

# PART 14

## Typical Jewish Objections to the Gospel

# We are looking for a reigning king!

One of the stronger arguments that Jewish people make in their rejection of Jesus as Messiah is that they are looking for a reigning king and not a crucified and rejected man.

Actually contained in this argument are two different reasons many Jewish people have for rejecting Jesus. First, they believe that the Messiah will be a reigning king. Historically Jesus not only failed to reign, He was crucified as a criminal. Second, they believe that Jesus was a man but not God incarnate as Christians believe. We have already answered the argument regarding the deity of Jesus, so we will now deal with the first part of the objection that Jewish people are looking for a reigning king and not a rejected and crucified man.

In part 3 of this series on Jewish objections (available at [www.lighttoisrael.com/Objections.htm](http://www.lighttoisrael.com/Objections.htm)) we considered the rabbinic motif of the divergent Messianic prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures. One set of prophecies describes a suffering servant (see Isaiah 53 and Zechariah 12:10ff). This line of Messianic prophecy was described by the rabbis as Messiah ben Joseph (Messiah the son of Joseph). He was so named because in considering him, the rabbis saw a description that was similar to Joseph, the beloved son of Jacob.

### A Brief Look at the Life of Joseph

- He was his father's beloved son.
- He was despised by his brothers.
- He was betrayed for silver coins after his brethren plotted, betrayed and sold him.
- He was falsely accused and imprisoned.
- He was imprisoned with two criminals; one lives, one dies.
- He was then exalted to the right hand of Pharaoh, authority given to Him over all Egypt.
- He then took a gentile bride.
- Later, during 7 years of hard famine, Joseph's brothers were forced to come to him.
- At first they didn't recognize Joseph and he treated them harshly to bring repentance.
- He revealed himself to his brothers and they were reconciled with many tears.
- He treated his brothers with kindness saying 'What you meant for evil, God meant for good, to accomplish...the saving of many lives.'

## *We are looking for a reigning king! continued*

The other line of prophecies is described in the Talmud (rabbinical commentaries on the Hebrew Scriptures) as Messiah ben David (Messiah son of David). These prophecies describe the conquering king who, like King David, would bring Israel into its glory by overcoming its enemies and leading Israel and the nations into the promised kingdom of eternal peace.

### **A Brief Look at the Ruling Messiah**

- He will rule from the throne of David.
- He will be a descendant in the line of David.
- He will rule over the entire earth forever.
- He will bring universal peace to society and to nature.
- He will bring God's kingdom to the earth.
- He will be the ultimate Judge

When you are sharing with a Jewish person who objects by saying the Messiah will be a reigning king, it is important to begin a discussion regarding the Messiah ben Joseph motif of messianic prophecies that is quoted in the Talmud.

Here are some helpful insights from Rachmiel Frydland, a beloved man who mentored me when I was a new Jewish believer and who extensively studied the Talmud:

*When it comes to the resurrection of the Messiah, Talmudic sources are relatively scant. Some Talmudic sources, however, imply<sup>1</sup>, and later rabbinic sources express<sup>2</sup>, that Messiah Ben Joseph, the Suffering Messiah, was to be resurrected from the dead. As concerning the Messiah it is clear from Scripture that, though he would suffer a death of crucifixion<sup>3</sup>, He would not be left in the grave<sup>4</sup>. The prophet Zechariah, who spoke of Messiah being pierced through<sup>5</sup>, also speaks of him as coming back in power and ruling from Jerusalem as King<sup>6</sup>. Isaiah, who prophesies his painful and humiliating death, also refers to him as El Gibor — the Mighty God<sup>7</sup>, who sits on the throne of David forever<sup>8</sup>.*

*Who is this Resurrected Messiah? It is no secret that vast multitudes believe that it is Yeshua (Jesus) resurrected*

*from death after his crucifixion by the Romans. It is, of course, possible that these people have been deluded into believing a lie. One scholar even went so far as to maintain that Yeshua never really died but was drugged on the crucifixion stake<sup>9</sup>. However, the evidence of the resurrection is extremely strong, and conceded by a renowned modern Jewish scholar<sup>10</sup>.*

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Jesus came in His first coming as the Suffering Servant and He will return someday as the Conquering King.

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<sup>1</sup>Sanhedrin 97a; Ketubot 111b

life Messiah Ben Joseph, and then the rest of the dead see Galut p. 315. By Yitzhak Baer Publisher. New York: Schocken Books 81947.

<sup>3</sup>Psalms 22:14-16. Psalm 16:8-11

<sup>5</sup>Zechariah 12:10

<sup>6</sup>Zechariah 14:4, 16-17

<sup>7</sup>Isaiah 9:6 <sup>8</sup>Isaiah 9:7

<sup>9</sup>Hugh J. Schonfield, *The Passover Plot: A New Light on the History of*

Jesus (Bernard Geis 1965)

<sup>10</sup>Dr. Pinchas Lapide (See TIME Magazine May, 1979). See also, Pinchas Lapide, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective* (Augsburg 1983).

<sup>2</sup>Messiah Ben Joseph will be pierced through by Armilus. after which there will be much tribulation. Then, the Messiah, called Menahem Ben Ami-El, appears to the remnant of Israel. He, together with Elijah, brings to