

Why Don't Jews Believe In Jesus?

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons and answered by Ray Luff of <http://bibledoor.no-ip.org>

This document as provided by Rabbi Shraga remains unaltered but has inserted into it the answers under each section as provided by Ray Luff.

Look in each section for the answers as provided by Ray Luff in this hollow point text.

For 2,000 years, Jews have rejected the Christian idea of Jesus as messiah. Why?

It is important to understand why Jews don't believe in Jesus. The purpose is not to disparage other religions, but rather to clarify the Jewish position. The more data that's available, the better-informed choices people can make about their spiritual path.

Jews do not accept Jesus as the messiah because:

- 1) Jesus did not fulfill the messianic prophecies.
- 2) Jesus did not embody the personal qualifications of the Messiah.
- 3) Biblical verses "referring" to Jesus are mistranslations.
- 4) Jewish belief is based on national revelation.

At the end of this article, we will examine these additional topics:

- 5) Christianity contradicts Jewish theology
- 6) Jews and Gentiles
- 7) Bringing the Messiah

1) JESUS DID NOT FULFILL THE MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

What is the Messiah supposed to accomplish? The Bible says that he will:

- A. Build the Third Temple (Ezekiel 37:26-28).

- This is true if you do not take into account all of the verses regarding the Messiah. It is a big mistake to ignore the instructions by Solomon in Ecclesiastes as to the proper way to lay out scriptures.

Ecclesiastes 12 - because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs.¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was written was upright*—words of truth.¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.¹

- The setting in order of many proverbs tells me that we must look at all the references for the Messiah in order to determine what he is to accomplish when he comes. Only then will you get the unified message of the Bible and it will seem as though by one shepherd. It will speak to you in one voice. The voice of God. That being said we must look at other references to the Messiah. I did this in response to the request of 2 other Jewish Rabbis approximately 5 years ago. They said they had never found an answer as well explained as this before and they would need time to get back to me. Even with prompting them after that they never did get back to me. Please read

http://bibledoor.no-ip.org/pdf/eng_annointed_one.pdf

For those who do not wish to visit that document and read it or for some reason only have this document available but no access to the internet. I wish to tell you that there are over 40 references to the Messiah in the Old Testament (The Jews Tanakh). This document details my findings regarding the reference to the Messiah used in Daniel chapter 9. It was widely understood in Jesus day that this prophecy was to be fulfilled in the same time frame that Jesus was here that is why so many imposters came at that time claiming to be the Messiah. The prophecy uses a Hebrew word for Week which can also be interpreted as groups of 7 years. Using that interpretation we have a prophecy which says the Messiah will come and be cut off in 483 years from a specific starting point which occurred in 444 BC. Then the prophecy goes on to say that after the Messiah is cut off the temple will be destroyed. That happened in AD 70.

¹The New King James Version. 1982 (Ec 12:9-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

At the time of Jesus the Jews understood that the rebuilding of the second temple was required in order for the Messiah to come. Now the Jews still know the temple must be here when the Messiah comes so they look for its third rebuilding. The one thing that is certain according to prophecy is that no other pretender to be the Messiah can be credible as long as there is no temple. As of 70 years after Christ was born it has been impossible for anyone else to be the Christ. The Jews offer no explanation as to how they believe the Daniel prophecy of 483 years can apply to 2490 years or more later as is the time frame we are in now. They tend instead to ignore this prophecy altogether or to claim that if Jesus did not fulfill it to the day then he isn't the Messiah. Many just allegorize the prophecy and make it to mean the nation of Israel instead.

There are many other Messiah verses we can look at. If you look at them all you will have a hard time explaining what it means that the Messiah will be cut-off yet reign forever unless you conclude as Christians conclude that the prophecies are split into two appearances of Christ and not just one. (For those that don't know Christ simply means messiah in Greek. Christos. Both Hamashiak of the Hebrew and Christos of the Greek mean the same thing which is "Anointed One".) We are basically calling Jesus the Messiah every time we refer to him as the LORD Jesus Christ. The LORD means Jehovah (one of the names for God) also stated as YAWHEEY. So we are also saying he is God when we say The Lord Jesus Christ. We conclude that he must be God by the riddle presented to us in the Proverbs but also from many other places in Both New and Old testaments of the Bible we conclude this. Read another tract I prepared on this if you want to know more about this.

http://bibledoor.no-ip.org/eng_whatishisname.pdf

B. Gather all Jews back to the Land of Israel (Isaiah 43:5-6).

C. Usher in an era of world peace, and end all hatred, oppression, suffering and disease. As it says: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall man learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

D. Spread universal knowledge of the God of Israel, which will unite humanity as one. As it says: "God will be King over all the world -- on that day, God will be One and His Name will be One" (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical fact is that Jesus fulfilled none of these messianic prophecies.

- That is true but it is a misleading statement based on unwillingness to properly prepare your message as instructed in Ecclesiastes 12 as I have already indicated. But if you prepare your message properly taking all Messiah References into account I would like to hear what that message is. It starts to sound more like the Christian message if you do this.

Christians counter that Jesus will fulfill these in the Second Coming, but Jewish sources show that the Messiah will fulfill the prophecies outright, and no concept of a second coming exists.

2) JESUS DID NOT EMBODY THE PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF MESSIAH

A. MESSIAH AS PROPHET

Jesus was not a prophet. Prophecy can only exist in Israel when the land is inhabited by a majority of world Jewry. During the time of Ezra (circa 300 BCE), when the majority of Jews refused to move from Babylon to Israel, prophecy ended upon the death of the last prophets -- Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

- This is again true that the prophecies ended with Malachi but you have not proven your conclusion regarding why they ended there is no proof in the bible for there ending as to why they ended.
- However the prophecies started again with Jesus. Every time he stated an expectation before it happened and it happened it was a prophecy that came true. Ie. "Take up your bed and walk, followed by the paralyzed man doing this." Yes it was a miracle but it was also a fulfilled prophecy. Moses got his claim to fame as a prophet the very same way by doing things like stating which plagues would come followed by them coming telling the water to part and having it part. That is why he was accepted as a prophet. We don't say we accept him because of the miracles we say we accept him because of the predictive prophecies coming true as a great prophet. As a great prophet we then decided to keep all his writings and to be ruled by them and they became our scriptures. All of Jesus' prophecies were kept in a similar manner and by the power the holy spirit were brought to recollection and written down by his followers shortly after his death as Jesus prophesied would happen. Here are just a few of Jesus' prophecies.
 - 1. He predicted the destruction of the temple of course that means he must have read the prophecy of Daniel 9, but it seems the Jews at that time did not believe this.

Jesus appeared on the scene approximately 350 years after prophecy had ended.

B. DESCENDENT OF DAVID

The Messiah must be descended on his father's side from King David (see Genesis 49:10 and Isaiah 11:1). According to the Christian claim that Jesus was the product of a virgin birth, he had no father -- and thus could not have possibly fulfilled the messianic requirement of being descended on his father's side from King David!

- Jesus fulfilled the requirement of his earthly father being a descendant of King David according to the genealogy given in Matthew 1 and because God knew this objection would be raised the genealogy again is stated by the woman in Luke 3 back to Adam. I believe this was done because later the New Testament writer tells us that Jesus is the second Adam.
- Both the quotes given only prove that the Messiah would come from the lineage of David not that it would be through the man although even that is covered.

C. TORAH OBSERVANCE

The Messiah will lead the Jewish people to full Torah observance. The Torah states that all mitzvot remain binding forever, and anyone coming to change the Torah is immediately identified as a false prophet. (Deut. 13:1-4)

- “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.
- It is said of Jesus in Marks gospel that Jesus fulfilled the Law that he did not break it and that is what he also taught.
- ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that

unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Later on however after Jesus ascended the prophecy given by the prophet Jeremiah came true.
 - ³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when 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 lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³ But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
- This prophecy come true when a person is born-again as a follower of Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them and he causes them to obey God’s laws but not by observance of the Torah but because they want to because God has changed their wants and desires from within. He has written on their hearts what to do so they no longer have to follow the laws. But the same effect is accomplished people who are morally good because they have been changed by God to be this way. That is the intent of the Torah laws. If anything the laws written on the heart are stricter now than the Torahs laws in that Jesus said to even lust for a woman was to commit adultery and to even swear at someone was to make you guilty in Gods eyes of murder. He said even thinking bad thoughts made you as guilty as if you have already committed the act. You can read about this in Jesus Sermon on the Mount starting in Matthew 5 to Matthew 7.

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus contradicts the Torah and states that its commandments are no longer applicable. (see John 1:45 and 9:16, Acts 3:22 and 7:37)

- Again the reason is also given why it is because of the fulfillment of Jeremiah 31 prophecy, quoted above. Also in your argument that the law would remain the same forever you omitted to also add in Jeremiah 31 prophecy to your argument. Once again you violate the method laid out by the wisest man who ever lived who was Solomon the writer of the passage I used earlier of Ecclesiastes 12 which tells you that you must make your conclusions by using all the scriptures. You are not using all of the Tanakh to draw your conclusions and you are not using all of the New

Testament when accusing it. The only way you will get a truthful picture of what God is saying is to use everything He says on a topic not just small pieces that agree with a particular viewpoint.

3) MISTRANSLATED VERSES "REFERRING" TO JESUS

Biblical verses can only be understood by studying the original Hebrew text -- which reveals many discrepancies in the Christian translation.

- That is not entirely true. The Septuagint is a Greek translation that was made over 250 years before Jesus' birth. It is said that 70 Jewish Scholars worked on its translation. The Christians have a history of trusting this translation more than the Hebrew for this reason.
- After AD 100 the Jews added vowels to the first time to their Hebrew text. The Masoretic Text version was started in AD 700 - AD 1000. The oldest copy of the Old Testament we have with vowel insertions is the AD 1000 Masoretic Text. By changing the vowels you can get the prophecies to say either the messiah will have lions at his feet or the messiah will have pierced feet. Since we have 200 BC copies of the Greek Septuagint in our possession (as part of the dead sea scrolls) that agree with Christian interpretation regarding pierced feet. And since we know that Jews were the ones 70 of them that produced these documents. (It certainly couldn't have been Christians 200 years before Christ was born.) Christians feel no compulsion to give up using the Septuagint translation which is 1200 years older.
- The Masoretic Text behind today's Tanakh stands accused of gross errors in translation due to these bad vowel choices that were made. Yes some look at the Christians scriptures which use the Greek Septuagint for its old testament and say see it disagrees with our Masoretic based Hebrew text. Others say who created the Septuagint? Why do you mistrust 70 Rabbis who lived 1200 years earlier and were closer to the time of the original writing of these documents?
- The Greek Septuagint rendering of Psalm 22 unaffected by Christian influence says;

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me,

And from the words of My groaning?

² O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;

And in the night season, and am not silent.

- ³ But You *are* holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ Our fathers trusted in You;
They trusted, and You delivered them.
- ⁵ They cried to You, and were delivered;
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.
- ⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man;
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me;
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,
- ⁸ "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him;
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
- ⁹ But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust *while* on My mother's breasts.
- ¹⁰ I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb
You *have been* My God.
- ¹¹ Be not far from Me,
For trouble *is* near;
For *there is* none to help.
- ¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me.
- ¹³ They gape at Me *with* their mouths,
Like a raging and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.
- ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They pierced My hands and My feet;
- ¹⁷ I can count all My bones.
They look *and* stare at Me.
- ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.

- What ever possessed Jews to make this translation long before Jesus arrived on the scene. If there are discrepancies in the Christian bible who is to blame the Christians who are using the Jewish translated bible from 200 years prior to their own existence as followers of Jesus or the 70 Jewish Rabbis from 200 BCE or is it perhaps the Masorites who corrupted the text of the Tanakh between the years 700 to 1000 CE by the insertions of the wrong vowels in an attempt to discredit the Christian version of the Bible. Is this also perhaps why the Jews held the release of the dead sea scrolls until the late 1990's which they had in their possession since the early 1930's. In that collection were discovered a couple of Greek Septuagints dating to BCE 200 which support the Christian Bible's interpretation today and raises questions regarding the Masoretic texts of the more recent year CE 1000.

A. VIRGIN BIRTH

The Christian idea of a virgin birth is derived from the verse in Isaiah 7:14 describing an "alma" as giving birth. The word "alma" has always meant a young woman, but Christian theologians came centuries later and translated it as "virgin." This accords Jesus' birth with the first century pagan idea of mortals being impregnated by gods.

- Again this question is answered by referring to what the Rabbis thought these words meant when they translated them to Greek in BCE 200 (Greek Septuagint). The Christians are only following the interpretation of 70 Jewish authorities of their day.

B. CRUCIFIXION

The verse in Psalms 22:17 reads: "Like a lion, they are at my hands and feet." The Hebrew word ki-ari (like a lion) is grammatically similar to the word "gouged." Thus Christianity reads the verse as a reference to crucifixion: "They pierced my hands and feet."

- This objection was already answered in a previous bullet again hinging on corruption of the Tanakh and not the Septuagint as the answer.

²*The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ps 22:1-18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

C. SUFFERING SERVANT

Christianity claims that Isaiah chapter 53 refers to Jesus, as the "suffering servant."

In actuality, Isaiah 53 directly follows the theme of chapter 52, describing the exile and redemption of the Jewish people. The prophecies are written in the singular form because the Jews ("Israel") are regarded as one unit. The Torah is filled with examples of the Jewish nation referred to with a singular pronoun.

Ironically, Isaiah's prophecies of persecution refer in part to the 11th century when Jews were tortured and killed by Crusaders who acted in the name of Jesus.

- Regarding Crusaders I have to agree that much harm has been done at times by the Church when it did not adhere to the principles upon which it was established. I believe the splintering of the Church since that time has helped to correct the Church of errors of the past. I see this type of thing as well of the Jews even as recorded in the Book of Genesis. Many of the things that Israel's children did in wiping out a city over a rape of one of its daughters while recorded in the Bible does not mean God approved of it, merely that he allowed it to be recorded. However that said I think the atrocities against the Jews in the Great dispersion of AD 70 which also was perpetrated against Christians who were indistinguishable at that time from Jews as most of them were Jews and the recent atrocities of World War II indicate that the Jews have been far more the victim for the past 2 millennia. All that said I think the problem is with Mans sin. Sin is an awful thing especially when it raises its head in the get people ruling over us. It is difficult at various stages of history to distinguish political motivation from religious motivation of the Crusades.

From where did these mistranslations stem? St. Gregory, 4th century Bishop of Nanzanzus, wrote: "A little jargon is all that is necessary to impose on the people. The less they comprehend, the more they admire."

- The Christian interpretation of this passage is to take it literally whowever if you allegorize the meaning of a passage you can make it mean anything you wish, which is what by wishful thinking the Jews that follow your line of reasoning do with this passage regarding the 11th Century. But it is worthy of noting that there are Jews who do not follow that reasoning and agree with Christian interpretation they are called "Jews for Jesus".

4) JEWISH BELIEF IS BASED SOLELY ON NATIONAL REVELATION

Of the 15,000 religions in human history, only Judaism bases its belief on national revelation -- i.e. God speaking to the entire nation. If God is going to start a religion, it makes sense He'll tell everyone, not just one person.

Judaism, unique among all of the world's major religions, does not rely on "claims of miracles" as the basis for its religion. In fact, the Bible says that God sometimes grants the power of "miracles" to charlatans, in order to test Jewish loyalty to the Torah (Deut. 13:4).

- The Jewish faith is founded in the Torah by a man that performed miracles. The Bible does however say that prophecy is the basis for Scripture. Only two of the books of the Tanakh are from authors that were not prophets and contain no reference to God in them. The Book of Esther and the Song of Solomon. The others all record prophecy. Christianity shares that tradition of prophecy and it also records the over 300 fulfilled prophecies regarding the claims of Jesus to be the Messiah. Yet only half of the prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus we must admit, and it is correct that we look for those further fulfillments at the second coming of the Messiah.

Maimonides states (Foundations of Torah, ch. 8):

The Jews did not believe in Moses, our teacher, because of the miracles he performed. Whenever anyone's belief is based on seeing miracles, he has lingering doubts, because it is possible the miracles were performed through magic or sorcery. All of the miracles performed by Moses in the desert were because they were necessary, and not as proof of his prophecy.

- It wasn't necessary to punish Egypt with 10 plagues but God chose to do it and Moses prophesied it and it happened. But the purpose was two fold it established Moses credibility to receive the Commandments and the Torah from God and be believed by the Jews. In that way it was a necessary proof of his ministry. Secondly it caused the disbelieving Egyptians to develop some respect for God which you might say was necessary but God could have just teleported his people to somewhere else, He didn't have to demonstrate his power through Moses but He chose to. So in summary I believe God did use Moses miracles as proof of Moses Ministry and Who God is to the unbelieving Gentiles and Jews if any were in disbelief.

What then was the basis of [Jewish] belief? The Revelation at Mount Sinai, which we saw with our own eyes and heard with our own ears, not dependent on the testimony of others... as it says,

"Face to face, God spoke with you..." The Torah also states: "God did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us -- who are all here alive today." (Deut. 5:3)

Judaism is not miracles. It is the personal eyewitness experience of every man, woman and child, standing at Mount Sinai 3,300 years ago.

- The eye witness accounts are made of Jesus as well by the writers of the New Testament. There is no difference. The real question is whether the Messiah is supposed to perform miracles such as Jesus performed and whether He was supposed to perform better than any other performers prior to him. There is one particular prophecy regarding the Messiah that should be considered. That is the fulfilled messianic prophecy found in Matthews gospel;
 - Matthew 11 - ² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ *The* blind see 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. ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."
- When we refer back to the Tanakh we see this prophecy regarding that fulfillment which is made about the coming of the Messiah.
 - Isaiah 29 - ¹⁸ In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. ¹⁹ The humble also shall increase *their* joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.
 - The holy one of Israel by definition must be a sinless one. Only God can fit that description. Yet this holy one performs miracles. Pay special attention to the Blind shall see miracle. You will find no instance anywhere in the Tanakh of this miracle being performed. I believe this was as reserved miracle that only the Holy One would perform to erase all doubt about who he is when he appears on the scene. The miracle does demonstrate who the performer is. And the only one that has ever been said to have fulfilled it is the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this miracle seems to be mostly just to bring credit to its performer, even though some fortunate blind person did receive their site.

See "[Did God Speak at Mount Sinai](#)" for further reading.

5) CHRISTIANITY CONTRADICTS JEWISH THEOLOGY

The following theological points apply primarily to the Roman Catholic Church, the largest Christian denomination.

A. GOD AS THREE?

The Catholic idea of Trinity breaks God into three separate beings: The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

- This assertion is not true or at least it represents a misunderstanding. The doctrine of the trinity is based on Gods choosing to reveal his one self through 3 representations to us of his one self. He being God can do this all at once. He can be God the Spirit, Son and Father all at the same time. I wrote a tract regarding the doctrine of the trinity which uses both the Old Testament and New Testament to outline this teaching. You will see if you look primarily at the Old testament quotes in the document and ignore the new testament ones that you can still conclude there is a Trinity even from the Tanakh all by itself. http://bibledoor.no-ip.org/eng_thetrinity.pdf

Contrast this to the Shema, the basis of Jewish belief: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is ONE" (Deut. 6:4). Jews declare the Shema every day, while writing it on doorposts (Mezuzah), and binding it to the hand and head (Tefillin). This statement of God's One-ness is the first words a Jewish child is taught to say, and the last words uttered before a Jew dies.

In Jewish law, worship of a three-part god is considered idolatry -- one of the three cardinal sins that a Jew should rather give up his life than transgress. This explains why during the Inquisitions and throughout history, Jews gave up their lives rather than convert.

B. MAN AS GOD?

Roman Catholics believe that God came down to earth in human form, as Jesus said: "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

- Conservative Evangelical and Orthodox Christians also accept this truth from the Bible.

Maimonides devotes most of the "Guide for the Perplexed" to the fundamental idea that God is incorporeal, meaning that He assumes no physical form. God is Eternal, above time. He is Infinite, beyond space. He cannot be born, and cannot die. Saying that God assumes human form

makes God small, diminishing both His unity and His divinity. As the Torah says: "God is not a mortal" (Numbers 23:19).

Judaism says that the Messiah will be born of human parents, and possess normal physical attributes like other people. He will not be a demi-god, and will not possess supernatural qualities. In fact, an individual is alive in every generation with the capacity to step into the role of the Messiah. (see Maimonides - Laws of Kings 11:3)

- Jesus came in the flesh as a man. He performed miracles but so did Moses and Elijah and others. So the idea that he would have this ability was not unique just the extent of it, particularly regarding the ability to make the blind to see.
- Again however look carefully at the claims of the Old Testament about the Messiah. This one claim in particular seems to be one that only God himself could fulfill. Certainly you cannot say such a Messiah able to perform this is like other people.
 - Isaiah 29 - ¹⁸ In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. ¹⁹ The humble also shall increase *their* joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.
- Being "the Holy One" is a pretty unique title but try these other titles.
 - Isaiah 9 - ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
- The Messiah will reign on the throne of David forever. Sound like this is talking about the throne of David. Sounds like this is the Messiah being talked about. But also you will notice one of the other titles for this Messiah in the list "Mighty God". Amazing! Right there in the Old Testament further indication of what Kind of Messiah ought to be being looked for by the Jews.

C. INTERMEDIARY FOR PRAYER?

The Catholic belief is that prayer must be directed through an intermediary -- i.e. confessing one's sins to a priest. Jesus himself is an intermediary, as Jesus said: "No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

In Judaism, prayer is a totally private matter, between each individual and God. As the Bible says: "God is near to all who call unto Him" (Psalms 145:18). Further, the Ten Commandments state: "You shall have no other gods BEFORE ME," meaning that it is forbidden to set up a mediator between God and man. (see Maimonides - Laws of Idolatry ch. 1)

- The Catholics do need to be corrected on this wrong doctrine of theirs I agree. They overstep their authority from God in scripture when they do this.
- The Catholic belief on this is correct that there must be an intermediary but the Roman Catholics seem to ignore the fact that the intermediary is the Messiah and none other. And this intermediary sprinkles his blood to purify the people. You will recall Moses sprinkled lambs blood on the people. The Messiah sprinkles his own blood to cleanse us from sin.
 - 1 Timothy 2 - ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,
 - Hebrews 12 - ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling³
 - 1 Peter 1 - **1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

D. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD

Catholic doctrine often treats the physical world as an evil to be avoided. Mary, the holiest woman, is portrayed as a virgin. Priests and nuns are celibate. And monasteries are in remote, secluded locations.

By contrast, Judaism believes that God created the physical world not to frustrate us, but for our pleasure. Jewish spirituality comes through grappling with the mundane world in a way that uplifts and elevates. Sex in the proper context is one of the holiest acts we can perform.

The Talmud says if a person has the opportunity to taste a new fruit and refuses to do so, he will have to account for that in the World to Come. Jewish rabbinical schools teach how to live amidst the bustle of commercial activity. Jews don't retreat from life, we elevate it.

³The New King James Version. 1982 (Heb 12:24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

6) JEWS AND GENTILES

Judaism does not demand that everyone convert to the religion. The Torah of Moses is a truth for all humanity, whether Jewish or not. King Solomon asked God to heed the prayers of non-Jews who come to the Holy Temple (Kings I 8:41-43). The prophet Isaiah refers to the Temple as a "House for all nations."

The Temple service during Sukkot featured 70 bull offerings, corresponding to the 70 nations of the world. The Talmud says that if the Romans would have realized how much benefit they were getting from the Temple, they'd never have destroyed it.

Jews have never actively sought converts to Judaism because the Torah prescribes a righteous path for gentiles to follow, known as the "Seven Laws of Noah." Maimonides explains that any human being who faithfully observes these basic moral laws earns a proper place in heaven.

7) BRINGING THE MESSIAH

Maimonides states that the popularity of Christianity (and Islam) is part of God's plan to spread the ideals of Torah throughout the world. This moves society closer to a perfected state of morality and toward a greater understanding of God. All this is in preparation for the Messianic age.

Indeed, the world is in desperate need of Messianic redemption. War and pollution threaten our planet; ego and confusion erode family life. To the extent we are aware of the problems of society, is the extent we will yearn for redemption. As the Talmud says, one of the first questions a Jew is asked on Judgment Day is: "Did you yearn for the arrival of the Messiah?"

How can we hasten the coming of the Messiah? The best way is to love all humanity generously, to keep the mitzvot of the Torah (as best we can), and to encourage others to do so as well.

Despite the gloom, the world does seem headed toward redemption. One apparent sign is that the Jewish people have returned to the Land of Israel and made it bloom again. Additionally, a major movement is afoot of young Jews returning to Torah tradition.

The Messiah can come at any moment, and it all depends on our actions. God is ready when we are. For as King David says: "Redemption will come today -- if you hearken to His voice."

For further study, read:

["The Real Messiah,"](#) by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan

"The Path of the Righteous Gentile," by Chaim Clorfene and Yakov Rogalsky
"The Seven Colors of the Rainbow," by Rabbi Yirmeyahu Bindman

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