



Origin

1. Numbers 24:14-17

And now, I am going back to my nation. I will counsel you as to what this nation will do to your nation in the end of days... I see it but it is not now, I foretell it but it is not near. A star will emerge from Jacob, a sceptre will stand from Israel, and it will strike the leaders of Moav and it will uproot all of the sons of Seth.

2. Deuteronomy 30:2-3

And you will return to Hashem your Gd and you will listen to His voice, according to all that I command you today - you and your children, with all your heart and soul. And Gd will return your exile and have mercy upon you, and He will return and gather you from all the nations to which Hashem your Gd had scattered you.

3. Genesis 49:1

And Jacob called his children, and he said: Gather, and I will tell you what will happen to you in the end of days.

4. Deuteronomy 4:30

When you are besieged, and all of these befall you, at the end of days, and you will return to Hashem your Gd and you will heed His voice.

5. Leviticus 26:43-45

And the land will be freed of them, and will desire its sabbaths when desolate from those people, and they will satisfy [the debt of] their sins, for they rejected My commandments and their souls repulsed My laws. And even then, when they are in the land of their foes, I will not have rejected them and repulsed them to destroy them, to nullify My covenant with them; I am Hashem their Gd. I will remember the covenant of the early ones, whom I took out of Egypt before the eyes of the nations to be their Gd. I am Gd.

6. Don Isaac Abarbanel, Commentary to Leviticus 26:1 #1

The Torah did not want to mention reward for mitzvot and their true punishment, so that one would serve his Creator altruistically, not due to expectation of punishment.

7. Isaiah 44:24-45:1

So declares Gd, your Redeemer and the One who formed you from the womb... the One who says of Cyrus, "My shepherd, and he will fulfill all of My wishes," and says of Jerusalem, "She will be built, and the Sanctuary will be established." ... So declares Gd to His anointed, Cyrus, whose right [hand] I have held, to subdue nations before him and to open the loins of kings, to open before him doors, and gates will not close...

8. Isaiah 11:1-5 (JPS 1985 tr., c/o sefaria.org)

But a shoot shall grow out of the stump of Jesse, A twig shall sprout from his stock. The spirit of the Lord shall alight upon him: A spirit of wisdom and insight, A spirit of counsel and valor, A spirit of devotion and reverence for the Lord. He shall sense the truth by his reverence for the Lord: He shall not judge by what his eyes behold, Nor decide by what his ears perceive. Thus he shall judge the poor with equity And decide with justice for the lowly of the land. He shall strike down a land with the rod of his mouth And slay the wicked with the breath of his lips. Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, And faithfulness the girdle of his waist.

9. Malachi 3:1, as explained by Rabbi David Kimchi

Behold, I will send My angel and he will clear a path before Me, and suddenly the Messiah you seek will come to his sanctuary...

10. Daniel 2:31-45 (JPS 1985 tr., c/o sefaria.org)

O king, as you looked on, there appeared a great statue. This statue, which was huge and its brightness surpassing, stood before you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was of fine gold; its breast and arms were of silver; its belly and thighs, of bronze; its legs were of iron, and its feet part iron and part clay. As you looked on, a stone was hewn out, not by hands, and struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. All at once, the iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold were crushed, and became like chaff of the threshing floors of summer; a wind carried them off until no trace of them was left. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Such was the dream, and we will now tell the king its meaning. You, O king—king of kings, to whom the Gd of Heaven has given kingdom, power, might, and glory; into whose hands He has given men, wild beasts, and the fowl of heaven, wherever they may dwell; and to whom He has given dominion over them all—you are the head of gold. But another kingdom will arise after you, inferior to yours; then yet a third kingdom, of bronze, which will rule over the whole earth. But the fourth kingdom will be as strong as iron; just as iron crushes and shatters everything—and like iron that smashes—so will it crush and smash all these. You saw the feet and the toes, part potter's clay and part iron; that means it will be a divided kingdom; it will have only some of the stability of iron, inasmuch as you saw iron mixed with common clay. And the toes were part iron and part clay; that [means] the kingdom will be in part strong and in part brittle. You saw iron mixed with common clay; that means: they shall intermingle with the offspring of men, but shall not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

And in the time of those kings, the Gd of Heaven will establish a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, a kingdom that shall not be transferred to another people. It will crush and wipe out all these kingdoms, but shall itself last forever— just as you saw how a stone was hewn from the mountain, not by hands, and crushed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great Gd has made known to the king what will happen in the future. The dream is sure and its interpretation reliable.

11. Daniel 9:25-26

Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem until an anointed prince shall be seven weeks...And after sixty two weeks shall an anointed one be cut off...

12. Talmud, Pesachim 54a

Seven entities were created before the world: Torah, Repentance, the Garden of Eden, Gehennom, the Divine Throne, The Temple and the name of the Messiah...

13. Talmud, Sanhedrin 94a

Gd wanted to make Chizkiyahu into the Messiah and Sancherev into Gog uMagog. Justice said before Gd: Master of the Universe! David, King of Israel, sang many praises before You and You did not make him Mashiach; You performed all of these miracles for Chizkiyahu and he did not sing before You, shall You make him Mashiach? And so it was sealed.

A Person or an Era?

14. Zechariah 13:2

And it shall come to pass on that day, says the Gd of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land and they shall no more be remembered, and also I will cause the prophets and the impure spirit to leave the land.

15. Rabbi Moses Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 12:4-5

The sages and prophets did not desire the Messianic Era in order to reign over the world, or to conquer the idolaters, or to be elevated by the nations, or to eat, drink and be merry. Rather, they desired it in order to be free for the Torah and its wisdom, without any oppressor or distraction, in order to merit the life of the next world.

In that time there will be neither famine nor war, neither jealousy nor competition; goodness will flow plentifully and delicacies will be as common as dust, and the only pursuit in the world will be knowledge of Gd.

16. Talmud, Shabbat 30b

Rabban Gamliel sat and taught: In the future women will give birth daily, as it is written (Jeremiah 31), "The woman who has conceived and the women giving birth, together."...Rabban Gamliel also sat and taught: In the future trees will produce fruit every day, as it is written (Ezekiel 17), "And it will raise up a branch and bear fruit" - just as the branch is present each day, so fruit will be present each day.

17. Rabbi Moses Maimonides, Commentary to Mishnah, Introduction to Chapter 10 of Sanhedrin

The time of the Messiah is the time when monarchy will return to Israel, and they will return to the land of Israel. That king's place of reign will be Zion, and his name will be elevated and reach the ends of the earth, greater than the kingdom of Solomon, and the nations will make a covenant of peace with him, and all of the lands will serve him in his great righteousness, and amazing things will be revealed at his hand, and Gd will destroy and give over to him any who rise against him. And all of the scriptural passages testify to his glory and our glory in him.

Nothing about reality will be changed from the way it is now, other than that Israel will have monarchy. As the Sages said, "There is no difference between this world and the days of the Messiah, other than the tyranny of the empires alone." There will remain in his days the relatively strong and weak, but in those days people's livelihood will become much easier, such that one who does some small work will achieve great benefits. This is the meaning of their statement, "In the future, Israel will produce delicacies and fine clothing"...

18. Isaiah 25:8, as explained by Rashi

He will destroy death forever, and Gd will wipe away tears from all faces; and the insult against His people shall He remove from the entire earth; for Gd has spoken.

19. Rabbi Saadia Gaon, Emunot v'Deiot Maamar 7

People ask: Will we die after this? I respond that people will not die; they will be taken from the period of the Messiah to the pleasantness of Olam HaBa. Regarding this the Sages taught, "Those deceased people whom Gd will revive will not return to their dust."

20. Talmud, Sanhedrin 93b

Bar Koziva reigned for 2.5 years, and then he told the Sages, "I am the Messiah." They said of him, "Regarding the Messiah, it is written that he smells and judges, let's see if he smells and judges." When they saw that he did not smell and judge, they killed him.

21. Talmud, Succah 52a

What is this eulogy (in Zechariah 12:12)? Rabbi Dosa and the Sages disagreed: One said, "For the Messiah son of Joseph, who has been executed." The other said, "For the *yetzer hara*, which has been executed."

22. Talmud, Sanhedrin 99a

Rabbi Hillel said: There is no Messiah for the Jewish people; they "ate" their opportunity in the days of Chizkiyahu. Rav Yosef said: May his Master forgive Rabbi Hillel! Chizkiyahu lived during the First Temple, and Zechariah prophesied during the Second Temple, "Be very joyous, daughter of Zion! Shout, daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king will come to you, righteous and victorious, poor and riding upon a donkey and a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Are we allowed to ask "When"?

23. Talmud, Megillah 3a

The explanation of the Prophets was stated by Yonatan ben Uziel, from the mouth of Chaggai, Zechariah and Malachi, and Israel trembled, a space of 400 *parsah* by 400 *parsah*. A small voice emerged and said, "Who is this who revealed My secrets to humanity?" Yonatan ben Uziel stood up and said, "I am the one who revealed Your secrets to humanity! It is known before You that I did this not for my own honour or for the honour of my family, but for Your honour, to minimize disputes in Israel." He also wanted to reveal the explanation of the Writings, but a small voice emerged and said, "It is enough for you!" Why? Because that would include the end of the Messiah.

24. Talmud, Pesachim 54b

Seven things are hidden from humanity: The day of death, the day of comfort, the depth of [Divine] judgment, what is in the hearts of others, how one will profit, when the monarchy of the house of David will return, and when the criminal empire will end.

25. Talmud, Sanhedrin 97b

Rabbi Shemuel bar Nachmeni cited Rabbi Yonatan: May the bones of the calculators of times disintegrate. People would say, "Since the time has come and he has not come, he is not coming." Rather, wait for him – "Even should he delay, wait for him."

26. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 98:2

Two people had the end revealed to them, and then concealed from them: Jacob and Daniel... Jacob, "That which will befall you in the end of days. Reuven, you are my firstborn." This teaches that he wanted to reveal the end, and it was concealed from him. This may be compared to the dying friend of a king. His children surrounded his bed, and he told them, "Come, I'll reveal to you the secrets of the king." He looked up and saw the king, and said to them, "Be careful of the king's honour." So Jacob looked up and saw the Shechinah standing above him, and he told them, "Be careful of Gd's honour."