

## DEBUNKING "PROOF TEXTS" FROM THE PSALMS<sup>1</sup> PART 7 – THE "BIG PICTURE"

### I. INTRODUCTION

In a series of six essays, a total of 55 claimed Christian "messianic prophecies" in the Psalms and their respective "fulfillments" in the New Testament were investigated, analyzed in detail, and refuted.<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> This represents 18% of the 312 "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment text" pairs presently identified in the *reference list* that was used in this focused investigation.<sup>8</sup> Moreover, the analysis of these 55 claimed Christian "messianic prophecies" confirmed the pattern alluded to in Part 1. Namely, that the "focus" of Christian "messianic prophecy" is the Christian Messiah, Jesus.

Considering the differences between Judaism's and Christianity's messianic visions, it is worthwhile to take a step back and look at the bigger picture to see how these two paradigms compare.

This essay presents overviews of Judaism's and Christianity's messianic visions followed by an analytical comparison of these two messianic paradigms.

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<sup>1</sup> Transliterations of Hebrew terminology into the Latin alphabet will follow these guidelines:

- Transliterated terminology is shown in ***bold italicized*** font
- The accented syllable in transliterated terminology is shown in ***SMALL CAPS*** font
- Latin vowel-sounds, A – E – I – O – U, are used (not the English versions thereof!)
- Distinct Hebrew letter that have ambiguous Latin letter sounds are transliterated according to the following rules:
  - A vocalized letter א is transliterated as the equivalent Latin vowel
  - A vocalized letter י is transliterated as the equivalent Latin vowel with an added underscore
  - The letter ה is transliterated as "h"
  - The letter ח is transliterated as "ch"
  - The letter כ is transliterated as "k"
  - The letter ק is transliterated as "q"
  - A vocalized **SHVA** (וְ נִשְׁׁ) is transliterated as a superscripted "e" following the consonant
  - There is no "doubling" of letters in the transliterations to reflect the **dagesh** (emphasis)

<sup>2</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 1 – Psalms 8, 16, 18 -

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 2 – Psalms 27, 31, 34, 35, 38 -

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt2.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 3 – Psalms 40, 41, 45 -

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt3.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 4 – Psalms 55, 68, 78, 80, and 89 –

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt4.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 5 – Psalms 69 –

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt5.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Debunking "Proof Texts" from the Psalms, Part 6 – Psalms 102, 109, 118, and 132 –

<http://thejewishhome.org/counter/PsalmsPrfTxt6.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> *Jesus is the Messiah: The Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled By Jesus Christ Ordered by Category* - <http://contenderministries.org/prophecy/jesumessiah2.php>

## II. JUDAISM'S MESSIANIC VISION

The Jewish messianic vision is an original concept at the heart of traditional Judaism, and the dream of an eventual redemption is one of its foundations. The Hebrew phrase אַחֲרֵי הַיָּמִים (*aharit ha'yamim*), **the end of days**, that is often associated with a future blissful era known in Judaism as the "messianic era", appears in the Hebrew Bible as early as Genesis 49:1, where Jacob summons his sons in order to bestow his blessings upon them. This chapter and the blessing of Judah in particular (Genesis 49:8-12), could be viewed as the cornerstone of traditional Judaism's messianic paradigm. The full picture of the Jewish messianic vision was developed primarily through the writings of the prophets.

The messianic paradigm of traditional Judaism consists of two main components:

- ☆ The central figure, מָשִׁיחַ (*mashi'ah*), who will be in the leadership role, and whose actions will result in major changes to world conditions
- ☆ The "messianic agenda", which consists of the "action items" (the "messianic prophecies" of Judaism) expected to be executed and completed for the messianic era to be a reality

The following sections provide a closer look at each of these two items.

### A. Judaism's מָשִׁיחַ

מָשִׁיחַ, the anointed one, is the individual whom the Jewish people are awaiting. Although he is the central figure in it, the Jewish messianic vision is not focused on him; rather, it addresses his accomplishments. The actions of מָשִׁיחַ will induce changes in the real world that will transform it into the picture envisioned by the prophets.

Few details are recorded in the Hebrew Bible about מָשִׁיחַ in terms of specific descriptions of his physical characteristics and attributes. In fact, of its 39 applications in the Hebrew Bible, the term מָשִׁיחַ is never used in connection with the promised future leader of Israel. One possible reason for this is that, starting around the first century B.C.E., the Jewish messianic paradigm experienced a significant transformation. It shifted away from the temporal idea of a future blissful era, אַחֲרֵי הַיָּמִים, and evolved into the notion of a future mortal leader who will redeem Israel from the oppression the people had been suffering in exile and from enemies who occupied the Holy Land. It was during this time frame that the modern title מָשִׁיחַ was adopted as the common reference to this individual, who was expected to be the next occupant of the throne of King David. An interesting by-product of this phenomenon has been that, once this concept took hold, various individuals have appeared and proclaimed themselves, or were proclaimed by others, to be this awaited redeemer.

The information available in the Hebrew Bible spells out the requirements which a legitimate candidate for the "job" of מָשִׁיחַ must satisfy:

- ✧ **He must be a biological descendant, the seed ( זֶרַע [Zera]), of King David** (Isaiah 11:1; Ezekiel 37:24-25)
- ✧ **His lineage to King David must pass through King Solomon** (2Samuel 7:12-16; 1Kings 8:18-20)
- ✧ **He must be a Jew and Jewish** (Deuteronomy 17:15,18-20)

It follows from these requirements that מָשִׁיחַ must be born of earthly parents – his biological father will transmit to him the required pedigree - the lineage to King David, and his biological mother will provide him with his identity as a Jew. While there are bound to be scores of individuals who satisfy these requirements, this does not guarantee that any one of them will actually be מָשִׁיחַ – they are merely qualified candidates for the "job". In order to be identified and declared as מָשִׁיחַ, a qualified candidate will have to execute and complete the "messianic agenda" as part of his sovereignty.

## B. Judaism's "Messianic Agenda"

The messianic vision of Judaism, which was developed primarily through the writings of the prophets, has as its centerpiece a "messianic agenda". This "messianic agenda" consists of prophetic statements which describe, at various level of detail, the conditions that will prevail in the messianic era. The items on the "messianic agenda" comprise the collection of "messianic prophecies" in traditional Judaism. Table II.B-1 shows a list of the most significant "messianic prophecies" of Judaism found in the Hebrew Bible.<sup>9</sup>

**Table II.B-1 – "Messianic prophecies" of Judaism**

#	Statement	Sample Citations <sup>10</sup>	Fulfilled? <sup>11</sup>
1	The appearance of Elijah the prophet will herald the arrival of מָשִׁיחַ	Malachi 3:23-24[4:5-6]	NO
2	There will prevail a universal knowledge and recognition of God	Isaiah 11:9; Zechariah 14:9	NO
3	There will be a peaceful coexistence of all nations in the world	Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3-4	NO
4	All weapons will be destroyed	Ezekiel 39:9,12	NO

<sup>9</sup> This list is not exhaustive. It contains those items on which there is relatively uniform consensus within traditional Judaism.

<sup>10</sup> In most cases, there are multiple sources of which only a sample is cited. Where verse numbers differ between the Hebrew Bible and the Christian "Old Testament", the citation shows the (chapter and) verse number in the Hebrew Bible first, followed by the (chapter and) verse number in the Christian "Old Testament" in brackets. Example: Malachi 3:23-24[4:5-6].

<sup>11</sup> A prophecy has been fulfilled when the foretold event, condition, or situation has happened, and that one needs no longer await its completion or fulfillment. On the other hand, a prophecy that has not yet happened, or is yet to be completed, remains a prophecy not fulfilled.

5	There will be an end to evil	Zephaniah 3:13; Malachi 3:19	NO
6	There will be an end to disease and death	Isaiah 25:8, 35:5-6	NO
7	There will be no more famine	Ezekiel 36:29-30	NO
8	Predatory animals will no longer seek prey	Isaiah 11:6-7, 65:25	NO
9	Part (the outlet) of the Nile River in Egypt will run dry	Isaiah 11:15	NO
10	All exiled Jewish people (12 Tribes) will be repatriated to Israel	Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:7-8	NO
11	"Judah" and "Israel" will be reunited into one people	Isaiah 11:13; Ezekiel 37:16-22	NO
12	The Third Temple will be built in Jerusalem	Isaiah 33:20; Ezekiel 37:26-28	NO
13	All Temple worship rituals, including sacrifices, will resume	Ezekiel Chapters 40-48	NO
14	The dead will be resurrected	Isaiah 26:19; Ezekiel 37:12-13	NO
15	Prophecy will return	Joel 3:1; Malachi 3:23[4:5]	NO
16	The Davidic dynasty will be revitalized with מְלִשְׁיָהּ and his sons	Ezekiel 46:16-17; Daniel 7:13-14	NO
17	Each Tribe of Israel will receive and settle its inherited land	Ezekiel 47:13-14, 48:1-70	NO
18	Jewish Law will be the Law of the Land in Israel	Isaiah 11:2-5; Jeremiah 33:15	NO
19	Israel will be the center of all world (political) governments	Isaiah 11:10, 42:6; 60:3	NO
20	Israel will be the spiritual center of the world	Isaiah 2:2-3; Zechariah 8:23	NO
21	The Gentile nations will recognize they have been wrong	Isaiah 53:1-8; Micah 7:15-16	NO
22	The Gentile nations will help the Jewish people	Isaiah 60:5-6,10-12	NO
23	The Gentile nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate Sukot (Festival of Tabernacles)	Zechariah 14:16	NO
24	The trees of Israel will yield their fruits on a monthly basis	Ezekiel 47:12	NO

As is evident from this collection of "messianic prophecies", they generally describe the conditions that will prevail during some future period known as the messianic era – they represent the output from a nation that was longing for a better life in a better world. The entire collection of Judaism's "messianic prophecies" is considered to be exhaustive and exclusive, which means that, when they are fulfilled, it will not require "faith" to experience the impact of their presence – everyone will know it.

### III. CHRISTIANITY'S MESSIANIC VISION

Although Christianity adopted Judaism's idea that the Messiah will be a descendant of King David, the Christian messianic paradigm is inconsistent with its Jewish counterpart in all other aspects, as will be demonstrated in Section IV.

The common messianic paradigm of Christianity consists of two main components:

- † **The central figure, Jesus, already came once in fulfillment of prophetic statements in the Christian "Old Testament", and will return at a future time (the "Second Coming")**
- † **The "messianic prophecies" that were fulfilled by Jesus in his "First Coming"**

The following sections provide a closer look at each of these two items.

## **A. Christianity's Messiah – Jesus**

The central figure of the Christian messianic vision is Jesus of Nazareth. The most striking feature of Christianity's messianic paradigm is that, by design (and unlike Judaism's), it is entirely focused on the central figure, Jesus of Nazareth, who is referred to in the Greek Testament by the title **Ἰησοῦς Χριστός** (**Jesus Christos**), or **Jesus Christ** (Jesus the Messiah – the Anglicized version of the Greek name and title).

According to Christian theology, the nature and mission of the Messiah is that he is both Lord and Savior:

- † **Jesus is divine since he has always existed as part of the divine godhead<sup>12</sup>** (John 1:1-2)
- † **Jesus was "sent to earth" in the form of a man (God manifest in the flesh) via the "Virgin Birth", thus making him the son of God** (Matthew 1:23; Mark 1:1)
- † **Jesus came as the Messiah in order to redeem (or save) humanity by removing from his followers the stain of the "Original Sin" through his sacrificial death on the cross** (2Timothy 1:9-10; 1John 4:14)
- † **In his "Second Coming", Jesus will reign over the Kingdom of Heaven** (Matthew 5:19, 7:21; Hebrews 9:28)

## **B. Christianity's "Messianic Prophecies"**

According to Christian theology, Jesus, in his role as Lord and Savior, fulfilled all the prophecies that were spoken of him in the Christian "Old Testament". These "messianic prophecies" consist of passages, single verses, or even just portions of a verse in the Christian "Old Testament", and the same is true of their respective "fulfillment texts" in the New Testament. The list of the 55 "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment" pairs investigated in the previous six essays typifies the contents of the complete *reference list* (see footnote 8). The results of the analysis are reproduced in Table III.B-1 (sequence numbers were added for clarification).

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<sup>12</sup> Though some denominations do not accept the notion of a triune godhead, the overwhelming majority of Christians adhere to the doctrine of the Trinity.

**Table III.B-1 – The "messianic prophecies" of Christianity in Psalms 8, 16, 18, 27, 31, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 45, 55, 68, 69 78, 80, 89, 102, 109, 118, and 132, their "fulfillments" and validity**

#	Statement	Citations		Valid? <sup>13</sup>
		"Prophecy"	"Fulfillment"	
1	Infants would give praise to the Messiah	Psalms 8:3[2]	Matthew 21:16	NO
2	The Messiah would be given authority over all things	Psalms 8:7[6]	Matthew 28:18	NO
3	The Messiah would be resurrected	Psalms 16:8-10a	Matthew 28:6	NO
4	The Messiah's body would not be subject to decay	Psalms 16:8-10b	Acts 13:35-37	NO
5	The Messiah would be exalted to the presence of God	Psalms 16:11	Acts 2:25-33	NO
6	The Messiah would come for all people	Psalms 18:50[49]	Ephesians 3:4-6	NO
7	The Messiah's enemies would stumble and fall when they came for him	Psalms 27:2	John 18:3-6	NO
8	The Messiah would be accused by false witnesses	Psalms 27:12	Matthew 26:59-61	NO
9	None of the Messiah's bones would be broken	Psalms 34:21[20]	John 19:32-33	NO
10	There would be plots to kill the Messiah	Psalms 31:14[13]	Matthew 27:1	NO
11	There would be plots to kill the Messiah	Psalms 31:14[13]	Matthew 27:1	NO
12	The Messiah would be accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Mark 14:55-59	NO
13	The Messiah would be hated by many without cause	Psalms 35:19	John 18:19-23	NO
14	The Messiah would be silent before his accusers	Psalms 38:14-15[13-14]	Matthew 26:62-63	NO
15	The Messiah's offering of himself would replace all sacrifices	Psalms 40:7-9a[6-8a]	Hebrews 10:10-13	NO
16	The Messiah would say the scriptures were written of him	Psalms 40:7-9b[6-8b]	Luke 24:44	NO
17	The Messiah would come to do God's will	Psalms 40:8-9[7-8]	John 5:30	NO
18	The Messiah would not conceal his mission from the congregation	Psalms 40:10-11[9-10]	Luke 4:16-21	NO
19	The Messiah's betrayer would be a friend whom he broke bread with	Psalms 41:10[9]	Mark 14:17-18	NO
20	The Messiah would speak with a message of grace	Psalms 45:3[2]	Luke 4:22	? NO
21	The Messiah's throne would be everlasting	Psalms 45:7-8a[6-7a]	Luke 1:31-33	? NO
22	The Messiah would be God	Psalms 45:7-8b[6-7b]	Hebrews 1:8-9	NO
23	The Messiah would act with righteousness	Psalms 45:7-8c[6-7c]	John 5:30	? NO
24	The Messiah would be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 55:13-15[12-14]	Luke 22:47-48	NO
25	The Messiah would ascend into heaven	Psalms 68:19a[18a]	Luke 24:51	NO

<sup>13</sup> A single entry indicates that the same answer applies to both "Prophecy" and "Fulfillment" claims. Two entries signify different answers for the "Prophecy" and "Fulfillment", respectively.

26	The Messiah would give gifts to men	Psalms 68:19b[18b]	Matthew 10:1	NO
27	The Messiah would be hated by many without cause	Psalms 69:5[4]	Luke 23:13-22	NO
28	The Messiah would bear reproach, for God's sake	Psalms 69:8[7]	Matthew 26:65-67	NO
29	The Messiah would be rejected by the Jews	Psalms 69:9a[8a]	John 1:11	NO
30	The Messiah's brothers would disbelieve him	Psalms 69:9b[8b]	John 7:3-5	NO
31	The Messiah would be angered by disrespect toward the temple	Psalms 69:10a[9a]	John 2:13-17	NO
32	The Messiah would bear reproach, for God's sake	Psalms 69:10b[9b]	Romans 15:3	NO
33	The Messiah's heart would be broken	Psalms 69:21a[20a]	John 19:34	NO
34	The Messiah's disciples would fail him in his time of need	Psalms 69:21b[20b]	Mark 14:33-41	NO
35	The Messiah would be offered gall and vinegar	Psalms 69:22a[21a]	Matthew 27:34	NO
36	The Messiah would thirst	Psalms 69:22b[21b]	John 19:28	NO
37	The potter's field would be uninhabited	Psalms 69:26[25]	Acts 1:16-20	NO
38	The Messiah would speak in parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34-35	NO
39	The Messiah would be at the right hand of God	Psalms 80:18[17]	Acts 5:31	NO
40	The Messiah would be a descendant of David	Psalms 89:4-5[3-4]	Matthew 1:1	? NO
41	The Messiah would call God his Father	Psalms 89:27[26]	Matthew 11:27	NO
42	The Messiah would be God's "firstborn."	Psalms 89:28[27]	Mark 16:6	? NO
43	The Messiah would be a descendant of David	Psalms 89:30[29]	Matthew 1:1	? NO
44	The Messiah would be a descendant of David	Psalms 89:36-37[35-36]	Matthew 1:1	? NO
45	The Messiah would be eternal	Psalms 102:26-28a[25-27a]	Colossians 1:17	NO
46	The Messiah would be the creator of all	Psalms 102:26-28b[25-27b]	John 1:3	NO
47	The Messiah would be accused by false witnesses	Psalms 109:2	John 18:29-30	NO
48	The Messiah would pray for his enemies	Psalms 109:4	Luke 23:34	NO
49	The Messiah's betrayer would have a short life	Psalms 109:8a	Acts 1:16-18	NO
50	The Messiah's betrayer would be replaced	Psalms 109:8b	Acts 1:20-26	NO
51	The Messiah would be mocked by people shaking their heads	Psalms 109:25	Mark 15:29-30	NO
52	The Messiah would be the "stone" rejected by the Jews	Psalms 118:22	Matthew 21:42-43	NO
53	The Messiah would come in the name of the Lord	Psalms 118:26	Matthew 21:9	NO
54	The Messiah would be a descendant of David	Psalms 132:11	Matthew 1:1	? NO
55	The Messiah would be a descendant of David	Psalms 132:17	Matthew 1:1	? NO

As is evident from the above list, the "messianic prophecies" of Christianity are Messiah-centric, i.e., they deal with the Messiah's origin, his attributes, his personal life's ordeals, and his death and resurrection. This is likely to have resulted from the belief by Christians that God, via His direct intervention in human history, made His will and purpose known to mankind when He sent His "son", Jesus, to fulfill these "messianic prophecies". Thus, for Christians, the concept of "messianic prophecy" is the product of a "new revelation", and that the last word on the meaning of specific "messianic prophecies" in the Christian "Old Testament", accordingly, is found in the New Testament and in Jesus himself. For Christians, the Messiah already came and fulfilled all these "messianic prophecies", and they are now awaiting his "Second Coming".

#### IV. THE TWO MESSIANIC VISIONS SIDE-BY-SIDE: HOW DO THEY COMPARE?

The two major components of the two messianic paradigms are next contrasted via several elements that characterize significant attributes and functions. These elements are compared against each other, and Christianity's paradigm is also compared against the respective accounts in the Hebrew Bible.

##### A. Judaism's משיח versus Christianity's Jesus

Items that characterize the respective central figures of the Jewish and Christian messianic visions are compared in Table IV.A-1.

**Table IV.A-1 – Comparing the central figures**

Attribute	Judaism's (☆) משיח	Christianity's (†) Messiah, Jesus	Compatible ...	
			with each other	† - with Hebrew Bible*
<b>Pedigree</b>	Will be a bloodline descendant of King David, born of earthly parents	Was born of a virgin who conceived from the Holy Spirit	NO	NO
<b>Birthplace</b>	Not specified	Bethlehem	NO	NO
<b>Nature</b>	Will be a mortal human	Is the divine son of God	NO	NO
<b>Status</b>	Will be served and honored by all nations	Is worshipped	NO	NO
<b>Function</b>	Will be a righteous king who will redeem and restore Israel	Served as a sin sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind	NO	NO
<b>Reign</b>	Earthly kingdom	None (1 <sup>st</sup> advent). Kingdom of heaven (2 <sup>nd</sup> advent)	NO	NO
<b>Family Status</b>	Will marry and have children	Was not married and did not father children	NO	NO
<b>Advent</b>	Will make one appearance, which is still being awaited	Came once, died, resurrected, and will come again	NO	NO

\* Judaism's perspective is compatible with the Hebrew Bible by default



This comparison demonstrates that the central figures of Judaism's messianic vision (מָשִׁיחַ) and Christianity's messianic vision (Jesus) are incompatible. Moreover, it also shows that Jesus does not possess the few attributes of מָשִׁיחַ that are specified in the Hebrew Bible.

## B. Judaism's "Messianic Agenda" versus Christianity's "Messianic Prophecies"

Items that characterize the respective prophetic components of the Jewish and Christian messianic visions are compared in Table IV.B-1.

**Table IV.B-1 – Comparing the prophetic components**

Characteristic	Judaism's (☆) "Messianic Agenda"	Christianity's (†) "Messianic Prophecies"	Compatible ...	
			with each other	† - with Hebrew Bible*
<b>Number</b>	Between two- and three-dozen	Over three hundred	NO	NO
<b>Function</b>	To describe the conditions that will prevail in the messianic era	To describe Jesus, his life's ordeals, and to glorify him	NO	NO
<b>Status</b>	Unfulfilled. To be executed and completed by the מָשִׁיחַ	Fulfilled by Jesus in his "First Coming"	NO	NO
<b>Validation</b>	Upon completion, the resultant changes in the world will be real – perceptible, tangible, and "measurable"	Their fulfillment and resultant changes must be accepted on faith	NO	NO

\* Judaism's perspective is compatible with the Hebrew Bible by default

This comparison demonstrates that Judaism's "messianic agenda" and Christianity's "messianic prophecies" are incompatible. Moreover, it also shows that the prophetic component of the Christian messianic vision is generally incompatible with accounts contained in the Hebrew Bible.

## C. General observations

Beyond the results obtained from these detailed comparisons, several additional points of interest concerning the two messianic paradigms are worth noting:

- ➔ The "certainty of the end" is, at least conceptually, a common idea in both Judaism and Christianity. However, a major difference that sets apart the two messianic visions is that, in Judaism, history moves toward the coming of מָשִׁיחַ, whereas, in Christianity, the belief is that the Messiah has already come and the doctrinal focus is on the fundamental belief rather on the Messiah's return.
- ➔ The term "Messiah" has different definitions as used in Judaism and in Christianity. "מָשִׁיחַ" and how it is applied is original to Judaism, whereas "Messiah", as applied in Christianity, has its origin in pagan beliefs.

- The Davidic lineage of  $\text{דָּוִד}$  is a biblical requirement in Judaism, whereas in Christianity, the relationship of the Messiah to King David is viewed as a messianic prophecy.
- The significant disparity in the number of Judaism's "messianic agenda" items and Christianity's "(fulfilled) messianic prophecies" is due, in part, to the method of enumeration. In Judaism's messianic vision, all occasions in the Hebrew Bible where the same "messianic agenda" item is referenced are counted as one item. In Christianity's messianic vision, each reference in the Christian "Old Testament" to the same "messianic prophecy" is counted as a separate item. For example, in the *reference list* (see footnote 8), 15 cited references to Jesus being God's son (including "firstborn") are counted as 15 "messianic prophecies", 13 cited references to Jesus being a descendant of King David are counted as 13 "messianic prophecies", 12 cited references to Jesus bearing the sins of man are counted as 12 "messianic prophecies", etc. Right here are 80 references that should be only 6. This is artificial "inflation"!
- The invention of a "Second Coming" and adding it to Christianity's messianic paradigm is a *de facto* concession by Christians that Jesus failed to bring about the blissful era that is foretold in the Hebrew Bible. It is unbiblical!
- The Christian messianic vision relies heavily on the "art of circular reasoning". In other words, Jesus can be positively identified as the subject of these "messianic prophecies" (i.e., "proof texts") only if one believes in him in the first place (i.e., in what is written about him in the New Testament). This is not at all a "proof"!

Although the two messianic paradigms may bear some superficial structural resemblance, a close examination of their respective components demonstrates their significant differences and incompatibility.

## V. SUMMARY

The results obtained from investigating the validity of 55 claimed Christian "messianic prophecies" in a collection of Psalms, along with their claimed respective "fulfillments" in the New Testament, reveal a significant disparity between Judaism's and Christianity's views on "messianic prophecy". The purpose of the analysis presented in this essay was to get at the root of this disparity by examining the general framework of the respective messianic visions.

A comparison of the basic elements within each of the two main components that comprise Judaism's and Christianity's messianic paradigms – the central figure and the prophetic texts – illustrates how they are inconsistent and incompatible with each other. Moreover, since Judaism's messianic paradigm is based on the Hebrew Bible, it follows that Christianity's messianic paradigm, being incompatible with that of Judaism, is incongruous with the Hebrew Bible as well. Therefore, it is reasonable to posit that the incongruity of the two views on "messianic prophecy" is related to their respective genesis.

Judaism's messianic paradigm evolved within the Hebrew Bible and is focused, via prophetic statements, on a future era of happiness and joy for Israel in a better world, not on the central figure who will lead Israel at that time, and whose specific identity is not disclosed within the Hebrew Bible. By contrast, Christianity's messianic paradigm was designed and recorded in the New Testament *ex post*

*facto*, i.e., after the fact – after the canon of the Hebrew Bible was sealed and long after the advent of Jesus. So that, with its central figure identified as Jesus, it was an easy task for the authors of the New Testament to complete the picture. They hunted through the Christian "Old Testament" for passages that could be construed, often with the help some editorial liberties, as "prophecies" that related to Jesus – knowing the "outcome" makes it easy to look for and, if needed, invent statements that "predict" it. The purpose of the large quantity of these "messianic prophecies" and their respective "fulfillments" was to help convince people that they were true.

Although these lists of over 300 "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment" pairs are invoked with pride and reverence by Christian missionaries as "evidence" of the absolute truth of their beliefs, the first six essays in this series demonstrate that, under scrutiny, they fall apart and invalidate the Christian messianic vision, which claims that it is rooted in the Hebrew Bible.

Given the fact that many, if not most, of the other claimed "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment" pairs on the *reference list* have already been refuted elsewhere, both in other essays as well as by other individuals, it is safe to conclude the following:

- The entire set of Christian "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment" pairs is generally devoid of prophetic texts and abounds with irrelevant claims of fulfillment
- The entire set of Christian "messianic prophecy" and "fulfillment" pairs has been designed ostensibly in order to create the appearance that Christianity is foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures and, thereby, laying the foundation for the claim that the New Testament is the result of a continued divine revelation