

BS"D

Jewish Bible Study Experience

What is the Point of the Messianic Age?

What are we going to do when Messiah comes?

Aug 19, 2013

The sole preoccupation of the whole world will be to know G-d.

Hilchot Melachim 12:5

Awaiting Moshiach – The Obligation

The vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie. Though he tarry – wait for him, for it shall surely come...it will not be late.

Hababuk 2:3

The Messianic Era (*from 'Mashiach', by Rabbi Jacob Schochet*)

1. Restoration of the *Beit Hamikdash* (the Temple) in Jerusalem
 - a. **I shall give My Sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling-place shall be over them.... The nations shall know that I am G-d who sanctifies Israel, when My Sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forever.** Ezekiel 37:26-28
 - b. ...the King Messiah...will come and build the Temple.... Bamidbar (Numbers) Rabbah 13:2
2. Gathering the Exiles of Israel
 - a. **G-d, your G-d, shall bring back your captivity...and He will return and gather you from all the nations whither G-d, your G-d, has scattered you. If your banished shall be at the utmost end of the heavens, G-d, your G-d, shall gather you from there, and He shall take you from there.** Devarim (Deut.) 30:3-4
 - b. **Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your seed from the east and gather you from the west. I shall say to the north, "Give up," and to the south, "Do not hold back, bring My sons from far and My daughters from the end of the earth."** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 43:5-6
3. End to Evil and Sin
 - a. **Your people shall all be righteous, they shall inherit the land forever...."** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 60:21
 - b. **In those days and in that time, says G-d, the iniquity of Israel shall be searched for but it will not be, and the sins of Judah – but they shall not be found..."** Jeremiah 50:20

4. Awareness and Knowledge of G-d

- a. **...the earth will be as filled with knowledge of HASHEM as water covering the sea bed.** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 11:9 [*Artscroll Tanach*]
- b. **For the earth will be filled with knowledge of HASHEM's glory, as the waters cover the seabed.** Habakkuk 2:8
- c. In this world the *Shechinah* manifests itself only to chosen individuals; in the Time to Come, however, **The glory of G-d shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see together that the mouth of G-d has spoken** [Yeshayah (Isaiah) 40:5].
Vayikra Rabbah 1:14
- d. **And it will happen after this [in the End of Days], that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters will prophesy; your elders will dream [prophetic] dreams, and your young men will see visions. Even also upon the slaves and upon the maidservants in those days I will pour out My spirit.** Joel 3:1-2

5. Universal Worship of G-d

- a. **It will happen in the end of days: The mountain of the Temple of HASHEM will be firmly established as the head of the mountains, and it will be exalted above the hills, and all the nations will stream to it. Many peoples will go and say, "Come, let us go up to the Mountain of HASHEM, to the Temple of the G-d of Jacob, and He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths." For from Zion will the Torah come forth, and the word of HASHEM from Jerusalem.** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 2:2-3 [*Artscroll Tanach*]
- b. **HASHEM will be the King over all the land; on that day HASHEM will be One and His Name will be One.** Zechariah 14:9 [*Artscroll Tanach*]

6. Universal Peace and Harmony

- a. **He will judge among the nations, and will settle the arguments of many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift sword against nation and they will no longer study warfare.** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 2:4 [*Artscroll Tanach*](cf Michah 4:3)
- b. **The wolf will live with the sheep and the leopard will lie down with the kid; and a calf, a lion whelp and a fatling [will walk] together, and a young child will lead them. A cow and bear will graze and their young will lie down together; and a lion, like cattle, will eat hay. A suckling will play by a viper's hole; and a newly weaned child will stretch his hand toward an adder's lair. They will neither injure nor destroy in all of My sacred mountain; for the earth will be as filled with knowledge of HASHEM as water covering the sea bed.** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 11:6-9 [*Artscroll Tanach*]

7. Resurrection of the Dead

- a. **He will eliminate death forever, and my Lord HASHEM/ELOHIM will erase tears from all faces....** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 25:8 [*Artscroll Tanach*]
- b. **Many of those who sleep in the dusty earth will awaken; these for everlasting life and these for shame, for everlasting abhorrence.** Daniel 12:2
- c. I believe with perfect faith that the dead will be brought back to life when G-d wills it to happen. Rambam, *Principles of the Faith*, No. 13

8. End to Disease and Death

- a. R. Levi said: In the Messianic age all will be healed.... Bereshit Rabbah 20:5
- b. **Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame man will skip like a gazelle and the tongue of the mute will sing glad song....** Yeshayah (Isaiah) 35:3-4 [*Artscroll Tanach*]

9. Ziv HaShechinah

- a. **The wise will shine like the radiance of the firmament, and those who teach righteousness to the multitudes [will shine] like the stars, forever and ever.** Daniel 12:3
- b. ...Adam's heel outshone the globe of the sun; how much more the brightness of his face! Vayiera (Leviticus) Rabbah 20:2
- c. Adam's garments blazed like a torch. Bereshit (Genesis) Rabbah 20:12
- d. Now how can we infer that the [original traits of Adam] are to be restored in the days of the Messiah? 'His radiance' we can infer from the text, **But they that love Him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might** (Judges 5:31). Bamidbar (Numbers) Rabbah 13:12

Brief List of Terms:

BS"D – an abbreviation for the Aramaic phrase *Besiyata Dishmaya*, meaning "with the help of Heaven". The acronym BS"D, reproduced at the top of every written document, serves as a reminder that all comes from G-d, including the following content, and to emphasize that without G-d's help we can do nothing of eternal value.

Moshiach – the Hebrew term which is translated as "Messiah" in English.

Rambam – a Hebrew acronym for Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon (1135-1204), one of the most influential Torah scholars of the Middle Ages. His writings still carry significant authority today.

Midrash – literally, "interpretation" or "exegesis". Can refer to 1) a particular way of reading and interpreting a Biblical verse, or 2) a compilation of Midrashic teachings (i.e. Exodus Rabbah).

Torah – the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Also can be used to refer to the Hebrew Bible (TaNaCh), as well as to the larger body of rabbinic scholarship.