

## Our Messiah, Their Messiah

### The New Testament claims that Jesus was the Messiah

#### John chapter 4

**25**The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” **26**Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.” **27**At this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why do You speak with her?” **28**So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, **29**“Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Messiah, is it?”

#### Matthew chapter 11

**2**Now when John had heard in the prison the works of the Messiah, he sent two of his disciples, **3**And said to him, Are you he that is to come, or do we look for another? **4**Jesus answered and said to them, Go and show John again those things which you do hear and see: **5**The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.\*

\*Paraphrasing Isaiah 35:4 – 6, 9 - 10

#### Matthew chapter 16

**15**He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16**Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” **17**And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Yona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven... **20** Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah.

#### Matthew chapter 17

**1**And after six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them up into an high mountain by

themselves **2**And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. **3**And, behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah talking with him....

**9**And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man ... **10**And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elijah must first come? **11**And Jesus answered and said to them, Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things. **12**But I say to you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done to him whatever they listed... **13**Then the disciples understood that he spoke to them of John the Baptist.

### Passages in Tanach that highlight a messianic period

Deuteronomy 30:1 – 10

- The Jewish People will return to God with all their heart and soul and they will renew their commitment to the commandments
- God will open their hearts to serve Him with all their heart and soul
- God will return the exiled Jewish People to the Land of Israel
- God will grant them great prosperity

Zechariah 8:4 – 8; 20 – 23

- God will rescue the Jewish People from the lands of exile
- Normal life in the land of Israel will be renewed, prosperity will ensue
- The nations of the world will seek the Lord in Jerusalem; they will take hold of the Jew by the corner of his cloak to go up with him to Jerusalem

Isaiah 2:1 – 4

- The Lord's house in Jerusalem will stand firm
- The nations shall go up to it to be instructed in the ways of God's judgment
- The nations shall never again know war

Isaiah 61:1 – 11; 62:1 – 3 [continues till 63:6]

(Note that the verb "anointed" / mashach / מָשַׁח is used vis-à-vis the prophet himself; it does not refer to any future messianic figure)

- The Land of Israel shall be rebuilt in joy
- The Jewish People will enjoy victory and prosperity

-The Jewish people will enjoy the wealth of the nations and be recognized as the stock that God has blessed

Ezekiel 36:8 – 12

- The Jewish People will be led back to the Land of Israel
- The Land will be rebuilt; it will yield its produce and bear its fruit
- The Jewish People will be fertile and increase

Passages that refer to (a) messianic figure(s)

Jeremiah 33: 10 – 26

- The exiles will be delivered and will return to the Land of Israel
- The Jewish fortune will be renewed, the Jewish People will dwell secure
- Kings [note the plural!] from the Davidic line will again reign over the Jewish People in succession
- These kings will do what is just and right
- The Levitical priests will serve in the Temple

Ezekiel 37:21 – 28

- The ingathering of the exiles to the Land of Israel from every quarter
- The Jewish People will never again serve idols but will serve God and follow His laws
- God will multiply the Jewish People
- King David will rule over them
- The Temple will be established forever

Micah 5:1 – 4, 7 - 8

- A ruler shall come forth from Bethlehem of Judah, one whose origin is of old
- He shall wax great to the ends of the earth
- He shall stand and shepherd by the might of the Lord
- The remnant of Jacob shall be like a lion among beasts of the wild

Zechariah 9:9 – 10

- Zion's king will come triumphant, yet humbly riding on an ass
- The nations will surrender to him and he will rule from sea to sea

Isaiah 11:1 – 12

- A shoot shall grow out of the stump of Jesse; he shall judge and rule

- He will be a man of great insight and righteousness. If read literally, it says that he will have superhuman leadership capacity
- “He shall strike down the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and slay the wicked with the breath of his lips”
- Nations shall seek his counsel
- The land shall be filled with devotion to the Lord
- The wolf shall lie down with the lamb. Not clear if meant literally or figuratively
- The exiles will be ingathered to the Land of Israel from the four corners of the earth

Zechariah 12:2 – 3, 7 - 8

- When all the nations of the earth gather against Jerusalem, “the House of David shall be like a divine being (כאלוהים), like an angel of the Lord”

Malachi 1:1, 23

- “Behold I am sending my angel to clear the way before Me.”
- “I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of the Lord.”

Daniel 7:7, 9, 13 – 16, 27

- In a vision, it is seen that a human being “came with the clouds of heaven; he reached the Ancient of Days”
- “Dominion, glory, and kingship were given to him” everlastingly
- All peoples and nations must serve him
- The vision is interpreted to Daniel to mean that everlasting kingship, dominion, and grandeur will be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High

Psalms 2:4 – 9 [compare to 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:4 – 5, 12 - 16]

- God says – I have installed My king on Zion
- The Lord said to him – You are My son, I have fathered you this day
- Nations will be his dominion

Psalms 89:21- 38

- God says that He has anointed / mshachteev / משהחיו David with sacred oil
- God will be with him, love him and grant him dominion
- He shall say to God – You are my father, my God
- His dynasty will be established forever

Daniel 9:20 - 27

- There will be an “anointed leader” / mashiach / משיח

- Jerusalem will be rebuilt
- The anointed one will disappear and vanish
- There will be great destruction and desolation

Daniel 12:1 – 3, 12

- At the time of the redemption of the Jewish People there will be a general resurrection of the dead among the Jewish People
- Some will be resurrected to eternal life, and others to damnation
- “Those who lead the many to righteousness will be like the stars forever and ever”

### Rabbinic Literature

Talmud of the Land of Israel, Tractate Ta’anit chapter 4, law 8 (24a/68d) [found also in Eicha Raba 2:5]

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai recounts: Rabbi Akiva would elucidate - "A star (cochav) comes forth out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17\*) [as] '[Bar] Cozba has come forth out of Jacob'. When Akiva would see Bar Cozba, he would say: 'This is the King Messiah'. Rabbi Yohanan ben Torta would tell him: "Akiva, Grass shall grow from your jaws and yet the son of David shall not appear.

\*"A star comes forth from Jacob, a scepter rises from Israel; it smashes the brow of Moav."

Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Sanhedrin, page 99a

Rabbi Hiyya bar Abba said in Rabbi Yohanan's name: All the prophets prophesied [all the good things] only in respect of the Messianic era; but as for the world to come 'the eye hath not seen, O Lord, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.'(Isaiah 64:3) Now, he disagrees with Samuel, who said: This world differs from [that of] the days of the Messiah only in respect of servitude to foreign nations.

How the New Testament interprets the meaning of 'messiah' and reconciles its' claim with the Biblical verses

## Matthew 16

**27**“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. **28**“Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

## Matthew 17

**9**As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

**22**And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; **23**and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.” And they were deeply grieved.

## Matthew chapter 24

**27**“For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. **28**“Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. **29**“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **30**“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. **31**“And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. **32**“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; **33**so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. **34**“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ... **44**“For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

## Luke 9

**26**“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels. **27**“But I say to you truthfully, there are some of those standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.

## Luke 21

**5**And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, **6**“As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.” **7**They questioned Him, saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what *will be* the sign when these things are about to take place?” **8**And He said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He*,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them. **9**“When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end *does not follow* immediately. **10**Then He continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, **11**and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.

**20**“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. **21**“Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; **22**because these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled. **23**“Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land and wrath to this people; **24**and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. **25**“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at

the roaring of the sea and the waves, **26**men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27**“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory. **28**“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

**29**Then He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; **30**as soon as they put forth *leaves*, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. **31**“So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. **32**“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place.

Matthew chapter 26

**62**The high priest stood up and said to Him, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?”

**63**But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Messiah, the Son of God.” **64**Jesus said to him, “You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” **65**Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy...

Mark 14

**60**The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” **61**But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed *One*?” **62**And Jesus said, “I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” **63**Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, “What further need do we have of witnesses?” **64**“You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?”



## John chapter 5

**20**“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. **21**“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. **22**“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, **23**so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. **24**“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. **25**“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26**“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27**and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. **28**“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, **29**and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

### A second approach in the New Testament to reconciling its claim with the Biblical verses

#### John 18

**36**Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My followers would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

#### Luke 17

**20**Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; **21**nor will they say, ‘Look, here *it is!*’ or, ‘There *it is!*’ For behold, the

kingdom of God is within you.”

A new covenant in the “Old Testament”!?! / “The kingdom of God is within you”!?!

Jeremiah 31

**31**Behold, the days come, said the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:  
**32**Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they broke, although I was an husband to them, said the LORD: **33**But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, said the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34**And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, said the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. **35**Thus said the LORD, which gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divides the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: **36**If those ordinances depart from before me, said the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. **37**Thus said the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, said the LORD.

Ezekiel 11:17 – 21

**17**Therefore say, Thus said the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.  
**18**And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from there. **19**And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit

within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: **20**That they may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. **21**But as for them whose heart walks after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way on their own heads, said the Lord GOD.

### A Suffering Messiah!?!

Isaiah 52:13 – 15, chapter 53 [see Isaiah 44:1 – 2; 49:3; Amos 3:1-2]

**13**Behold, my servant shall prosper, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. **14**As many were astonished at him; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: **15**So shall he startle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

**1**Who has believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? **2**For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he has no form nor comeliness that we should look at him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. **3**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. **4**Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was on him; and with his stripes we are healed. **6**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7**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 opens not his mouth. **8**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. **9**And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence,

neither was any deceit in his mouth. **10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief: when you shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. **11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his devotion shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore will I grant him a portion with the great, and he shall enjoy the spoil with the strong; because he has poured out his soul to death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Luke 22

**36** And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. **37** "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment."

Mark 15

**27** They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. **28** [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."]

Paul Brings Together the Messianic Kingdom That is Not Of This World, The New, Inner Covenant, and the Suffering Messiah Who Takes Upon Himself Our Sins

Romans 1

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **17** For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Romans 3

**21**But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22**even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **25**whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

## Romans 10

**9**that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10**for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **11**For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." (Isaiah 28:16) **12**For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; **13**for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." (Joel 3:5)