

MESSIANIC JUDAISM

- Jews who believe that Jesus was the promised messiah
- Jews who believe a person other than Jesus was the Messiah (*such as Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson*)
- Jews who believe that the Messiah has not yet come

NON-MESSIANIC JUDAISM

- Jews who focus on things like “ethical monotheism,” rather than on the concept of a coming messiah

The Meaning of “MESSIAH”

HEBREW

מָשִׁיחַ
meshiach

GREEK (LXX)

χριστοῦ
christos

ENGLISH

*anointed
one*

Psalm 2:2 “The kings of the earth set themselves...against the LORD and against his ANOINTED...7 The LORD said to me, ‘You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession...’ Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

ANCIENT JEWISH

INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MESSIAH



1ENOCH (52:3 • 150 BC)

“The Lord’s **MESSIAH** [shall] give orders and be praised upon the earth”

DEAD SEA SCROLLS (4Q521, 1QSa 2:12 • 100 BC)

“Heaven and earth shall listen to his **MESSIAH**” | “...when God has fathered the **MESSIAH**”

4EZRA (12:32 • *Late 1st Century AD*)

“This is the **MESSIAH** whom the Most High has kept until the end of days, who will arise from the posterity of David”

MISHNA (Sota 9:15 • *2nd Century AD*)

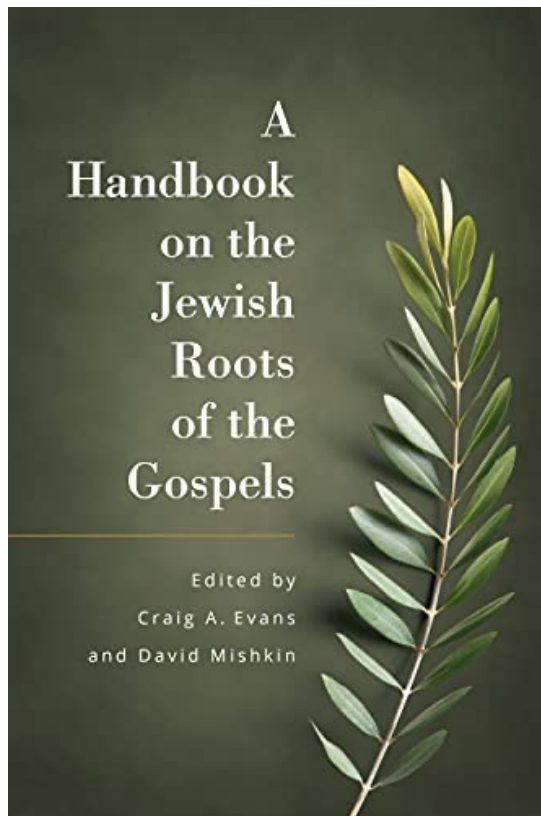
With the footprints of the **MESSIAH**: presumption and dearth increase. The vine gives its fruit and wine at great cost. And the government turns to heresy.

ARAMAIC TARGUM (Isaiah 9:6 • *2nd Century AD*)

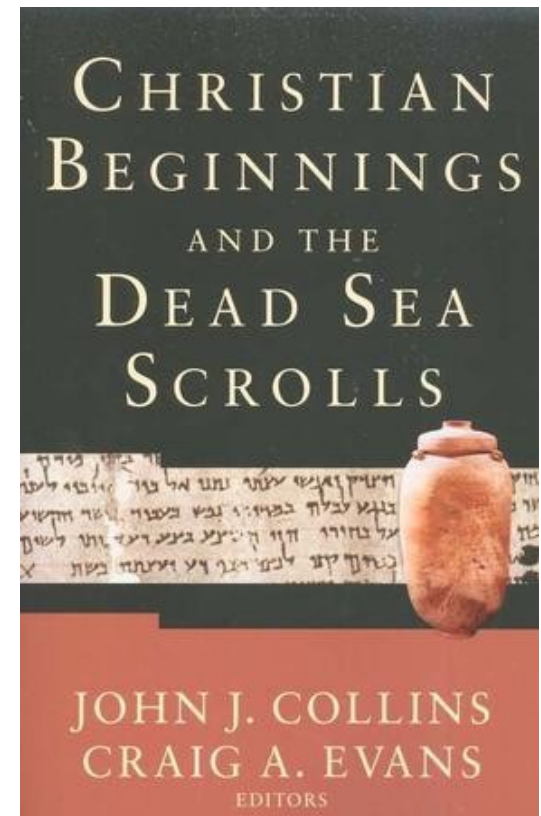
“The prophet said to the house of David that a boy has been born to us, a son has been given to us, and he has received the Torah upon himself to keep it. And his name has been called from before the One Who Causes Wonderful Counsel, God the Warrior, the Eternally Existing One—the **MESSIAH** who will increase peace upon us in his days.”

THE MELCHIZEDEK SCROLL

(11Q13 • 100 BC)



New Testament Scholar
Craig Evans



11Q13

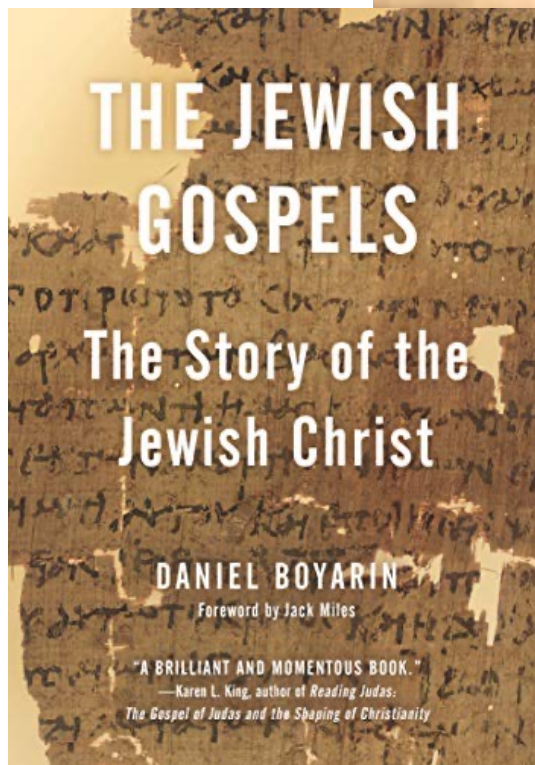
“The Melchizedek Scroll”

“The year of jubilee...applies to the last days and concerns the captives, just as Isaiah said: ‘To proclaim the jubilee to the captives’ (Is. 61:1, cf. Lk. 4:16ff)...for they are the inheritance of Melchizedek, who will return them to what is rightfully theirs. He will proclaim to them the jubilee, thereby

releasing them from the debt of all their

sins...he shall atone for all the sons of light...For this is the time decreed for ‘**the year of Melchizedek’s favor**’” (cf. Is. 61:2 which refers to “the year of Yahweh’s favor”)...This visitation is the day of salvation that he has decreed through Isaiah the prophet concerning all the captives, inasmuch as Scripture says, ‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, Your divine being reigns’” (Is. 52:7). This scripture’s interpretation: the mountains are the prophets, they who were sent to proclaim God’s truth and to prophesy to all Israel. And the messenger is the **ANOINTED** of the Spirit, of whom Daniel spoke, ‘After the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off’ (Dan. 9:26). The ‘messenger who brings good news, who announces salvation’ is the one of whom it is written, ‘to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn’ (Is. 61:2)...‘**Your divine being**’ is **Melchizedek**...”





DANIEL BOYARIN

Professor of Talmud at The University of Berkeley,
who appears on episode #38 of *The Humble Skeptic* podcast

11Q13 *“The messenger is the ANOINTED of the Spirit, of whom Daniel spoke...”*

DANIEL 9:24-27

Seventy sevens (490 years) are decreed about your people and your holy city, to bring the rebellion to an end, to put an end to sin, **to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy**, and to anoint the holy of holies. Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until an Anointed One, the ruler, will be seven sevens and sixty-two sevens. It will be rebuilt with a plaza and a moat, but in difficult times. After those sixty-two weeks **the ANOINTED ONE will be cut off** and will have nothing. The people of the coming ruler will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come with a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. He will confirm covenant with many for one week, and in the middle of the week he will **put an end to sacrifice and offering**.

Flavius Josephus

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FROM THE
SLAVONIC EDITION OF THE JEWISH WAR

“When the priests met to discuss Herod’s rise to power, one of them said, “We know that Herod is an Arab, and uncircumcised. The ANOINTED ONE will be called meek, but this king has filled our whole land with blood...Is he the hope of the nations?...Consider Daniel’s prophecy. For he writes that after the return [of the exiles] the city of Jerusalem will stand for seventy-sevens, that is 490 years, and then will be laid waste...But the Holy of Holies, where is he? For the prophet cannot be calling Herod holy, for he is bloodthirsty and foul” (Slavonic edition of *The Jewish War*, 19.2)



JOSEPHUS (*War*, 6.5.4 standard Greek edition)

What did most elevate [the Jews] in undertaking this war, was an ambiguous oracle that was found in their sacred writings, that about that time, one from their country should become governor of the habitable earth...Now, this oracle certainly denoted the government of Vespasian, who was appointed emperor in Judea. | *Note the different wording in the Slavonic version of this passage: “Some thought it referred to Herod, others the crucified miracle worker, others Vespasian” Perhaps this additional material was removed when this work was translated into Greek?*

JOSEPHUS (*Antiquities*, 20.9.1 standard Greek edition)

Festus was now dead...so [Ananus] assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them James, the brother of Jesus who was called Christ, along with some of his companions; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned. But...the most equitable of the citizens...disliked what was done...and king Agrippa took the high priesthood from him.

JOSEPHUS (*Antiquities*, 10.11.7 standard Greek edition)

[Daniel] did not only prophecy of future events, as did the other prophets, but also determined the time of their accomplishment... He said that there should arise a certain king that...should spoil the temple, and forbid the sacrifices to be offered for three years' time. And indeed it so came to pass, that our nation suffered these things under Antiochus Epiphanes...In the very same manner Daniel also wrote concerning the Roman government, and that our country should be made desolate by them.



Bust of Flavius Josephus

11Q13 “This VISITATION is the day of salvation that he decreed through Isaiah...”

The Song of the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:7 – 53:12)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”...The LORD has displayed his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God...See, my servant will be successful; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted...His appearance was marred beyond human recognition—so **he will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of him...He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows...He was pierced for our transgressions...**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all..He was **cut off from the land of the living**; he was struck because of my people’s rebellion. And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Out of the anguish of his soul **he shall see light** and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities...**He shall divide the spoil with the strong...**

THE SONG OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

— According
to the
Aramaic
Targum

BEHOLD, My servant the **MESSIAH** will be successful; he will be lifted up and increase and be very strong...*He will scatter many nations.* Kings will be silent on account of him...Then the glory of all *the kingdoms will become a disgrace, and will be cut off; they will be weak and sick, as a man of suffering...*they are despised and not esteemed. **Then our iniquities will be forgiven on account of him**, though we are reckoned as beaten and afflicted with blows...*He will rebuild the temple* that was defiled by our sins, handed over by our iniquities...We have gone into exile each to his own way, and **it was pleasing from before the Lord to forgive all of us our sins on account of him**...He will remove the rule of the nations from the land of Israel...They will see the kingdom of their **MESSIAH**...*He will deliver their life from the servitude of the nations...*By his wisdom *he will justify the righteous to subject many to the Torah*, and he will entreat for their sins. Then I will divide the plunder of many nations for him...because he handed his life over to death.

An Ancient QUMRAN Hymn



There are none comparable to me in my glory, no one besides me shall be exalted. For I have dwelt on high in the heavens (Is. 52:13). I am reckoned with the divine beings and my abode is in the holy congregation. Who is considered as contemptible as I am? And who has been despised like me? Who like me is rejected by men (Is. 53:3). Who is comparable to me in my glory?...Who has borne troubles like me (Is. 53:4)? To whom shall you compare with me in my teaching For I have dwelt on high in the heavens. Who is like me among the divine beings? Who can endure the utterance of my lips? For I am the beloved of the King...and to my glory no one compares (Is 42:8, 48:11). Sing praise to the King of glory. Light shines out and joy pours forth...fear ceases, a fountain for eternal blessing opens. **Iniquity is ended...and guilt shall be no more** (4Q427, 431, 471, 491, 1Qha).

Help Support the work of
The Humble Skeptic podcast



<https://www.humbleskeptic.com/p/how-to-support-the-humble-skeptic>