

For almost two millennia, multiplied millions of Believers in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) have eagerly anticipated His return. Many theories, doctrines, and creeds have been produced concerning the Second Coming, as well as an entire score of books. In today's world, many Christians think that the Messiah can return at any moment in an event called the "pre-tribulation rapture." Even among those who do not believe in this imminent rapture, are those who still think that the final days of humanity are upon us. Are they? Is absolutely everything in place for the Messiah to return quite soon? Or, are there some things that might be overlooked, regarding the Messiah's return?

Before Yeshua was taken up into Heaven, the Apostles asked Him, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6). The Apostles were eagerly awaiting the Messiah to restore Israel, but much work still had to be accomplished, as Yeshua commissioned them to go out into the greater world, and make disciples among all nations. In our era, much more has notably happened, most especially with the salvation of many Jewish people coming to Yeshua, but also with many non-Jewish Believers entering into the Messianic movement, embracing God's Torah and their Hebraic Roots in a very tangible way. Something unique has undeniably started.

A major challenge is that far too many non-Jewish Believers in Yeshua do not understand who the Lord is actually returning for. They will often consider themselves part of a separate "Church," with really no connection to Israel. Because of this, it is concluded that the Messiah can imminently come for "the Church," to leave Israel behind to face the Tribulation period and the antichrist. Is this a valid teaching? Are Israel and "the Church" separate entities? If they are not, how would this change our perception of various aspects of the end-times?

When Will the Messiah Return? is a unique book addressing the end-times from a Messianic perspective. The Messiah stated plainly that He would gather the saints "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (Matthew 24:29). Discussed are common false understandings as they relate to "the Church" being taken to Heaven for the duration of the Tribulation period, and instead how all Believers in Messiah Yeshua get to participate in restoration of Israel's Kingdom via His return. Some overlooked elements regarding what has been prophesied in Scripture, may hold some of the insight for today's Believers evaluating why the Messiah has yet to return to Planet Earth.

**WHEN WILL
THE MESSIAH
RETURN?**

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J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

WHEN WILL THE MESSIAH RETURN?

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“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

Matthew 24:29-31

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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>	CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
AMG: <i>Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament</i>	DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)	DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament	ECB: <i>Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible</i>
Ara: Aramaic	EDB: <i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)	eisegesis: "reading meaning into," or interjecting a preconceived or foreign meaning into a Biblical text
b. Babylonian Talmud (<i>Talmud Bavli</i>)	EJ: <i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.	ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
BDAG: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)	exegesis: "drawing meaning out of," or the process of trying to understand what a Biblical text means on its own
BDB: <i>Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>	EXP: <i>Expositor's Bible Commentary</i>
BECNT: <i>Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament</i>	Ger: German
BKCNT: <i>Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament</i>	GNT: Greek New Testament
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.	Grk: Greek
CEV: Contemporary English Version (1995)	<i>halachah</i> : lit. "the way to walk," how the Torah is lived out in an individual's life or faith community
CGEDNT: <i>Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Barclay M. Newman)	HALOT: <i>Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Koehler and Baumgartner)
CHALOT: <i>Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i>	HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)

- Heb: Hebrew
- HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
- ICC: *International Critical Commentary*
- IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
- IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
- ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
- IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
- Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
- JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
- JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
- KJV: King James Version
- Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)
- LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible by Jay P. Green* (1986)
- LS: *A Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell & Scott)
- LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
- LXX: Septuagint
- m. Mishnah
- MT: Masoretic Text
- NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)
- NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)
- NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
- NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)
- Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
- NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)
- NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
- NIGTC: *New International Greek Testament Commentary*
- NICNT: *New International Commentary on the New Testament*
- NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
- NIV: *New International Version* (1984)
- NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)
- NJPS: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)
- NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)
- NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)
- NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)
- NT: *New Testament*
- orthopraxy: lit. "the right action," how the Bible or one's theology is lived out in the world
- OT: *Old Testament*
- PreachC: *The Preacher's Commentary*
- REB: *Revised English Bible* (1989)
- RSV: *Revised Standard Version* (1952)
- t. Tosefta
- Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
- Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
- TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
- TEV: *Today's English Version* (1976)
- TLV: *Tree of Life Messianic Family Bible—New Covenant* (2011)

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

As I sit down and prepare this edition of *When Will the Messiah Return?* for paperback reprinting and Amazon Kindle eBook release, I have a great number of thoughts and ideas circulating in my mind. This is not just because I am a rather introspective person, as I evaluate my spirituality daily before the Lord, and I have to think about a massive number of issues and topics as a Bible teacher; **I also have to evaluate the past eleven to twelve years (2000-2012) since I first got the idea for this book**, and all of the things which have taken place since then. My ability to probe the Holy Scriptures for important words and messages of insight has doubtlessly improved, given the wide array of publications currently available from Messianic Apologetics (especially as seen in the *Practical Messianic* commentary series), and with that how my approach to end-time prophecy, eschatology, and the Second Coming has also matured and been significantly refined. As I have edited and updated this book, I hope that what is represented in its pages is not only consistent with what I originally wanted it to be all the way back in 2000, but that it is something which can guide you in your approach to a subject matter which is certainly discussed by many Messianic Believers, evangelical Christians, and even secular people who investigate religious issues.

Since entering into the Messianic movement fully in 1996, issues surrounding the end-times and the return of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) have always been present, in some way, in my family's collective Messianic experience. Like many in the late 1990s, we were not immune to being affected by the wave of prophetic speculation and date-setting associated with the turn of the Millennium. We heard a wide number of theories involving the 1993 Middle East Peace Accord between Yitzchak Rabin (1922-1995) and Yasser Arafat (1929-2004), rapidly developing technology changes and the emergence of something new and world changing called the Internet, and something then-approaching in a few short years called Y2k. We encountered a wide amount of emotion, some paranoia, a great deal of fear, *and* not enough skepticism and common sense to
