

## WHY DO I BELIEVE JESUS IS OUR MESSIAH?

Because I believe the Bible is true. There are many reasons for trusting its reliability—its coherence; its historical, geographic and scientific accuracy in minute detail; its endurance; its excellence; its relevance; its power to change lives for the better. It has the answers to life and death.

God says, "I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right" (Isaiah 45:19). "All flesh is grass ... the grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:6-8).

### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

As a child I was drawn to the teaching at Temple, the security and comfort of family and traditions, and the assurance that there is a God who cares. As a young adult, I wandered and questioned. I felt like I was groping in the darkness. Then, at a significant turning point in my life, I cried out to God with all my heart, "If You're there, please help me."

Shortly after, a friend commented that I had a sense of peace about me. I found that quite remarkable, and I knew that there is Truth, and one day I would know it.

In our travels, my husband and I then met born again believers in Messiah Jesus. They had recently discovered the wonder of coming into a relationship with Him. They spoke of Jesus as the Light of the world, and since I knew I was in spiritual darkness, I was attracted. So, in prayer, I invited Jesus into my life so that I could get to know Him. I began to 'devour' the Bible hungrily, and gradually God began to teach me.

He gave me a deep peace, and an assurance that wherever I went, whatever happened in the future, He would be with me; that I was not dependent on circumstances, or who I was with, or where life would take me—the God of the Bible is my Shepherd, for now and always.

The Bible is the history of my people. As I delved into it with 'new eyes' I was amazed that the gospel was there all along! Even in my Tenach given to me at my confirmation at Temple! We need a Saviour after all! God speaks of Himself as *our Father*, *our Redeemer*, *our Saviour* and *our Shepherd* (Isaiah 43:11; 53:6; 59:1,2; Isaiah 63:16; Psalm 23:1).

"Gospel" means *good tidings*, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger of *good tidings*, that announces peace, the harbinger of good tidings, that announces *salvation*; that says to Zion: 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7)

So, what separates us from God? Our own iniquities (Isaiah 59). Choosing our own way, instead of God's way (Isaiah 53:6). Yet He loves us so much that He calls us to return to Him in a loving, intimate relationship. He even provided the way back to Himself, through the Messiah (Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 24:7; Joel 2:12,13).

## PROPHECY FULFILLED

Woven throughout the scriptures is a picture of the Messiah. He came to preach the gospel to the poor, to give sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed. When Jesus read aloud in the synagogue the scriptures about the Messiah, He said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:21).

On another occasion, He said, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me. If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me" (John 5:39).

Our prophet Isaiah said, "Behold, the Lord God will come as a *mighty One*, and His arm will rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. Even as a *shepherd* that feeds his flock, that gathers the lambs in his arm, and carries them in his bosom, and gently leads those that are with young" (Isaiah 40:9-11).

The Messiah was promised and the Messiah came, as a prophet, shepherd, and teacher. And as our sacrificial lamb to bear God's judgement for us (Isaiah 53). He is the Saviour of our souls from the sin which separates us from Him. From the hardness of our hearts and from the fears that keep us in bondage (Isaiah 43:1; Ezekiel 11:19,20; Hebrews 2:14-17)..

There is no God like Him. And He's coming again!

## PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE

Not only is the Bible an accurate history book; it also gives us promises for the future.

Messiah is coming back again, and maybe soon. This time He will display His power and glory that we expected the first time. Every heart will recognize Him as the King of kings, the God of Israel, Creator of the world and ruler of the universe. Every knee will bow before Him and confess that He is Lord. He is God of both the Jew and the Gentile—in our faith in Messiah Jesus, we are one.(Isaiah 45:21-23, 44:6; 49:6; Zechariah 14:9; Romans 10:12,13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:14-18).

He promises to be with those who hear His word, trust Him and follow Him. He is the Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5, or Isaiah 9:6 in the English Bible; Hebrews 13:5,6).

One day we shall see Him face to face—Yeshua ha Mashiach.

Shalom.