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AUGUST 2019
HOW DO WE KNOW THAT
YESHUA OF NAZARETH
IS THE MESSIAH?

OUTREACH ISRAEL NEWS

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STATEMENT OF BELIEF

*Outreach Israel Ministries
and Messianic Apologetics*

There is One Almighty Creator God of the Universe, who has revealed Himself to us in the manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came in fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies of the Scriptures and is fully God. It is mandatory for us to believe in a Divine Redeemer to be saved. Salvation is a free gift of God to all who receive Messiah Yeshua into their lives and confess of their sins. Those who reject Messiah will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The Holy Scriptures, Genesis-Revelation, are the inspired, infallible Word of God as revealed in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts.

Outreach Israel News is the monthly newsletter of Outreach Israel Ministries, a non-profit organization with an emphasis on reaching, teaching, and encouraging the Messianic community. Subscription to **Outreach Israel News** is without cost and supported only by donation.

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All Believers in Israel's Messiah are to be regarded as a part of the Commonwealth of Israel. Jewish and non-Jewish Believers are to respect one another in mutual love as brothers and sisters, and are to work together for the salvation of the Jewish people and return of Israel's Messiah.

The Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) is the foundation of all Scripture, was followed by our Messiah Yeshua, and is to still be studied and heeded by Believers today.

Yeshua the Messiah is coming to gather the Believers after the Tribulation period.

OIM is an *agapē* ministry, freely and benevolently giving the vast majority of its teachings and resources, without charge, to those who desire to be spiritually nourished.

For a fuller Statement of Faith, consult the OIM website

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OIM UPDATE

August 2019

August in Texas is always hot. But after attending a family wedding in Boulder, Colorado, this allowed us a brief respite from the sweltering weather and the joy of reconnecting with family and friends to make new memories, and remember those dearly departed of blessed memory. This has been another reminder that life is short, and this reunion of sorts, was one more opportunity to focus on loved ones, who are yet to know the Lord. Hopefully, through our God-fearing personal testimonies, we can boldly proclaim by our words and actions that **"this is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"** (Psalm 118:24, NASU). Of course, witnessing that the joy of the Lord is our strength, should be paramount in our interactions with one and all. We ask the Lord that the hearts of our loved ones are open to receive the good news of salvation, which we have individually derived by faith in the Risen Savior!

With those encounters in mind, coupled with ministry and congregational responsibilities weighing in, these verses have been resonating in my recent thoughts: **"Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained [or, perish]"** (Proverbs 29:18a, NASU), and **"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"** (Hosea 4:6a, NASU). **Vision and/or knowledge**, or the lack thereof, has permeated my meditations, as current challenges have arisen. What is it about these two words that not only forecast the future, but also take into account the past, so that in the present, the **always available shalom** for a Believer can be obtained and exhibited in one's respective walk with the Messiah of Israel? Are **knowledge and vision** two sides of the same coin? Is it possible that the connecting tissue between the two is **wisdom**, as embodied in this following summary statement? **"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"** (Proverbs 9:10, NASU).

Or does this passage from Paul's writing to the Corinthians, shed further light on knowledge and vision—through the lens of wisdom by what the Creator has been executing down through the ages past to this very day?

"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, that no man should boast before God. But by His doing you are in Messiah Yeshua, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, that, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:26-31, NASU).

Thankfully, the Apostle Paul goes on to further elucidate what godly wisdom truly is, and how it is **not** obtainable by a natural man or woman under the influence of the **spirit of the world**, because one does not accept the things of the Spirit of God. On the other hand, God-fearing people are spiritually appraised, as is required to understand God and filter through the increasing knowledge of the world (Daniel 12:4), in order to formulate a vision worthy of one's personal **calling**:

"And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of **wisdom**, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Yeshua the Messiah, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching **were not in persuasive words of wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God**. Yet we do speak **wisdom** among those who are mature; a **wisdom**, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden **wisdom**, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and *which* have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? **Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God**. **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world**, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, **not in words taught by human wisdom**, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. **But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised**. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Messiah" (1 Corinthians 2:1-16, NASU).

When taking into account the words of Paul when it comes to knowledge and vision, the coin referenced above could be like the wafer coins produced years ago with wisdom, or how to operate in the present, sandwiched in between knowledge (past) and vision (future). After all, every individual on the planet has either a natural mind under the influence of the **spirit of the world** or a spiritual

component, with the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God that is trending that person's thoughts toward the mind of Messiah, as the conformation process matures (Romans 8:29). However, realistically, every Believer has a lifelong struggle to endure, as articulated by Paul when he described the very essence of the battle that raged on between his fleshy sinful nature and the power of God's Spirit, working to conform people to the Messiah's death (Philippians 3:10), and the revelation and desired acceptance of the sacrificed life (Galatians 2:20):

"For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. And I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me. So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not wish to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with

the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Yeshua the Messiah our Lord! **So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin**" (Romans 7:5-25, NASU).

What should people do in a world system that is constantly and increasingly bombarding the mind, senses, heart, and soul with information overload? After all, the world, the flesh, and the devil are unrelenting adversaries with the "prince of the power of air" (Ephesians 2:2) orchestrating his nefarious activities.

On one level regarding knowledge of the past, every student of history and the Bible, should reflect on this well-known quote from Edmund Burke: **"Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it."** In other words, if a person is ignorant about what has transpired upon the Earth among its inhabitants down through the ages, then irrespective of their individual brilliance or life experience, they are doomed (or condemned) to fall into the same age old traps that have plagued humanity from Creation. Lamentably, far too many people on the planet today consider history "old fashioned" knowledge, and are consequently susceptible to the wiles and snares of the devils clever manipulations of elementary facts about the past. Remember another quote attributed to Winston Churchill, **"History is written by the victors."** Down through the ages, the ruling classes of societies or nation-states use their interpretation of historical events to inculcate the masses they dominate in order to govern them. However, according to a statement attributed to Sir Francis Bacon's that **"Knowledge is power,"** it is incumbent upon every person to seek truthful knowledge in order to combat the tendencies of rulers to control the mind and actions of their subjects, **"for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"** (Ephesians 6:12, NASU).

In addition to knowing history, it is also imperative that people seek and acquire a **vision** for their life that coincides with their **"calling"** or what they were destined to do by the Creator God. These are the "good works" foreordained for the holy ones: **"For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in**

them" (Ephesians 2:10, NASU). Of course, this statement requires people to faithfully believe that there is a loving God, who actually foreknows them from eternity past. According to the Prophet Jeremiah, God explicitly knows His children before formation in their mother's womb, while the Apostle Paul confirms the eternal perspective:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5, NASU).

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Messiah Yeshua from all eternity" (2Timothy 1:8-9, NASU).

So with all of these Scriptures referencing the need for people to have a working **knowledge** of the past, with a personal **vision** for the future, coupled with **Divine wisdom** to operate effectively in the present—there is a motivating factor that activates people for maximum usefulness during their Earthly sojourn. This is what the Scriptures refer to as a person's **"calling"** or purpose for existing. If one understands that he or she has been created for God's Divine purposes, then it is crucial to ask Him precisely what He created you to do in order to advance His Kingdom on Earth while physically alive. Now this is where one's **"calling"** for specific service to the Creator is discerned, as prayerfully communicated by the Holy Spirit.

Providentially, no matter what a person's previous life experience might be, however good or bad, (i.e. Paul's murderous activities), when a person is **"called"** into service, he or she can fully appreciate the grace, mercy, and forgiveness that covers a multitude of sins. Somehow, the Almighty One allows *all* things in the past to be used for good, because from eternity past, people are predestined once **"called,"** to be vessels for God's Divine purposes:

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and **whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He **called**, these He also justified;**

and whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Romans 8:28-30, NASU).

What an amazing and awesome Heavenly Father the **"called"** ones have to **"ask in order to receive, seek in order to find, and knock in order to open"** (Matthew 7:7), His loving heart toward them.

Earlier, the concept and/or image of a "wafered coin" composed of knowledge and vision sandwiching wisdom, was introduced to illustrate how a person can best function in his or her life experience and fulfill God's purpose. In many spiritual milieus, the concept of an **"altar call"** has people approaching a stage where select religious icons are positioned. The **"coin of those realms"** was to evidence one's adherence or worship to whatever was on display. But how about **"coining another phrase"** and instead, encourage **"ALL TO CALL"** in prayer upon the Lord to fully comprehend what He alone has **"called"** every born from above child of God to do? How incredible would it be if God's chosen children truly understood not only their saving relationship to the Father through the Son, but that He implores all to **call upon Him and His Name** in order to receive a future and a hope? Clearly, these words from the Prophet Jeremiah have comforted untold numbers of God's children down through the ages:

"For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart'" (Jeremiah 29:11-13, NASU).

Two final thoughts from Moses and Paul need consideration. First, Moses says that God would teach us to number our days (Psalm 90:12). And, Paul says that "the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened, so that we may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18). **Enough said!**

Let me conclude by thanking everyone for their prayers and financial support of our family's efforts to fulfill the call that is upon our lives! What a joy it is to do the Lord's work and serve His purposes. We are grateful that the past is behind us and the future looks bright ahead, as we seek to walk out our remaining days wisely depending on Him for His provision and guidance. My prayer is that you will take the time to **call upon the Lord** and discover exactly what your **call** is so that you like us, can continue to advance God's Kingdom until the restoration of all things. . .

Blessings and shalom,

Mark Huey

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT YESHUA OF NAZARETH IS THE MESSIAH?

PART II

by J.K. McKee

Last month's lead article, "How Do We Know that Yeshua of Nazareth is the Messiah?—Part I," addressed the concept of a Messiah as coming to solve the problems with Israel's Davidic throne, and how various passages from the Tanach (OT) have often been approached in reference to Yeshua of Nazareth.

"How Do We know that Yeshua of Nazareth is the Messiah?—Part II" finishes the list of Tanach prophecies and expectations, somehow applied in reference to His work and activities.

Isaiah 53:2-3; 63:3, 5; Psalm 69:9(8):

Rejected by His Own People

The Messiah was to be a figure largely rejected. "He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account" (Isaiah 53:3, NRSV). Isaiah also decreed, "I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger and trampled them in My wrath" (Isaiah 63:3, NASU). Frequently in the Gospels, Yeshua of Nazareth is dismissed as a nobody (Mark 6:3; John 7:3-5), and He has to find His own way (Luke 9:58). It is explicitly reported that His own Jewish people largely did not receive Him (John 1:11).

Psalm 118:22: Rejected by the Jewish Leadership

It was anticipated in Psalm 118:22, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone" (TLV). Yeshua applies this word to Himself, in how He is rejected by various Jewish religious leaders (Matthew 21:42; cf. John 7:48).

Psalm 2:1-2: Plotted Against by Jews and Pagans

Psalm 2:1-2 speaks of a conspiracy against the Lord and His Anointed from the nations of Planet Earth: "Why do nations assemble, and peoples plot vain things; kings of the earth take their stand, and regents intrigue together against the LORD and against His anointed?" (NJPS). This word is specifically applied to the death of Yeshua, enacted by a conspiracy of both the Romans and Jewish religious leaders.

Psalm 41:10(9); 55:13-15(12-14): Betrayed by a Friend

King David cried to the Lord, "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9, NASU). Yeshua was betrayed to the Romans by Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:21-25, 47-50; Acts 1:16-18), with the tenor of David's word invoked (John 13:18-21).

Zechariah 11:12: Be Sold for Thirty Pieces of Silver

Zechariah 11:12 says, "Then I said to them, 'If it seems good to you, pay me my wages, but if not, don't bother!' So they weighed out my wages—30 pieces of silver" (TLV). Judas Iscariot betrayed Yeshua for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).

Zechariah 11:13: Betrayal Price Thrown into Temple Treasury

The price paid in Zechariah 11:12 is thrown into the Temple treasury: "Then *ADONAI* said to me, 'Throw it to the potter—that exorbitant price at which they valued Me!' So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw them into the House of *ADONAI*, to the potter" (Zechariah 11:13, TLV). This is applied to what Judas did with the betrayal price that he received (Matthew 27:6-7).

Zechariah 13:7: Be Forsaken by His Own Disciples

Zechariah 13:7 declares, "'Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man, My Associate,' declares the LORD of hosts. 'Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; and I will turn My hand against the little ones'" (NASU). This word is applied to how subsequent to the arrest of Yeshua by the Romans, His Disciples scattered themselves (Matthew 26:31, 56).

Micah 4:14(5:1): Be Struck on the Cheek

Micah 5:1 says, "Now gather yourself in troops, O Daughter of Troops. He has laid siege against us. With a staff they have struck the Judge of Israel on the cheek" (TLV). Yeshua was unjustly beaten by the Romans, and mocked, as though He were a humiliated leader of Israel (Matthew 27:30).

Isaiah 50:6: Be Spat On

The Prophet Isaiah declared of the Servant, "I gave My back to those who strike *Me*, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting" (NASU). Yeshua was beaten and spat on by both the Jewish religious leaders (Matthew 26:67) and Roman soldiers (Matthew 27:30).

Psalm 22:8-9(7-8): Be Mocked

King David exclaimed, "'Commit *yourself* to the LORD; let Him deliver him; let Him rescue him, because He delights in him'" (Psalm 22:8, NASU).

While Yeshua is surely mocked before His execution (Matthew 26:67-68; 27:31), this word is specifically echoed by the religious leaders as He is dying (Matthew 27:39-44).

Isaiah 50:6: Be Beaten

The Prophet Isaiah foretold of the Servant, "I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those pulling out My beard; I did not hide My face from humiliation and spitting" (Isaiah 50:6, TLV). Yeshua was thoroughly beaten before His execution (Matthew 26:67; 27:26, 30).

Psalm 22:16(15); Zechariah 12:10: Hands and Feet Pierced

Taking into consideration the textual witnesses of the Septuagint and other Hebrew manuscripts, Psalm 22:15 decrees, "For dogs have surrounded me. A band of evildoers has closed in on me. They pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16, TLV). Zechariah 12:10 further states, "Then I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication, when they will look toward Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son and grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves for a firstborn" (TLV). These words are applied to the execution of Yeshua, being crucified by the Romans (Matthew 27:35; Luke 24:39; John 19:18, 34-37; 20:20-28; cf. Revelation 1:7).

Psalm 22:16(15): Thirsty During His Execution

King David said, "my vigor dries up like a shard; my tongue cleaves to my palate; You commit me to the dust of death" (Psalm 22:16, NJPS). During the execution of Yeshua, He experienced great thirst (John 19:28).

Psalm 69:22(21): Given Vinegar to Quench Thirst

King David said, "They give me gall for food, vinegar to quench my thirst" (Psalm 69:22, NJPS). During the execution of Yeshua, He was given vinegar to quench His thirst (Matthew 27:34).

Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:21(20):

Be Executed Without a Broken Bone

The Passover lamb was to be eaten without any broken bones (Exodus 12:46), and it is said of the righteous, "He {the Lord} keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken" (Psalm 34:20, NASU). When Yeshua was executed, not a single bone of His body was broken (John 19:33-36).

Isaiah 53:12: Be Considered a Transgressor

Isaiah 53:12 says of the Servant that He will be regarded as a transgressor: "I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors" (NASU). Yeshua was executed right alongside of

known criminals (Luke 23:32).

Daniel 9:24-26: Be “cut off and have nothing. . .”

Speaking of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, Daniel prophesied, “it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing” (Daniel 9:24b-25a, NASU). Yeshua of Nazareth was cut off after sixty-nine weeks (Daniel 9:24a) via His death (Romans 5:6; 1 Peter 3:18).

Isaiah 53:5-7, 12: Death Would Atonement for Sins of Humanity

Isaiah spoke of how the iniquities of all would fall upon the Servant (Isaiah 53:5-7, 12). The death of Yeshua is portrayed in the Apostolic Writings as affecting the entire human race (Mark 10:45; John 1:29; 3:16; Acts 8:30-35).

Isaiah 53:9: Be Buried With the Rich

Isaiah 53:9 speaks of how “His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth” (NASU). Yeshua was interred in the tomb intended for Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-60).

Isaiah 53:9-10; Psalm 2:7-8; 16:10: Be Raised From the Dead

Isaiah 53:10 foretold, “He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand” (NASU). Psalm 2:8 states, “I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession” (NASU). Psalm 16:10 explicitly remarks, though, “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay” (NASU). These words have all been applied to the resurrection of Yeshua from the dead (Matthew 28:1-20; Acts 2:23-36; 13:33-37; 1 Corinthians 15:4-6).

Psalm 16:11; 68:19(18); 110:1: Ascend to Right Hand of God

The right hand of God is a place of blessing and honor (Psalm 16:11), as is ascending into God’s presence (Psalm 68:19). Psalm 110:1 explicitly states, “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet’” (NASU). Yeshua ascended into Heaven (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11), at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55; Hebrews 1:3).

Zechariah 6:13: Exercise Priestly Office in Heaven

Zechariah 6:13 explains, “He will build the Temple of *ADONAI*. He will bear splendor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus He will be a kohen [priest] on His throne. So a counsel of shalom will be between them both” (TLV). Romans 8:34 speaks of how “the Messiah Yeshua, who died and—more than that—has been raised, is at the right hand of God and is actually pleading

on our behalf!" (CJB). Hebrews 7:25-8:2 explicitly goes into detail regarding the priestly ministry of Yeshua in the Heavenly Temple.

Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22-23: Be the Cornerstone

Isaiah 28:16 declares, "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone *for* the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed'" (NASU). Psalm 118:22-23 further states, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner *stone*. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (NASU). Yeshua is explicitly noted to be the Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20), widely rejected by the Jewish religious leaders (Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:5-7).

Isaiah 11:10; 42:1:

Be Sought After by the Jewish People and the Nations

Isaiah 11:10 decrees, "Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious" (NASU). Isaiah 42:1 also states, "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations" (NASU). The arrival of the Messiah will have an affect not only on Israel, but also the world at large (Acts 10:45-46; 13:46-48).

Isaiah 11:10; 42:1-4; 49:1-6: Be Accepted by the Nations

Isaiah 11:10 and 42:1-4 indicate that the Servant will be accepted by the peoples of Planet Earth. Isaiah 49:6 further states how the restoration of Israel's Kingdom and the salvation of the Earth are tied together: "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (NASU). Yeshua is represented as having a ministry that affected more than just His fellow Jews (Matthew 12:18-21; cf. Romans 9:30; 20:20; 11:11; 15:10).

Psalm 2:6: Be the King

Psalm 2:6 exclaims, "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain" (NASU). Yeshua, however, attested before Pontius Pilate that His Kingdom was not a worldly realm (John 18:33-37).

Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:17(16): Be Seen by Israel as Pierced

Factoring in the different witnesses of the Septuagint and other Hebrew fragments, the Messiah's being pierced at His execution would have a reverberating effect to His own Jewish people (Luke 24:39; John 19:34-37; Revelation 1:7).

Patiently Waiting for the Restoration of Israel

Having a good handle on an entire series of Bible passages from the Tanach (OT), which in some form or fashion have been applied to Yeshua of Nazareth, is very important when involving oneself in Jewish outreach and evangelism. Many who prepare to go out into the Jewish community, or even just talk to a Jewish friend or neighbor about Yeshua—will for the first time ever, as a result of such preparations, receive some significant level of confirmation that Yeshua truly is the anticipated Messiah of Israel. Indeed, the Bible passages that we have just summarized in this analysis, represent many of the key concepts and ideas that surround the work and activities of Yeshua of Nazareth. Each one of us has a responsibility to ourselves, and to our fellow brothers and sisters, to see that at some time in our faith experience, **we know why we truly believe that Yeshua is the Messiah.** And from that probing of God's Word, we should then be able to hopefully better communicate such truths as we reach out with the Messianic movement's definite mission of impacting the Jewish community with the good news!

One of the certain expectations of Yeshua as Messiah, was His widescale rejection by the Jewish religious leaders. Indeed, Isaiah 50:6 declared, "I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those pulling out My beard; I did not hide My face from humiliation and spitting" (TLV). When involving oneself in Jewish outreach and evangelism—in no small part due to Christian anti-Semitism from past centuries, but also today due in large part due to liberal, progressive Judaism—those who reach out with the good news of Israel's Messiah to His Jewish people, are more likely going to be rejected than welcomed. While today's Messianics, and especially Messianic Jewish congregational leaders, can all give testimonies to how debating various Tanach passages with Orthodox Jews did not turn out too successfully—more often than not your experience in reaching out with the good news is going to involve liberal Jews whose spiritual experiences with God are quite nominal. Today's Messianic Believers, Jewish or non-Jewish, know more about the Holy Scriptures than most of today's Jewish people in North America. To them, the Bible is a collection of interesting stories. So, should you be rejected, or dismissed, or just ignored by such people—know that a great deal of the dismissal of Yeshua you may witness, **is more of a rejection of God.**

**Be sure to update your records
with our new mailing address:**

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