

SALVATION ON THE LINE
THE NATURE OF YESHUA AND HIS DIVINITY

VOLUME I

BOOKS BY J.K. McKEE

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SALVATION ON THE LINE

VOLUME I

THE NATURE OF YESHUA AND HIS DIVINITY
GOSPELS AND ACTS

J.K. MCKEE

**MESSIANIC
APOLOGETICS**
messianicapologetics.net

SALVATION ON THE LINE VOLUME I

THE NATURE OF YESHUA AND HIS DIVINITY

GOSPELS AND ACTS

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“And the disciples of John told him about all these things. And John, calling to himself two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or shall we look for another?’ And when the men had come to Him, they said, ‘John the Immerser has sent us to You, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or shall we look for another?”’ In that hour He cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind He bestowed sight. And He answered and said to them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM [Isaiah 35:5; 61:1]. And blessed is he who takes no offense at Me.’”

Luke 7:18-23 (PME)

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ABBREVIATION CHART AND SPECIAL TERMS

The following is a chart of abbreviations for reference works and special terms that are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

Special terms that may be used have been provided in this chart:

ABD: <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>	ISBE: <i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i>
AMG: <i>Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament</i>	IVPBBC: <i>IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)</i>
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)	Jastrow: <i>Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature</i> (Marcus Jastrow)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament	JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
Ara: Aramaic	JETS: <i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)	KJV: King James Version
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)	Lattimore: <i>The New Testament</i> by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (<i>Talmud Bavli</i>)	LITV: <i>Literal Translation of the Holy Bible</i> by Jay P. Green (1986)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.	LS: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Liddell & Scott)
BDAG: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)	LXE: <i>Septuagint with Apocrypha</i> by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
BDB: <i>Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>	LXX: Septuagint
BECNT: <i>Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament</i>	m. Mishnah
BKCNT: <i>Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament</i>	MT: Masoretic Text
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.	NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
CEV: Contemporary English Version (1995)	NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
CGEDNT: <i>Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Barclay M. Newman)	NBCR: <i>New Bible Commentary: Revised</i>
CHALOT: <i>Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i>	NEB: New English Bible (1970)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)	Nelson: <i>Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words</i>
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)	NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition	NIB: <i>New Interpreter's Bible</i>
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls	NIGTC: <i>New International Greek Testament Commentary</i>
ECB: <i>Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible</i>	NICNT: <i>New International Commentary on the New Testament</i>
EDB: <i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>	NIDB: <i>New International Dictionary of the Bible</i>
eisegesis: "reading meaning into," or interjecting a preconceived or foreign meaning into a Biblical text	NIV: New International Version (1984)
EJ: <i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>	NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)	NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
exegesis: "drawing meaning out of," or the process of trying to understand what a Biblical text means on its own	NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
EXP: <i>Expositor's Bible Commentary</i>	NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
Ger: German	NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
GNT: Greek New Testament	NT: New Testament
Grk: Greek	orthopraxy: lit. "the right action," how the Bible or one's theology is lived out in the world
<i>halachah</i> : lit. "the way to walk," how the Torah is lived out in an individual's life or faith community	OT: Old Testament
HALOT: <i>Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Koehler and Baumgartner)	PME: Practical Messianic Edition of the Apostolic Scriptures
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)	PreachC: <i>The Preacher's Commentary</i>
Heb: Hebrew	REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible	RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
ICC: <i>International Critical Commentary</i>	t. Tosefta
IDB: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>	Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
IDBSup: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement</i>	Thayer: <i>Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>

TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TEV: Today's English Version (1976)
TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life
Version (2014)
TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
TNTC: *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New
Testament revised edition

v(s). verse(s)
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and
New Testament Words*
Vul: Latin Vulgate
WBC: *Word Biblical Commentary*
Yid: Yiddish
YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

INTRODUCTION

One of the biggest issues which is staring right at the broad Messianic movement—to which no congregation, fellowship, family, or individual are entirely immune—is how to approach the nature of Yeshua (Jesus).ⁱ **Is Yeshua the Messiah God, or is He a created being?** While many affirm Yeshua of Nazareth to be the eternal, uncreated Son of God who is indeed God—there are many others who express various levels of doubt about this, and then others who think that Yeshua is a created being and not God. There are those who will affirm that Yeshua is a supernatural being to be sure—perhaps even the first created being in the cosmic order, pre-existent of our known universe—but nevertheless created and not God.

In our family’s experience with Outreach Israel Ministries for the past decade-and-a-half, we recognized how very early on in 2003, that while we encountered a few people here or there who denied Yeshua as God, there was enough of a guard or governor, of sorts, present—in how many knew that to deny Yeshua as God was to cross a very dangerous red line. *Hearing that a particular person denied Yeshua as God, was something that largely remained on the fringes.* But as the 2000s progressed, and new social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube really began to take hold—combined with the greater prevalence of an online bookseller like Amazon.com and the emergence of the eBook—ideas about the nature of the Messiah which would have stayed on someone’s obscure personal website or blog, could now be promoted rather easily. Individual people, in what would be considered the more mainstream of the Messianic community, would be found expressing opinions and perspectives which were not affirming of Yeshua as God. Many of these opinions and perspectives can circulate unknown to congregational leaders and teachers.

While we have surely been involved in our fair share of controversies over the years among people in the Messianic movement, and there have been issues that we are in disagreement about with various personalitiesⁱⁱ—no one has ever been able to accuse Outreach Israel Ministries of holding to a low Christology,ⁱⁱⁱ or the view that Yeshua of Nazareth is a created being. It might be said, instead, that our ministry holds to **some of the highest Christology witnessed in the Messianic movement.** Our ministry Statement of Faith forthrightly asserts,

ⁱ *Yeshua* (יֵשׁוּעַ) is the original Hebrew name of Jesus meaning, “He is Salvation” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus is derived from the Greek transliteration of Yeshua, *Iēsous* (Ἰησοῦς), originally employed by the Greek Septuagint.

ⁱⁱ A number of these are evaluated in the author’s book *Confronting Critical Issues: An Analysis of Subjects that Affects the Growth and Stability of the Emerging Messianic Movement.*

ⁱⁱⁱ **Christology** is a theological term usually applied to the study of the Messiah’s nature and origin. An excellent definition of “Christology” is provided by Stanley J. Grenz, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999), 25:

“Christology is the theological study devoted to answering two main questions: Who is Jesus? (the question of his identity) and What is the nature and significance of what Jesus accomplished in the incarnation? (the question of his work).”