

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF CHAUTAUQUA

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Historical Sketches – Week 2 – 2021

1. Therefore, if a person will arise, whether Jew or gentile, and perform a sign or wonder and say that G-d sent him to:
 - a) add a mitzvah, b) withdraw a mitzvah c) explain a mitzvah in a manner which differs from the tradition received from Moses, or d) if he says that the mitzvot commanded to the Jews are not forever, but rather were given for a limited time, he is a false prophet. He comes to deny the prophecy of Moses...

G-d, blessed be His name, commanded Moses that this commandment is for us and our children forever, and, G-d is not man that He speak falsely. (Maimonides, Hilchot Yesodei HaTorah 9:2)
2. Principle twelve: *“I believe with complete faith in the coming of Mashiach. Though he tarry, nonetheless I await him every day, that he will come.”* (Maimonides, Thirteen Principles of Faith)
3. *“Happy are all those that wait for him.”* (Isaiah 30:18)
4. In the future the Messianic king will arise and restore the Kingdom of David to its original state and sovereignty, rebuild the *Bet Hamikdash* (Holy Temple of Jerusalem), gather the dispersed of Israel, and in his days all the laws of the Torah shall be reinstated as they had been aforesaid.
Whoever does not believe in him, or whoever does not look forward to (and anticipate) his coming, denies not only [the words of] the other prophets but also [those of] the *Torah* [the Five Books of Moses] and of Moses our Teacher! For the *Torah* testifies about him, as it is said: *“G-d, your G-d, will return your captivity and have compassion on you. He will return and gather you... If your dispersed be in the utmost end of the heavens... G-d will bring you...”* (Deuteronomy 30:3-5) These words, explicitly stated in the *Torah*, compound all the things spoken by all the prophets. (Maimonides, Hilchot Melachim 11:1)
5. *“I shall give My Sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling-place shall be over them... The nations shall know that I am G-d who sanctifies Israel, when My Sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forever.”* (Ezekiel 37:26-28)
6. *“G-d, your G-d, shall bring back your captivity... and He will return and gather you from all the nations whither G-d, your G-d, has scattered you. If your banished shall be at the utmost end of the heavens, G-d, your G-d, shall gather you from there, and He shall take you from there.”* (Deuteronomy 30:3-4)
7. *“I shall return the captivity of My people Israel and they shall build the waste cities and settle... I shall plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be plucked out of their land that I have given them, says G-d, your G-d.”* (Amos 9:14-15)
8. *“Therefore behold, days shall come, says G-d, that they shall no longer say, ‘As G-d lives who has taken up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt;’ but ‘As G-d lives who has taken up and brought the seed of the House of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where He had banished them,’ and they shall dwell in their land.”* (Jeremiah 23:7-8)
9. The Messianic era will mark the end of evil and sin:
10. On that day, a spring shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for purification and for sprinkling... and the spirit of contamination I will remove from the earth. (Zacharia 13:2)
11. *“Your people shall all be righteous, they shall inherit the land forever...”* (Isaiah 60:21)
12. *“In those days and in that time, says G-d, the iniquity of Israel shall be searched for but it will not be, and the sins of Judah but they shall not be found...”* (Jeremiah 50:20)
13. The Messianic era will be a time of universal awareness, perception and knowledge of G-d:
14. *“...the earth shall be full of knowledge of G-d as the waters cover the sea.”* (Isaiah 11:9: (cf. Habakuk 2:14))
15. *“The glory of G-d shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see together that the mouth of G-d has spoken.”* (Isaiah 40:5)
16. *“...for eye to eye they shall see as G-d returns to Zion.”* (Isaiah 52:8)
17. *“...I shall put My teaching in their inward parts and write it in their heart, and I shall be to them for G-d and they shall be to Me for a people. They shall no longer teach one another, and a man his brother, saying ‘Know G-d,’ for they shall all know Me from the least of them to the greatest of them...”* (Jeremiah 31:32-33)

18. "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation shall not lift a sword against nation, nor shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4 and Michah 4:3) [Michah 4:4 continues: "Each man shall sit under his vine and under his fig-tree, and none shall make them afraid..."]
19. All will be healed. (*Bereishit Rabba* 20:56)
20. "The eyes of the blind shall be clearsighted, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened... the lame shall leap as a hart and the tongue of the dumb shall sing..." (Isaiah 35:5-6).
21. Death itself shall cease, as it is said, "Death shall be swallowed up forever and G-d shall wipe the tears from every face..." (Isaiah 25:8)
22. "Your dead shall be revived, my corpses shall arise; awaken and sing you who dwell in the dust, for a dew of lights is your dew..." (Isaiah 26:19)
23. The Time Immediately Before Mashiach there will be an increase in insolence and impudence; oppressing inflation; unbridled irresponsibility on the part of authorities; centers of learning will turn into bawdy houses; wars; many destitutes begging, with none to pity them; wisdom shall be putrid; the pious shall be despised; truth will be abandoned; the young will insult the old; family-breakup with mutual recriminations; impudent leadership. (Talmud, Tractate Sotah 49b)
24. Other sources add: lack of scholars; succession of troubles and evil decrees; famines; mutual denunciations; epidemics of terrible diseases; poverty and scarcity; cursing and blaspheming; international confrontations nations provoking and fighting each other. There are also good and happy signs indicating the imminent coming of Mashiach: a good measure of prosperity; a renewal of Torah-study. (Talmud, Sanhedrin 97a)
25. Opening of the "gates of wisdom above and the wellsprings of wisdom below," Both, secular wisdom and also a manifestation and propagation of the mystical teachings of the Torah; (Zohar I, 117a-118a) and also "In the time that Mashiach will awaken, many signs and miracles will occur in the world." (ibid, II 8b)
26. Mashiach is a human being, born in normal fashion of human parents. The only qualification about his origins is that he is a descendant of King David, through the lineage of his son Solomon. From his birth onwards his righteousness will increase continually, and by virtue of his deeds he will merit sublime levels of spiritual perfection. (See, Mashiach in Jewish Law by Dr, Immanuel Shochat, Chapter 4 for sources)
27. "In every generation is born a progeny of Judah fit to be Israel's Mashiach!" (R. Ovadiah of Bartenura, Ruth)
28. "The *tzadik* himself does not realize this potential. Because of our sins many such *tzadikim* passed away already. We did not merit that the Messianic spirit was conferred upon them. They were fit and appropriate for this, but their generations were not fit..." (*Sdei Chemed*, Pe'at Hasadeh: Kelalim, s.v. aleph:sect. 70)
29. Regarding the name of Mashiach, different authorities suggested different names: Shiloh, Yinon, Chaninah and Menachem, [RASHI: each school picked the name of its own master]. (Talmud, tractate Sanhedrin 98b) The implication is clear: each school regarded its own master as the most likely potential Mashiach of that generation by virtue of his saintliness and perfection; (Mashiach in Jewish Law, ibid)
30. If a king will arise from the House of David who diligently contemplates the Torah and observes its mitzvot as prescribed by the Written Law and the Oral Law as David, his ancestor, will compel all of Israel to walk in (the way of the Torah) and rectify the breaches in its observance, and fight the wars of G-d, we may, with assurance, consider him Mashiach.
If he succeeds in the above, builds the Temple in its place, and gathers the dispersed of Israel, he is definitely the Mashiach.
He will then improve the entire world, motivating all the nations to serve G-d together... (Maimonides, ibid 11:4)
31. "Tzipita liyeshu'ah did you look forward to salvation?" (Talmud, Tractate Shabbat 31a)

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This week's classes are sponsored by Eliana Bar-Shalom and her family in loving memory of her husband,
Jerome A. Shaffer (4/2/1929 – 11/17/2016) Philosopher and Therapist.