Jews' requirements for being their political and military messiah, but he won't be God's true Messiah. As such, the Jews will continue to be lost and dead in their sins, unless they confess faith in Jesus Christ. As the Apostle John wrote:

"And he [meaning Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:2, KJV

Considering the preponderance of Scriptural evidence which I have presented in this series, it is my hope and prayer that whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, you will now be convinced that Jesus Christ truly is the Son of God, the son and heir of King David of old, and the one and only Messiah, Mashiach ben David, or Messiah, son of David. There simply is no other messiah to come. Not now, or ever.

If you are reading this series on the Bill's Bible Basics website, please go to part eleven for some images which are

related to this series.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

A Discussion Regarding Philippians 2:12
Accusations of Antisemitism: My Personal Response
All Are Given a Chance, But . . .Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?
Child of the Lamb or Child of the Goat?Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts
Did the Apostle Paul Start the Christian Faith?
Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?
Free From the Fear of Death: Law and Works vs Grace
Free Will and Personal Choice
Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas?
Holy Qur'an and Islam: A Doctrine of Devils?
Jesus Christ or Yeshua Messiah?: More Christian Zionist Legalism
Not Everyone is a Child of God
Once Upon a Time: A True Story
Prophetic Comparisons: Mashiach, Mahdi and Messiah
Sorry, Jesus Is Not Coming at Any Moment!
The Blood Atonement: In Jesus' Own Words
The Chosen People: Is God a Racist?
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Holocaust: Did God Make a Mistake?
The International Jew and the Protocols of Zion
The Nature and Consequence of Sin and God's Solution
The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000
Welcome to Greater Israel, USA!
What It Means to Repent
Who is Babylon the Great?

Material not Written by Bill Kochman:

Jew Power - Quotes By And About The Zionist Jews

Let My People Go - By Mark Glenn

Protocols of the Wise Elders of Zion

The Truth About The Talmud - by Michael A. Hoffman

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