

Messianic Hope Today



Today, the Christian church and the Jews of Judaism find themselves at a critical juncture: Whenever they fix their eyes on each other, they see their messianic expectations disappointed and fail to grasp their one messianic hope in Yeshua.

Most Jews say Christendom has not produced a righteous and peaceful world that evidences the presence of Messiah at its head, therefore Jesus, the Gentile (Ok, he's a Jew...) cannot be the Messiah. There is another Messiah for the Jews. The predicament of the new nation of Israel in a troubled Middle East excites messianic fervor further in the land. But an emotional stronghold prevents most Jews from considering his claims in the light of the history of Jewish persecution by those who claimed to be his followers. Yet another Christianity composed of righteous Gentiles exists, and its Scriptures not only condemn the unrighteous anti-Semitism in the church, but they speak of a Messiah who will bring justice and peace to the earth, but from Zion. Israel will be first in the work of Messianic restoration. Then all nations will be judged and not just to the Jews, but all remnant nations will worship him. So what will it be: One Messiah for all, or two Messiahs, one for the Jews and one for the Gentiles? The one Messiah view and the two Messiahs view cannot both be right. Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:6; Psalm 2:6-12; Psalm 110.

Most Christians say the resurrected nation of Israel is a return by sinners in unbelief in a state that displays all the modern signs of unregenerate government. They do not deserve the land promised to Abraham because the Mosaic covenant has a conditional stipulation of "righteousness in the land" as a sign of covenant faithfulness. Israel must then be treated as any other nation, and this means, she should not displace the inhabitants of the land it "occupies." In view of the fact that most present nations have done historically that very crime in their own land, what the issue really is must be rephrased. Israel has no right to be treated like any other nation. Therefore it must be the perfect nation, that only Messiah will establish, if He so desires. This wait-and-see attitude leads most Christians to view the regathering of Israel is neither an act of God worthy of prophetic significance, nor a sign of the Messiah's imminent return. In still rejecting their Jewish Messiah Yeshua, Israel's secular leadership cannot manifest God's presence among them, therefore the nations, especially Christian nations, have more claim to the Holy Land than the Jews do. Entire church denominations steeped in replacement theology prefer to ignore the precarious fate of the Jews and Israel in the face of the new anti-Semitism in the form of anti-

Zionism and choose a policy of divestment towards Israel. As a result, eschatological views abound, but the hope of Jesus Christ's Return is decreasing in the hearts of many. Some proclaim the messianic kingdom is already here, and that the church, by her own efforts, will bring righteousness upon the whole earth. But if Messiah reigns upon the earth from heaven, why can't unbelievers perceive him? Why is evil increasing? Many will rationalize that He can be seen with spiritual eyes only and that good is increasing, even though this contradicts the word of the Prophets concerning the end, including the Testimony of Jesus which is now the spirit of prophecy. Others say, Messiah will return, but not for Israel or in Israel. But can God's Word on the role of the nation Israel in the Last Days through His prophets be so readily dismissed?

The task of the reconciliation of the Bride before the Bridegroom (Messiah) comes is also ignored. Instead two current trends reveal we may be preparing ourselves to behold a counterfeit messiah that will present us a "politically correct" interpretation of reconciliation, unity and peace clothed in a new world spiritualism:

1. There is no true seeking of reconciliation, and unity among the nations in Christ, with genuine repentance and not just vindication of rights. The old ethnic enmities fuel religious fanaticism based on ancient hatreds. The unequal distribution of economic wealth in the world continues, with the gap between rich and poor growing even in the wealthiest of nations. A new spiritual garb dresses up secularism with politically correct humanist language with concepts borrowed from those religions that are willing to abandon their orthodox fundamentalist agendas, such as Buddhism, New Age, etc.
2. There is no true seeking of reconciliation, and unity among the denominations in Christ. The spiritual garb is a multicultural travesty of one ecumenical religion that dilutes the Gospel while "condemning" bigotry, that passively condones idolatry, occultism, sectarianism, in the name of pluralistic tolerance and seeks to appease religious hatreds that fuel jihads and the persecution of true believers who uphold the messianic hope at the cost of their lives!

Are we looking eschatologically in the wrong places? Do we "see" as God sees?

It is not that the church of God has a mission that matters first, but that the God of mission has a church, and she is one and undefiled, being made ready as a bride for the Coming bridegroom.

It is life in Messiah that keeps messianic hope alive, not messianic hope that brings the Messiah. The true Bride is One, living, and engaged in the Great Commission no matter what the cost. If she were not, you could forget about the marriage supper of the Lamb!