

## Jewish Eschatology

### **The Two Messiahs of Ancient Judaism**

Within Judaism of the first century of this common era, Messianic fervor reached its zenith as the people expected the Messiah to come based upon the prophetic visions of Daniel, etc. The rabbis by this time had dissected the Tanach [Old Testament] and commented on all verses alluding to the Messiah. The study of the Messiah is a very complex issue, but for our purposes we will focus on what is called “The Dual Role of Messiah.”

The sages concluded that the Scripture demonstrated that Messiah would be killed. But they also found from the same Scriptures that Messiah was to be the Redeemer who would bring in a Messianic Kingdom from Israel. These two views were irreconcilable so they devised a scheme of splitting the personage of Messiah into two. One of them was called Messiah ben Joseph or Ephraim (sometimes given the name Nehemiah) who would be slain. The other, Messiah ben David, was to come after him and would lead Israel to the ultimate victory during the Messianic era of bliss.

This division of the roles of Messiah resolved the conflict of the Scriptures foretelling a slain Messiah. The Sages saw a prefiguring of Messiah in Moses’ life. As Moses died before Israel entered into the Promised Land, so would the Messiah also die before achieving the final redemption. Here the rabbis had a solution. The Messiah had to bring complete redemption to be the True One prophesied of in Scripture. The solution was to assign the redemption to a second and final Messiah, whereas a first Messiah as Moses, would die first.<sup>1</sup>

The Messiah as Conquering King can be seen from such verses as Zechariah 14, Psalm 2, Isaiah 63-66, and Jeremiah 23. On the other hand verses such as Isaiah 40-53, 61, Psalm 22, and Daniel 9 describe the Messianic figure as suffering and even dying.<sup>2</sup> The major focus of the people and the rabbinic writings was on the Messiah ben David character.

Matthew 11:2-3 *Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? (KJV)*

Luke 7:18-21 *And the disciples of John shewed him of all these things. And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. (KJV)*

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<sup>1</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai. Wayne State University Press, Detroit, Michigan, 1979. Pages 166-167.

<sup>2</sup> Rosh HaShanah and the Messianic Kingdom to Come. Joseph Good. Hatikva Ministries, Port Arthur, Texas, 1989. Page 2.

From a Christian perspective in reading the Gospels it appears that John's memory has failed him, or he is starting to have doubts of whether Yeshua is the Messiah? This is unlikely if John was the prophesied Elijah-like forerunner to Messiah's First Coming. It becomes clear that John has learned of the two Messiah theory and wants to know from the first Messiah if there will be another one after Him. Rather than giving John a straight yes or no answer, Yeshua says:

*Matthew 11:4-6 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, 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. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (KJV)*

*Luke 7:22-23 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. (KJV)*

Yeshua's reply is coded with the two-messiah teaching of the rabbis. In the Tanach, particularly in Isaiah, these miracles are attested to the coming Messiah. Yeshua is informing John that the rabbinical teaching of two different Messiahs was wrong and only One Messiah would fulfill both roles of the Suffering Servant and Conquering King. As a matter of fact, the list of signs that Yeshua told John is a combination of what both Messiah's were to accomplish as taught by the rabbis.<sup>3</sup> Yeshua was demonstrating that He would fulfill all the Messianic prophecies. Rather than two Messiahs coming in two different roles, there would only be One Messiah who would suffer and die as Messiah ben Joseph, who in turn would be resurrected by the Father, and would return at a future time as Messiah ben David to bring about the final redemption.

## **The Descendants of Esau/Edom**

Regarding the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2, the Artscroll comments:

“The four kingdoms are not meant to embrace all of mankind's history, but are to include, in outline form, the history of the Jewish exile. Therefore only the kingdoms considered responsible for the exile are mentioned...The era of the Second Temple is considered part of the exile since most of the Jews did not return to the Holy Land...Babylon, responsible for the first exile, is named. Persia, successor in its totality to the Babylonian empire is considered the second kingdom; and Greece the third for the same reason. Rome is identified as the fourth kingdom for two reasons: 1) Its conquests included Eretz Yisrael, the center of Jewry; 2) It was directly responsible for the subsequent exile

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<sup>3</sup> The Book of Isaiah - Volume 2. Rabbi Redak; Shorasim (a Rabbinic Commentary); Rabbi A.J. Rosenberg. Judaica Press, New York, 1982. Page 544.

from the Holy Land. So long as no new empire rises which, by its conquests, can be considered successor in toto of Rome's power, we are still in the 'Roman' exile. The Arabic empire did not succeed Rome in the scope of its conquests.<sup>4</sup>

“Rome, the fourth kingdom, is considered by the Sages to be the kingdom of Edom...References to the present exile as Galus Edom are too numerous to need mention...Yosipon relates that Zepho (son of Elifaz son of Esau; Genesis 36:11) came to Italy and was crowned king by its inhabitants. Abarbanel surmises that Zepho may be the mythological Janus who, according to Roman legend, came from the East just after the deaths of Jacob and Esau. Abarbanel contends that we have no evidence that the ancient Romans were not themselves descendants of Esau since Roman beginnings are shrouded in mystery. It may very well be that the original settlers of Italy were the Kittim and that the Edomites arrived later and absorbed the original ethnic stock through intermarriage. Finally, Abarbanel argues that Rome, as representative of Christianity, is the spiritual heir of Edom. Just as Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau, so does the true belief in one God figuratively have two sons - representing variants of monotheism...”<sup>5</sup>

*Daniel 2:40-44 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. (KJV)*

“The area occupied by the Roman empire came to be dominated by two religions, Christianity and Islam. Both together comprise the latter day fourth kingdom. One is as strong as iron, the other as weak as pottery...The divisions of the kingdom may also refer to the split of the Roman empire into the Eastern (Byzantine) Empire, and the Western (Roman) Empire...Only the feet and toes were pictured as being of pottery and iron. The legs, though, were made only of iron. The division of its empire occurred late in the history of the fourth kingdom...The ten toes, corresponding to the horns of the fourth beast (Daniel 7:7, 24) are interpreted to correspond to ten major powers, all together comprising the fourth kingdom...The different nations will intermarry with each other, but these intermarriages will not bring about a blending of the different ethnic, racial, and religious divisions.

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<sup>4</sup> The Artscroll Tanach Series. Daniel. Page 104.

<sup>5</sup> The Artscroll Tanach Series. Daniel. Page 105-106.

Each group will retain its distinctive features, just like iron, which does not blend with earthenware. Though they will intermarry, this will not cause them to love one another. There will still be hatred and strife among these nations.”<sup>6</sup>

*Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. (KJV)*

“According to the commentators, Rome, in the heavenly vision (Daniel 7:8) seen by Daniel and explained by the angel, undergoes a metamorphosis from the secular power of the old empire into the religious empire, Christianity. The powerless orphan adopted by the mighty empire, originally by Emperor Constantine I and later by his successors, grew up to utilize its unique position as a state religion of the great empire and moved on to a period of unprecedented growth. Its power, whether temporal or spiritual, eclipses that of kingdoms and empires. Thus throughout our exile, the fourth kingdom is represented by the Christian church, conceived of, despite all its diverse forms, as one unit.”<sup>7</sup>

### **The False Messiah & Tribe of Dan**

The Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. IV (1912: 423-424) summarizes the rabbinic and early Christian expectations of the eschatological role that an evil man from the tribe of Dan would play in the time of the coming of the Messiah:

“Dan plays a major role in rabbinic tradition. Owing to the fact that his name, as the name of a tribe, is connected with the blasphemer and with the idolatry of northern Yisra'el (Judges 18:30; 1Kings 12:29; Amos 8:4), while Shimshon, the Judge of the tribe of Dan, proved faithless to his nazirate (Judges 13:2), Dan came to be regarded as the black sheep of the house of Jacob. His hatred of Joseph, because he brought to his father ill reports against the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, induced him to plot against Joseph's life, and he advised the brothers to deceive their father by telling that they had found the coat of Joseph dipped in blood. (Testament of the Patriarchs, Zevulun 4; Dan 1; Gad 1)...

[The rabbis found the account of] Jacob's blessing of Dan, in which he is compared to a serpent (Genesis 49: 16-18) [very telling], and the serpent is said to have been made the emblem of the tribe on its standard. But Dan became the very type of evil-doing. He was placed to the north (Numbers 2:25), this being the region of darkness and evil (Jeremiah 1:14), because of his idolatry, which wrapped the world in darkness. Still further goes a tradition which identifies the serpent (Genesis 49:17) and the lion (Deuteronomy 33:22) with Belial... Early Church Fathers (Irenæus, Hippolytus and others) have a tradition, which can only be of Jewish origin, that the Antichrist comes from the

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<sup>6</sup> The Artscroll Tanach Series. Daniel. Page 108-109.

<sup>7</sup> The Artscroll Tanach Series. Daniel. Page 105.

tribe of Dan, and based it upon Jeremiah 8:16: “The snorting of his [the enemy's] horses was heard from Dan”—a verse referred also in Genesis Rabbah xliii in reference to Dan's idolatry... (“Antichrist”...) (“De Christo et Antichristo”). Irenæus remarks that Dan is, in view of this...not in the Apocalypse (Revelation 7:5-7) among the 144000 saved ones of the twelve tribes. Nor is the omission of Dan in 1Chronicles 4 et. seq. unintentional. Bousset, who has a special chapter devoted to the [expectation of the] Dan Antichrist...believes that the connection of Dan with Belial in the Testament of the Patriarchs, Dan 5, points to the same [ancient Jewish] tradition.”<sup>8</sup>

### **Armilus, the False Messiah (Anti-Christ)**

Ancient rabbis and sages wrote extensively about the False Messiah of the last days—they identified sections in the Tanakh that portray his latter-day rise in the West. In the Aramaic Targum Yonathan, the Anti-Messiah of the acharit-yamim (Latter Days) is called Armilus in Isaiah 11:4. Armilus is a Hebraic term for Romulus, the legendary founder of the city of Rome.

Isaiah 11:4 *But with righteousness (Messiah ben David) shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and **with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*** (KJV)

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 *And then shall that **Wicked** be revealed, whom **the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth**, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, **whose coming is after the working of Satan** with all power and signs and lying wonders...(KJV)*

The Targum reads:

“...and with the speech of his lips he [Messiah] will slay the wicked Armilus.”<sup>9</sup>

In Otot ha-Mashi'ah (Midreshei Ge'ullah, p. 320), there is reference to “the Satan Armilus whom the Gentiles call Antichrist...This Armilus will deceive the whole world into believing that he is God and will reign over the entire world. He will come with ten kings and together they will fight over Jerusalem.”<sup>10</sup>

In Midrash Azeret haSh'vatim (OM, 466), the connection that the sages saw between the Rome and Armilus, is stated explicitly:

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<sup>8</sup> Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. IV (1912: 423-424)

<sup>9</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai, 1979: 156.

<sup>10</sup> Encyclopaedia Judaica Jerusalem. Under Armilus.

“And after all this, Satan will descend and go to Rome to the stone structure [statue of female goddess] and connection with it in the manner of the sexual act, and the stone will become pregnant and give birth to Armilus... And he [Armilus] will issue evil decrees against Israel, and men of good deeds will cease while men of plunder will multiply...”<sup>11</sup>

Satan's sexual relations with a statue of a beautiful woman should be interpreted in a midrashic sense, and certainly not literally. It is a metaphor for the eschatological eruption of a idolatrous religious system based in Rome—a religious system which exalts a female idol of breathtaking beauty. Satan will manage to infiltrate this system, impregnate it spiritually and use it for his own purposes to set up his anointed evil ruler over the earth at the end of days.

Revelation 13:11-15 *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.* (KJV)

Other Midrashim go on to mention that the stone statue of the woman then becomes the chief of all idolatry in the world. Armilus and his evil deeds are described in later Hebrew Midrashim now republished with detailed introduction and valuable notes, by J. Even Shemuel (Kaufmann) in his *Midreshei Ge'ullah* (1942, 19442). This Armilus will deceive the whole world into believing that he is God and will reign over the entire world. He will come with ten kings and together they will fight over Jerusalem, and Armilus will slay Nehemiah b. Hushi'el, who is Messiah the son of Joseph, as well as many righteous men with him, and "Israel will mourn for him as one that is in bitterness for his only son" (cf. Zech. 12:19–12). Armilus will banish Israel "to the wilderness" and it will be a time of unprecedented distress for Israel: there will be increasing famine, and the Gentiles will expel the Jews from their lands, and they will hide in caves and towers. Armilus will conquer not only Jerusalem but also Antioch. "He will take the stone from which he was born," and make her "the chief of all idolatry." All the Gentiles will bow down to her, burn incense and pour out libations to her, "and whosoever will venture to look upon her will be unable to do so, for no man can look upon her face by reason of her beauty" (Sefer Zerubbavel, in *Midreshei Ge'ullah*, p. 80ff.). The legendary "marble virgin" is based on the fable current in the Middle Ages, and associated with the name of Virgil, that in Rome there was a stone statue of a virgin with which the Romans had immoral relations, though it also probably contains elements of the immaculate conception and the Christian worship of images.

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<sup>11</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai, 1979: 157.

There is an interesting description of Armilus in a manuscript from Yemen that is now in the Cambridge University Library (no. 890, Add. 3381):

“And in his days will rise up a false Messiah, a speaker of lies and emptiness and deceit. And his name will grow great and his heart become haughty, and many people will go astray after him and will die. His feet will be like the feet of a bear, and his hands like the paws of a panther. He will be beautiful of eyes, and will break jaws, will roar like a young lion and growl like a lion. He will make the dead come alive, and will set free the prisoners of the pit, and open the eyes of the blind. And he will bring manna down from heaven for them, and will make rivers of honey flow in the valleys...”<sup>12</sup>

Revelation 13:2-7 *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. (KJV)*

Revelation 17:8 *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. (KJV)*

Revelation 9:1-11 *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto*

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<sup>12</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai, 1979: 152.

*scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of **the bottomless pit**, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.* (KJV)

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century rabbinic work, T'fillat Rabbi Shimon ben Yohai<sup>13</sup>, BhM 4:124-126, we read:

“...They call him Armilus. And he will go to Edom (Rome) and say to them: “I am your Messiah, I am your god!” And he will mislead them and they will instantly believe in him, and make him their king. And all the children of Esau [subjects of the Roman Empire] will gather and come to him. And he will go and announce to all the cities saying to the children of Esau: ‘Bring me my Tora which I gave you!’ And the nations of the world will come and bring the book... and he will say to them: ‘This is the book which I gave you.’ And he will [further] say to them: ‘I am your god, I am your Messiah your god!’

In that hour he will send [a messenger] to Nehemiah [i.e. Messiah ben Joseph] and to all Israel, and say to them: ‘Bring me your Tora and testify that I am god.’ Instantly all Israel becomes confused and frightened. And in that hour Nehemiah [i.e. Messiah ben Joseph] will rise...[with]...the Tora scroll...and they will read it before him: ‘I am the Lord’ and ‘Thou shall have no other gods’ (Exodus 20:2-3). And he will say: ‘There is nothing of this in your Tora, and I shall not let go of you [i.e. will not stop forcing and persecuting you] until you believe that I am god in the manner in which the nations of the world believe in me.’

Instantly Nehemiah [i.e. Messiah ben Joseph] stands up against him and says to him: ‘You are not God, but Satan’...And the wrath of Armilus is kindled, and he gathers all the armies of the nations of the world, and makes war against the children of Israel, and he slays of Israel a thousand thousands. And he also slays Nehemiah [i.e. Messiah ben Joseph] at noon-time...And those who are left of Israel will flee to the desert of the nations...Armilus will come and wage war...he will turn and put this face towards Jerusalem to destroy it a second time...

At that time Michael the Great Prince will rise and blow the shofar three times... and Messiah ben David...will be revealed... and go to Israel who are in the desert...And all Israel will know the sound of the shofar and will hear that He has redeemed Israel. And those lost in the Land of Assyria will come. And instantly the fear of the Lord will fall among the peoples and upon all the nations. And Israel will return with the Messiah until they reach the Desert of Judah, and they will meet together with all the children of Israel, and come to Jerusalem...

...And Armilus will hear that a king arose for Israel, and he will gather all the armies of all the nations of the world, and they will come to King Messiah and to Israel. And the Holy One, blessed be He, will fight for Israel and will say to the Messiah: ‘Sit at my right hand.’ And the Messiah will say to Israel: ‘Gather together and stand and see the salvation of Lord.’ And instantly the Holy One, blessed be He, will go forth, and fight against them...”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai, 1979: 157-158.

Matthew 24:30-31 *And then shall appear **the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all **the tribes of the earth mourn**, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And **he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet**, and **they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.** (KJV)*

Mark 13:14-19, 26-27 *But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then **let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains**: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be...And then shall they see **the Son of man coming in the clouds** with great power and glory. And **then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.** (KJV)*

Armilus rise in the West is portrayed in Ma'ase Dani'el, a 10th century midrash:

“And another [king, Armilus]’ will arise in the Machrev [the West]...He will capture the West. And many wicked men...will gather around him from the whole earth, and will tell him that he is the Messiah, and this rumour will spread all over the world. And the whole earth will submit to him, and he will slay those who do not submit... There will be suffering in the whole world, and they will go up to the mountains and reach their summits. And the army of Gog and Magog will join the king and go with him...And all the people will have to bear and suffer distress and much trouble, and the Children of Israel more than all the others.

...Then all Israel and their chieftains will join together and go to the desert of Ephraim, and clothe themselves in sackcloth, and sit down on the earth, and call upon God... And he [Armilus] will become angry and will command that they be killed and Messiah ben Joseph will be slain. And the Children of Israel will flee with their wives and children, together they will go to the desert, and will raise their voices in weeping and mourning, and will sit on the earth, and will cry to God...

...Then they will rise up against the man who said that he was the Messiah and will kill him. And the Lord, His Name be blessed, will appear from heaven. And a great tremor will go forth from Zion and from the Temple, and a mighty voice will be heard. And all Israel will find favor in the eyes of God. In place of destroyed Jerusalem He will bring down for them a built-up Jerusalem from heaven. And a shoot from the stem of Jesse will appear, and the banner of Messiah ben David will fly high. He will slay the army of Gog and Magog...”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> The Messiah Texts. Raphael Patai, 1979: 162-164.

## **The Eschatology of the False Messiah Armilus, Gog and Magog, and the Two Messiahs**

The prophet Ezekiel (chapters 38-39) describes a climactic battle that will be instigated by Gog and/of Magog, and will be waged against Israel and G-d. The defeat of Gog and Magog will precipitate the Messianic Redemption. It is difficult to dwell on this topic because it is so shrouded in mystery. We are uncertain as to the identity of Gog and Magog, whether Gog and Magog are the names of nations or individuals, whether this battle will be a physical or spiritual battle, and even whether it has already occurred or not.

According to tradition, the central personality in this war is Moshiach ben Yosef—Moshiach of the tribe of Joseph. Moshiach ben Yosef will be killed in the war against Gog and Magog (Armilus). Again, it is unclear whether the death will be in physical battle, or as a result of the spiritual battles which he will wage against the forces of evil. Either way, the prophet Zechariah (12:10) describes the national mourning that will follow his death. Yet, the battle in Zechariah is over Jerusalem, which is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39.

It is this writer's conjecture that since Yeshua fulfills both roles of Messiah, there must be a spiritual application to the Jewish expectation of both Messiah's to come during the Redemption. It is quite possible that all of Israel will recognize Yeshua as the one whom they have pierced during the Gog and Magog wars. It would be like Yeshua had just come and died for the nation, and now that all Israel has accepted Messiah son of Joseph (Suffering Messiah), He will return as Messiah son of David (The Great King). It is also interesting that the rabbis described the Suffering Messiah as being descended from Joseph/Ephraim of the ten northern tribes. It could be the acceptance of Messiah ben Joseph among the scattered seed of Israel that causes them to return to the Land and unite with their brethren from Judah, who also accept Yeshua. From that day forward all of Israel comes under one shepherd, Messiah ben David who returns to the Land.

The Midrashim speak of four exiles in advance of Mashiach's arrival and the Final Redemption: Babylonian, Median, Greek, and Roman (Bereishit Rabba 2:4). Yet the Zohar speaks of another aspect of exile at the End of Days: ...The descendants of Ishmael will go up at that time [End of Days] with the nations of the world against Jerusalem... (Zohar 1:119a). There is a tradition that Ishmael will be the final extension of the Roman Exile. It will be with his descendants that the final generation of Jews before the redemption will have to contend.

According to the Aramaic translation of the Bible, the ingathering of the exiles will come only after the defeat of Gog and Magog (Targ. Jon. Num. 11:26). At the end, the very end of days, Gog and Magog and their armies [Armilus] shall go up against Jerusalem, but they shall fall by the hand of the King Messiah. This period of ingathering will have two phases: Pre-Moshiach and Post-Moshiach. During the Pre-Moshiach period, history will still be subject to hidden Divine Providence. There will be limited aliyah (immigration) to Israel, but many situations will force Jews around the world to reconcile their feelings regarding the Land of Israel and redemption.

During that phase, it may look as if not much is happening to help the process of exile-ingathering, when in fact, a hidden winnowing process could be in full swing. Some Jews may feel a yearning to live in Israel, whether they will get there or not, while others may feel disenchanting and neutral to the idea of living on the land. At that time, the importance of one's feelings and attachment to the Land of Israel may be virtually unnoticeable to most people. However, many midrashim explain that where a person stood with respect to the concept of living in Israel and their drive for closeness to G-d will make an important difference during Phase Two.

Rabbi Zamir Cohen talks about Gog and Magog, a battle between Christians and Moslems over the city of Jerusalem at the end of days. He says to watch out when Edom (the West led by the USA) will no longer be friendly to Israel, that is when redemption is very close.

The children of Ishmael are destined to provoke great wars in the world. The children of Edom will gather together against them and challenge them. There will be one war on the sea, one on land, and one in the vicinity of Jerusalem. They [i.e. the children of Edom and the children of Ishmael] will alternate in dominating one another. But the Holy Land will not be given to the children of Edom. (Zohar Parashas Va'era 32a)

The Gemara (Tractate Sota) states that prior to the coming of the Messiah, it's [the Jewish State] reign will be profane like one of the heathen nations. The modern State of Israel is set up as a European style democracy. Democracy is not a biblical political structure. Democracy can be (and has been) easily corrupted to serve the interests of the powerful.

In Baba Batra, a parable is given which in turn has been interpreted by Gaon of Liza to mean that the Jewish people would return to the land of Israel, would rule over another nation (the Palestinians) that presumably could not overcome the Jewish people. The Jewish people would subdue and subjugate them until they were so vexed that they would turn on the Jewish people and openly struggle against them. The Jewish state would become so entrenched with chaos and terror that had not the Redemption been so near they would have drowned in a sea of troubles. This series of events is exactly what has transpired in modern Israel.

The MALBIM states that the war of Gog and Magog will be a Holy War over Jerusalem fought between the Christians and Muslims who once they arrive in the Land of Israel, undoubtedly on the Megiddo plain, will begin to fight among themselves and be destroyed.

### **Gog and Magog Side Notes**

Before 500 AD, references to Gog and Magog occur in the preserved sermons and letters of St. Jerome and other early Christians. These references indicated that the names had become associated with threats to Christendom. In other words, the names were used allegorically to represent invasion of the Christian lands and/or oppression of Christians. Gog and Magog are used, as Rome and Babylon are used in the book of Revelation, as archtypes of worldly rebellion against God and God's kingdom.

## Skull and Bones

The name Magog is traditionally assigned to the incoming Skull and Bones fraternity members at Yale deemed to have had the most sexual experience, and Gog goes to the new member with the least sexual experience. William Howard Taft and Robert Taft were Magogs. So, interestingly, was George Bush nickname Magog.

## President Bush

In 2003 while lobbying leaders to put together the Coalition of the Willing, President Bush spoke to France's President Jacques Chirac. Bush wove a story about how the Biblical creatures Gog and Magog were at work in the Middle East and how they must be defeated. Bush told Chirac, "This confrontation is willed by God, who wants to use this conflict to erase his people's enemies before a New Age begins."

The story was confirmed by Chirac himself in a new book, published in France in March (2007), by journalist Jean Claude Maurice. Chirac is said to have been stupefied and disturbed by Bush's invocation of Biblical prophecy to justify the war in Iraq and wondered how someone could be so superficial and fanatical in their beliefs."

## The Bush Scroll

In the last year of President Bush's office (2009), he went to Israel in attempt to keep the so-called peace process alive. Certain esteemed rabbis joined forces to write what has become known as the Bush Scroll. These leading rabbis used their connections to make sure that the scroll was hand delivered to President Bush. The scroll outlines as leader of the west, President Bush could set the tone as did Cyrus of Persia in the past, and recognize Israel's right to the entire Holy Land. It is interesting, that the scroll identifies President Bush as "Gog," the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. The rabbis definitely believe that Gog is tied to Edom-Rome, leader of the West.

28 TEVET, 5768 • JANUARY 6, 2008

IN THE NAME OF THE *LORD*, ETERNAL GOD

TO THE HONORABLE MR. GEORGE W. BUSH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**W**HO COMES SEEKING THE PRESENCE OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, TO JERUSALEM, CITY OF GOD, DIVINELY CHOSEN SITE OF THE HOLY TEMPLE, ETERNAL CAPITAL OF OUR LAND, "THE JOY OF THE ENTIRE EARTH" (PSALMS 48:3), MAY IT BE REBUILT AND ESTABLISHED SPEEDILY AND IN OUR DAYS. AMEN!

ESTEEMED MR. GEORGE W. BUSH, THE CHIEF PRINCE OF  
MESHECH AND TUBAL (EZEKIEL 38:3), LEADER OF THE WEST!

**U**PON YOUR ARRIVAL IN JERUSALEM, YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE A DECLARATION, AS DID CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA - WHOSE MEMORY IS HONORED - WHO IN THE YEAR 538 BCE RETURNED THE EXILED NATIONS TO THEIR LANDS AND RECOGNIZED THE FULL RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO REESTABLISH THEIR HOLY TEMPLE, THE "HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS" (ISAIAH 56:7), AND CALLED UPON THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR LAND.

AND IN THE MANNER OF LORD JAMES BALFOUR OF ENGLAND, WHO IN 1917, CALLED UPON THE JEWS TO REESTABLISH A NATIONAL HOMELAND IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL.

**A**ND THUS IF YOU TRULY DESIRE PEACE AND BENEVOLENCE, AND YOU WOULD BE COUNTED IN THE COMPANY OF THE TRULY RIGHTEOUS, WE CALL UPON YOU TO DECLARE TO ALL THE WORLD:

**T**HE LAND OF ISRAEL WAS BEQUEATHED TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL BY THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD. NEITHER COULD I AS A SON OF MY FAITH, NOR THE MUSLIMS ACCORDING TO THEIR FAITH, EVER TAKE AWAY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST GRAIN FROM THE ETERNAL'S GIFT, WHICH HE GAVE TO HIS PEOPLE ISRAEL, THE ETERNAL PEOPLE. THUS I CALL

UPON ALL THE NATIONS TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM CERTAIN DOOM, TO RETURN AND RECOGNIZE THAT THIS LAND IS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, AS IS WRITTEN IN THE TORAH OF ISRAEL, WHICH CONSTITUTES THE VERY FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH, AS WELL AS THAT OF ISLAM, AND IS THE BASIS FOR THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. HE WHO DENIES THIS TRUTH ENDANGERS ALL LIFE ON EARTH.

**I** SHALL DEDICATE ALL MY STRENGTH AND RESOURCES TOWARDS SETTLING THE JEWISH PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LAND. I SHALL GREATLY ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER THE JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD TO RISE UP TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL AND TO SETTLE IT, TO ESTABLISH GOD'S SANCTUARY IN JERUSALEM, TO DISTANCE STRANGERS FROM IT AND THUS, I BELIEVE, I WILL BE MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS WORLD PEACE.

I CANNOT SIMULTANEOUSLY SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOREIGN STATE FOR AN ALIEN NATION IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL, AND I WILL NOT LEND MY HAND TO THIS WRONG.

OR - HEAVEN FORBID - YOU CAN CHOOSE THE SECOND OPTION - TO WILLFULLY AID IN THE DESTRUCTION, UNDER THE GUISE OF PEACE!

**D**OU CERTAINLY KNOW WHAT THE GOD OF ISRAEL DID TO EGYPT AND ASSYRIA AND TO ALL ISRAEL'S ENEMIES FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL. DO YOU IMAGINE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOURSELF IF YOU HAVE COME TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN THAT INTENDS TO STEAL THE LAND OF "THE PEOPLE THAT SURVIVED THE SWORD" (JEREMIAH 31:3), AND TO CUT OFF THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST, TO ROB THE LAND THAT WAS GIVEN TO THEM BY THE CREATOR?

**A**LL OF THE PEACE TREATIES AND INITIATIVES WHICH HAVE BEEN BASED UPON THE DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, INDEED THE ENTIRE OSLO PROCESS, AND THE "DISENGAGEMENT," AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TERRORIST STATE WITHIN THE LAND OF ISRAEL KNOWN AS "PALESTINE" - REGRETTABLY, ALL OF THESE AGREEMENTS ARE THE RESULT OF A LACK OF SUFFICIENT FAITH IN THE DIVINE PROMISES THAT THE LORD MADE TO THE PATRIARCHS OF OUR NATION, AND ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN THE TORAH OF ISRAEL UNDERSTAND THIS WELL: THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD CANNOT EXCUSE THEIR ACTIONS AND THEIR DECISIONS ON ACCOUNT OF THE WEAKNESS OF ISRAEL AND HER GOVERNMENT. GOD ORDAINED THAT THE ROLE OF THE

NATIONS OF THE WORLD IS TO STRENGTHEN THE NATION OF ISRAEL. THIS WILL BENEFIT ALL HUMANITY AND BRING ABOUT WORLD PEACE, AS THE PROPHETS HAVE FORETOLD.

DO YOU IMAGINE YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM THE STRUGGLES IN IRAN, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, EGYPT, AND LEBANON, BY OFFERING UP SACRIFICES OF THE JEWS WHO ARE SLAUGHTERED DAILY BY THEIR ENEMIES WHO SPEAK OF PEACE BUT LIVE BY THE SWORD?

**U**PON YOUR ARRIVAL IN OUR LAND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT YOU BRING JONATHAN POLLARD HOME WITH YOU. BRING HIM HOME TO ISRAEL. HE IS AN EMISSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, AND HE ACTED ON BEHALF OF OUR PEOPLE. AUTHORIZE HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE WHILE YOU ARE YET IN JERUSALEM. BEFORE YOU RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, THIS WILL BE A POSITIVE STEP THAT WILL BUILD CONFIDENCE.

REMEMBER OUR FOREFATHER ABRAHAM, WHO PURSUED THE WORLD'S FOUR GREATEST KINGS IN ORDER TO REDEEM HIS NEPHEW FROM CAPTIVITY. WE CANNOT FORGET THE DEEDS OF OUR PATRIARCHS, WHOSE EXAMPLE GUIDES US THROUGH EVERY GENERATION.

**W**E ARE THE LOYAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, THE NEW JEWISH CONGRESS, AND ITS COURT OF LAW, THE SANHEDRIN, AS WELL AS THE TEMPLE AND TEMPLE MOUNT MOVEMENTS. BUT WE MERELY REITERATE HEREIN WHAT IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

**N**O GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL AND NO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAS THE POWER OR RIGHT TO ALTER, BY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE, OUR COVENANT WITH GOD AND THE WORDS OF OUR HOLY TORAH, WHICH ARE EVERLASTING, AS EXPRESSED BY THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND EVEN BY THE WICKED PROPHET BALAAM: "THEN HE LOOKED ON AMALEK AND UTTERED HIS ORACLE, SAYING: 'FIRST AMONG THE NATIONS WAS AMALEK, BUT ITS END IS TO PERISH FOR EVER' (NUMBERS 24:20). THUS ANY DESIRE, PLAN OR AGREEMENT THAT CHALLENGES THE ETERNAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ACTIVE POSSESSION OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL OVER HER ENTIRE LAND IS UTTERLY WORTHLESS, AND HAS NO BASIS IN REALITY.

THEREFORE IT BEHOOVES YOU TO DECLARE: "I, GEORGE BUSH, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL INSTRUCT ALL OF MY TROOPS TO PROTECT


THE DIVINE RIGHTS OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND REMOVE FROM HER ANY THREAT."

**B**EFORE YOU IS A CHOICE. YOU CAN MERIT TO ETERNAL LIFE, OR BE INSCRIBED FOR ETERNAL DISGRACE. YOUR FATE AND THAT OF ALL THOSE WITH YOU HANGS IN THE BALANCE OF THE DESTINY OF OUR LAND.

"AND YOU SHALL CHOOSE LIFE" (DEUT. 30:19).

IN SINCERE SUPPLICATION - IN THE NAME OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

  
Dr. Gadi Eshel  
THE NEW JEWISH CONGRESS

  
Rabbi A. Even Yisrael Steinzaltz  
THE SANHEDRIN

  
Rabbi Chaim Richman  
THE HOLY TEMPLE AND TEMPLE MOUNT MOVEMENTS

