The prophets also reveal something unusual about the Messiah; he will come twice! Zechariah states that the first time, he would come as the lowly King with salvation. At his second coming he would come to save Israel and smash the gentile powers that have gathered to destroy Jerusalem and the nation. The Scriptures showing his first and second comings follow:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your King comes unto you: he is just, and having salvation; lowly... (Zechariah 9:9)

And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. (Zechariah 9:10)

Both the idea of the Messiah coming twice, and the concept that he and the Holy G-d of Israel are one, fit the exact description of Yeshua of Nazareth. He first came in a lowly manner with salvation, while he is coming the second time in great power and glory to save Israel. As previously noted in Psalm 2, he also is the Son of G-d. This matches what is stated in the New Testament:

...G-d was in Messiah, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them... (2 Corinthians 5:19)

The Prophet Isaiah wrote that G-d's righteous Servant, the Messiah, would die for the sins of the people. He would pay the penalty for sin, so people could be reunited with him. This is exactly what Yeshua did for you:

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath 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. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:10-11)

The G-d of Israel showed his great love toward you by sending Messiah Yeshua the first time to die for your sins, so you could have eternal life with him. The message of the New Testament is in complete agreement with the Tanakh:

For G-d so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Right now you can have assurance of eternal life with G-d by repenting of sin and believing that Yeshua died for your sins and rose from the dead.

Who is Israel's Messiah? Yeshua of Nazareth!

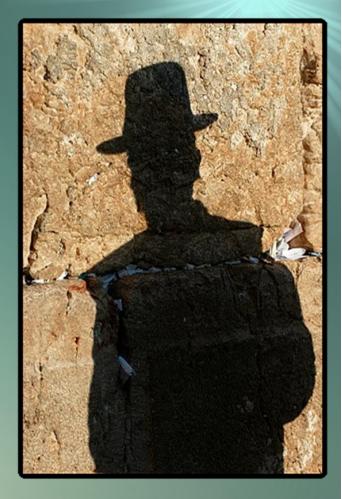
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great G-d and our Saviour, Messiah Yeshua; (Titus 2:13)

By John P. McTernan PhD.



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Who Is Israel's Messiah?



"In the future, the Messianic king will arise and renew the Davidic dynasty... He will build the Temple and gather the dispersed of Israel."

-Rabbi Maimonides

Since the time of King David, 3000 years ago, Israel's hope has been for the coming of their Messiah. This hope is that he would usher in an age of peace, and that Israel would be at the center of G-d's plan for mankind.

Throughout history there were several men who claimed to be the Messiah. For example in 135 CE, Simon bar Kokhba led the second revolt against Rome. Sabbatai Zevi also claimed that he was the Messiah. They both turned out to be false Messiahs.

The question now is, how will you be able to identify Israel's Messiah? How will you know if someone claims that he is the Messiah, and yet is an impostor? Will the Messiah be a political figure or even a great military leader? Do you know what his attributes are, so you will not be fooled?

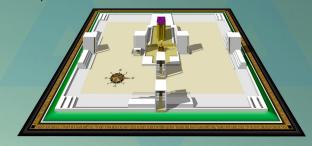
The Bible gives detailed facts which are necessary to recognize the Messiah. With knowledge, you cannot be fooled. The first clue is in his manner of coming. He will not be elected, nor will he be heading up any organization such as the United Nations. He is coming from heaven in G-d's supernatural power to establish his kingdom. There will be no mistaking the coming of the Messiah:



I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

The second clue is that after the Messiah returns, he is going to build the Lord's temple and sit on the throne of David as both king and priest. From the throne of David, he then will rule over the nations. Israel will become the center of G-d's kingdom on earth:

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...(Zechariah 6:12-13)



It is most important that you realize he first will return, and then he will build the temple of the Lord. It will not be built for him, nor will it be in place when he comes. Any temple built prior to his coming in glory from heaven is not the Messiah's. It is critically important that you understand this. In his temple, he then will bear the glory, sitting on the promised throne of David!

The third clue relates to the person of King Messiah. The Prophet Ezekiel, in chapters 40-45, gives detailed information about the Messiah's temple. In chapter 43, the prophet reveals startling information about who is sitting on the throne of David. In verses 1-6, the Bible shows that it is the G-d of Israel in His glory who enters into the Messiah's temple:

And, behold, the glory of the G-d of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory ...and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. (Ezekiel 43:2-6)

Ezekiel witnessed the G-d of Israel, in His glory, enter into his temple. The prophet then heard the Lord speak to him, saying:

And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile... (Ezekiel 43:7)

There is only one throne! This is an incredible concept, that no one, other than the Holy G-d of Israel in His glory, is sitting on the Throne of David. This throne is reserved only for the Messiah! This shows that the G-d of Israel and the Messiah are one. Again, this is an incredible concept: the unity of King Messiah and the Holy God of Israel.

The fourth clue is that the Messiah will sit on the throne of David in a unique relationship with G-d. He is going to be known as the "begotten Son of G-d." King David never was promised to rule over the nations, but King Messiah was. He will rule over the nations as the "Son of G-d":

I will declare the decree: the LORD has said unto me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. (Psalm 2:7-8)

At the Messiah's coronation, national Israel will declare that he is both Messiah and Lord. This officially will start his government, with him reigning as the King of Israel and ruler over the gentile nations. He will reign forever:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty G-d, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. (Isaiah 9:5-6)