

BS"D

Jewish Bible Study Experience

When is the Messianic Age Coming?

Does it Depend on Us?

Aug 26, 2013 / Elul 20, 5733

Since you know Moshiach is coming, start acting like it.

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When Will Moshiach Come?

I am HASHEM, it its time I will hasten it.

Isaiah 60:22

If they are worthy – **"I will hasten it,"** if not – **"in its time"**.

Bavli, Sanhedren 98a

Even today [the Messiah will come], if we but heed His call.

Yerushalmi, Ta'anit 1:1

Today! if we but heed His call.

Tehillim (Psalms) 95:7

By heeding G-d's call, Israel will make it possible for G-d, our Maker, to have perfected His creation, thanks to man's deeds.

Artscroll *Tehillim* to 95:7, citing *Vilna Gaon*

Hastening the Coming of Moshiach (from 'Mashiach' cptr 6, by Rabbi Jacob Schochet)

1. Special Mitzvot

a. Teshuvah (*sincere repentance*)

- i. When you return unto G-d, your G-d, and wil listen to His voice...G-d, your G-d, will return your captivity and have compassion upon you, and He will restore and gather you from all the nations to which G-d, your G-d, has dispersed you. (Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:2ff)**
- ii. Watchman (i.e. G-d), what will be of the night? Said the Watchman: "Morning (i.e. the redemption) has come, and also night (i.e. retribution for the heathens and oppressors of Israel); if you will request, request. Return and come! (Isaiah 21:11-12)**

- b. **Shabbat observance**
 - i. R. Levi said: If Israel kept the Sabbath properly even for one day, the son of David would come. Why? Because it is equivalent to all the commandments; for so it says, [Tehillim (Psalms) 95:7] **For He is our G-d, and we are the people of His pasture, and the flock of His hand. Today, if ye would but hearken to His voice!** (*Shemot Rabbah 25:12*)
 - ii. R. Jochanan said: The Holy One, blessed be He, told Israel: “Though I have set a definite term for the millennium which will come at the *appointed* time wheter Israel returns to Me in penitence or not, still if they repent even for one day, I will bring it before its appointed time.” Hence, **“Today [redemption cometh] if ye would but hearken to His voice”.** (*Shemot Rabbah 25:12*)
 - c. **Torah Study**
 - i. Torah study is equivalent to all [the mitvot]. *Pe’ah 1:1*
 - d. **Tzedakah (righteousness)**
 - i. **Zion will be redeemed through justice, and those who return to her through tzedakah.** (*Isaiah 1:27*)
 - ii. **Thus says HASHEM: Observe justice and perform tzedakah, for My salvation is soon to come and My tzedakah to be revealed.** (*Isaiah 56:1*)
 - e. **Procreation (Gen 1:28)**
 - f. **The Four Species of Sukkot (Lev 23:40)**
 - g. **The Sending Away of the Mother Bird (Deut 22:6-7)**
2. **The Unity of Israel**
- a. ...when the children of Israel unite in one band, then they may prepare themselves for redemption. (*Bereshit Rabbah 98:2*)
 - b. When they [Israel] are bound together they shall receive the Face of the Shechinah! (*Tanchuma, Nitzavim:1*)
3. **Active Anticipation – Demanding Moshiach**
- a. **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*)
 - b. I believe with complete faith in the coming of Moshiach. Though he tarry, nonetheless I await him every day, that he will come. (*Rambam, Principles of the Faith*)
 - c. **Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a path before Me; suddenly the L-rd Whom you seek will come to His Sanctuary, and the messenger of the covenant for whom you yearn, behold, he comes, says HASHEM, Master of Legions.** (*Malachi 3:1*)

- d. We pray for the redemption several times every day. Even so, requesting by itself is not enough. One must demand the redemption, just as with the wages of a hired worker: The law stipulates that if the worker does not demand his wages, there is no obligation to give it to him on the very day that he completes his work. So, too, we must demand our redemption. Failure to do so shows that this matter is clearly not that urgent to us! (*Sichot Chafetz Chaim, par. 14*)
- e. **Afterward the Children of Israel will return and seek out Hashem their G-d and David their king, and they will tremble for His goodness in the end of days.**
(*Hosea 3:5*)

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.