

## MESSIAH WANTED!<sup>1</sup>



### I. INTRODUCTION

Christianity is based on the claim that Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled all the prophecies in the Hebrew Bible. In fact, many Christian missionary websites list hundreds of "Old Testament" prophecies, along with passages from the New Testament as "evidence" of their fulfillment by Jesus.<sup>2</sup> The reality is that the messianic agenda, as described in the Hebrew Bible, consists of a mere handful of significant items, which are to be completed during the reign of מָשִׁיחַ (*mashi'ah*), the promised **Jewish Messiah**.

Although it is not the spiritual concern of Judaism and of the Jewish community at large whether Christians choose to believe these claims to be true, unfortunate situations occur when Christian missionaries use this material for the purpose of Jewish evangelism. They try to convince their Jewish targets, particularly those who are perceived as lacking a good Jewish education, that this is all true and that they need to accept Jesus as Messiah in order to become "completed Jews".

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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 נִשְׁבֵּה) 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> One such example is, *Jesus is the Messiah: The Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled By Jesus Christ Ordered by Category* - <http://contenderministries.org/prophecy/jesussmessiah2.php>

This essay focuses on what the Hebrew Bible teaches concerning the qualifications and expectations of the מָשִׁיחַ. This information is presented in the form of a typical "Job Requisition" that serves as a template for evaluating the suitability of a claimant to this position. Specifically, this template is applied to Jesus, Christianity's candidate for this position, and demonstrates, (a) that he failed to qualify for the job, and (b) even though it is claimed he was appointed to the position, he did not do the job right.

## II. JOB REQUISITION: מָשִׁיחַ, JUDAISM'S MESSIAH

The "Job Requisition" template for the position of Jewish Messiah in Table II-1 describes who, according to the Hebrew Bible, this person will be, what his known attributes are, and what he is expected to accomplish. Further elaboration on its contents follows the table.

**Table II-1 – "Job Requisition" for the promised מָשִׁיחַ**

| Category                              | Requirements   |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Position Available</b>             | מָשִׁיחַ - the Jewish Messiah.   |
| <b>Job Description</b>                | To usher in the messianic era, as foretold in the Hebrew Bible, and to preside over the people of Israel as their king, sitting on the throne of King David.   |
| <b>Job Requirements</b>               | To execute and successfully complete the messianic agenda, as described in the Hebrew Bible, within one lifetime.  |
| <b>Prior Job Experience</b>           | None.  |
| <b>Qualifications</b>                 | The successful candidate will possess attributes that must include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be the seed (a direct descendant) of King David, through King Solomon (e.g., 2Samuel 7:12-16)</li> <li>2. Be a spiritual and political/military leader (e.g., Isaiah 2:3, 11:2-3,6; Daniel 7:14)</li> <li>3. Be married and have children during his term (e.g., Ezekiel 46:16-17)</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Performance Appraisal Criteria</b> | The successful candidate will be expected to complete the messianic agenda and, thereby, bring about certain conditions during his reign, though some actions will commence prior to his being identified as the Messiah. These must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The coming of Elijah to herald the Messiah's arrival (e.g., Malachi 3:1,23-24[4:5-6]<sup>3</sup>)</li> <li>2. Building the Third Temple in Jerusalem (e.g., Ezekiel 37:26-28)</li> <li>3. In-gathering of the Jewish exiles to the Promised Land (e.g., Isaiah 11:12)</li> <li>4. Reunifying Judah and Israel into one people (e.g., Ezekiel 37:22,24)</li> <li>5. Establishing world peace (e.g., Isaiah 2:4)</li> <li>6. Bringing about the universal knowledge of God (e.g., Isaiah 11:9)</li> <li>7. Realizing the general resurrection of the dead (e.g., Daniel 12:2)</li> </ol> |

<sup>3</sup> Chapter/Verse numbers shown in square brackets, e.g., [4:5-6], are those used in Christian Bibles.

## A. Prior Job Experience

Although Jewish tradition holds that in every generation there lives a person who is worthy of being the promised Jewish Messiah, this job has never before been filled. Consequently, it is not possible to possess any prior job experience.

## B. Qualifications

The Qualifications of candidates for the job of Jewish Messiah are the pre-requisites for consideration, and they are specified in the Hebrew Bible.

### 1. Seed of David through Solomon

The Messiah will be a biological descendant of King David from the branch that goes through Solomon, since Solomon is the one who built the Temple (highlighting added for emphasis throughout this document unless otherwise noted):

**2Samuel 7:12-16 – (12) When your days will be completed and you will lie with your forefathers, then I shall raise up your seed after you, that which will issue from your loins, and I shall establish his kingdom. (13) He shall build a Temple for My sake, and I shall make firm the throne of his kingdom forever. (14) I shall be to him a Father, and he shall be to Me a son; so that when he goes astray I will chastise him with the rod of men and with afflictions of human beings. (15) But My mercy shall not move away from him as I removed [it] from Saul, whom I removed from before you. (16) And your dynasty and your kingdom shall be confirmed before you forever; your throne will remain firm forever. [See also Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5, 30:9, 33:15; Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24-25.]**

**1Chronicles 22:9-10 – (9) Behold a son will be born to you; he will be a man of peace, and I shall give him peace from all his enemies around about, for Solomon will be his name, and I shall give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. (10) He shall build a House in My Name, and he shall be to Me as a son, and I to him as a Father, and I shall prepare the throne of his kingdom forever. [See also 1Kings 8:15-20; 1Chronicles 17:11-15, 28:3-7.]**

### 2. Spiritual and Political/Military Leader of Israel

The Messiah will be steeped in Torah, an authority who will influence all of Israel to follow Torah in an environment created by his spiritual leadership:

**Isaiah 2:3 - And many nations shall go, and they shall say, "Come, let us go up to the Lord's mount, to the House of the God of Jacob, and let Him teach us of His ways, and we will go in His paths;" for out of Zion shall the Torah come forth, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

**Isaiah 11:2 - And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and heroism, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.**

The Messiah will defeat and conquer the enemies surrounding Israel. As an ordinary mortal, a "flesh & blood" human being, he lives/will live in a world of

recognizable realities of military requirements and political alignments. He will have to deal with these realities, and emerge victorious within the constraints that they engender. Nevertheless, his political leadership will be well recognized throughout the world, and his political influence will manifest itself in a universal peace, as is suggested by Isaiah in this metaphorical allusion:

**Isaiah 11:6** - And a wolf shall live with a lamb, and a leopard shall lie with a kid; and a calf and a lion cub and a fatling [shall lie] together, and a small child shall lead them.

**Daniel 7:14** - He has been given dominion, honor, and kingship, so that all peoples, nations, and tongues will serve him; his dominion is an eternal dominion that will never be removed, and his kingship will not be destroyed.

### 3. Married with Children

Although marriage and children are not stated pre-requisites for being the Messiah, there is a clear indication that **the Prince**, who is the Messiah/King [see Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24]<sup>4</sup>, will have children (via marriage) at some point in time during his reign, and they will be entitled to inherit his property:

**Ezekiel 46:16-17** – (16) Thus says the Lord God: "If the Prince gives a gift to any of his sons, it is his inheritance to remain in their possession; it is their property by inheritance. (17) But if he gives a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his [the servant's] until the year of liberty, and then it returns to the Prince; only to his sons shall his inheritance belong.

## C. Performance Appraisal Criteria

The Performance Appraisal Criteria comprise several significant messianic agenda items against which the performance of a qualified candidate for the job of Jewish Messiah must be evaluated.

### 1. The Coming of Elijah to Herald the Messiah's Arrival

Elijah the prophet will precede the Messiah and "pave the way" for his arrival, heralding the commencement of the messianic era:

**Malachi 3:23[4:5]** – Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

### 2. Building the Third Temple in Jerusalem

The Third Temple will be built by the Messiah; perhaps he may not literally do the brick and mortar work, but it will be done when he begins his reign on the throne of David. The presence of the Third Temple is envisioned in what is,

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<sup>4</sup> See Ezekiel 40-48 - "The Prince" of Ezekiel: Who Is He? – <http://thejewishhome.org/counter/EzekielPrince.pdf>.

perhaps, one of the most detailed and vivid descriptions of the messianic era to be found in the Hebrew Bible - Chapter 37 in the Book of Ezekiel:

**Ezekiel 37:26-28** – (26) And I will form a covenant of peace for them, an everlasting covenant shall be with them; and I will establish them, and I will multiply them, and I will place My Sanctuary in their midst forever. (27) And My dwelling place shall be over them; and I will be to them for a God, and they shall be to Me as a people. (28) And the nations shall know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My Sanctuary is in their midst forever. [See also Isaiah 33:20; Ezekiel Chapters 40-48.]

Later on, in Chapters 40-48, Ezekiel provides detailed descriptions of the Third Temple and the ritual services to be held within its walls.

### 3. In-Gathering of the Jewish Exiles to the Promised Land

The Messiah will repatriate the Jewish people from the Diaspora to the promised land of Israel in preparation for the repair of the schism that followed Solomon's reign:

**Isaiah 11:12** - And he [Messiah] shall set up a banner for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. [See also Isaiah 43:5-6; Jeremiah 16:15, 23:3; Ezekiel 37:21-22; Zechariah 10:6-10.]

### 4. Reunifying Judah and Israel into One People

The messianic agenda calls for the restoration of a unified kingdom for the people of Israel:

**Ezekiel 37:22** - And I will make them into one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel, and one king shall be to them all as a king; and they shall no longer be as two nations, and they shall not be divided into two kingdoms anymore. [See also the "lead-in" to the above verse - Ezekiel 37:16-21; Isaiah 11:13.]

The Messiah will accomplish this and reign over a reunified Kingdom of Israel:

**Ezekiel 37:24** – And My servant David shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; and they shall follow My ordinances, and observe My statutes, and do them.

### 5. Establishing World Peace

The Messiah will be recognized as a fair judge and peacemaker, and in the messianic era, disputes between countries will be settled through peaceful means and not by war:

**Isaiah 2:4** - And he [the Messiah] shall judge among the nations, and he shall reprove many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, and they shall not learn war anymore. [See also Isaiah 11:6-8; Micah 4:3-4.]

## 6. Bringing about the Universal Knowledge of God

A universal knowledge of God will prevail, and this will put an end to destruction and violence:

**Isaiah 11:9 - They shall not harm and not destroy on all of My holy mountain; for the land shall be as filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea bed.** [See also Jeremiah 31:33[34]; Zechariah 14:9.]

## 7. Realizing the Resurrection of the Dead

This is foretold in Ezekiel's vision of the "dry bones":

**Ezekiel 37:12-13 – (12) Therefore, prophesy and say to them, So says the Lord God: Lo! I open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves as My people, and bring you home to the land of Israel. (13) Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and lead you up out of your graves as My people.** [See also Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2.]

Though, according to Daniel's vision (12:2), most of the dead, but not all, will come back to life. The righteous will live in bliss, and the wicked will live in misery.

### III. CHRISTIANITY'S CANDIDATE – APPRAISAL OF QUALIFICATIONS & PERFORMANCE

According to the New Testament, the Messiah of Christianity is Jesus. Rather than accept (on faith) the claims made by Christian missionaries about Jesus being the (Jewish) Messiah promised in the Hebrew Bible, he will be considered here as an applicant for the position of Jewish Messiah, whose credentials and performance will be evaluated using the requirements listed in the "Job Requisition".

#### A. Prior Job Experience

According to the explanation given in Section II.A, Jesus, as Christianity's candidate for the job, satisfied this criterion.

#### B. Qualifications – Did Jesus Qualify for the Job?

##### 1. Seed of David through Solomon

Although the New Testament authors claim that Jesus was the "son of David" (e.g., Matthew 1:1; Mark 12:35), the manner of his allegedly miraculous "Virgin Birth" (e.g., Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:27-35) rules out the possibility of a Davidic lineage for him. According to Jewish Law (e.g., Numbers 1:18), and as confirmed by recent genetic research, tribal lineage - a blood right - is passed exclusively from a father to his biological male progeny (via the Y-

Chromosome). Consequently, it cannot be transmitted in any other manner, including adoption. Since, according to the New Testament, the Holy Ghost, not Joseph, impregnated the "Virgin Mary", Jesus has no identifiable tribal lineage and, therefore, he did not have the required blood line to King David.

Another problem with the claim by Jesus to the Davidic throne is the matter of the two hopelessly irreconcilable genealogies in the New Testament (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38).<sup>5</sup> Christians still cannot agree on whether the genealogy in the Gospel of Luke belongs to Joseph or to Mary. Either way, this is a moot point, since that genealogy goes through Solomon's brother Nathan and, too, a female's genealogy is irrelevant to lineage according to the Hebrew Bible. Perhaps this is the reason that Paul, recognizing the problems with these two genealogies, wrote:

**1 Timothy 1:4(KJV) - Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.**

**Titus 3:9(KJV) - But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.**

Note here how Paul, to whom Christian missionaries refer as "Rabbi", teaches Christians that some parts of the Bible – genealogies in this case, including those of Jesus – are akin to fables and foolish questions, which must not be given heed and should be avoided.

Missionaries will often point to an account in the Hebrew Bible, specifically, to the episode of the Daughters of *Ts'lofHAD* (תּוֹלְפָדָר) in Numbers 27:1-11, as an example where daughters can inherit tribal rights when a father leaves no male sons. The flaw with this claim is that the episode does not deal with tribal lineage; rather it deals with the laws regarding the rights of children to inherit their father's physical property, such as land. This is reiterated in Numbers 36 where the laws regarding heiresses are described.

## 2. Spiritual and Political/Military Leader of Israel

When did Jesus serve as spiritual and military/political leader of a unified people of Israel? Though Jesus is referred to as "King of the Jews" in each of the Four Gospels (Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:9; Luke 23:38; John 18:39), there exists neither historical record nor any other validated credible evidence (including the New Testament itself) to substantiate that Jesus ever served in such a capacity. Moreover, there exists no extant factual evidence that he was ever recognized as a Torah scholar and authority, or that he ever led soldiers to war and was victorious on the battlefield.

## 3. Married with Children

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<sup>5</sup> See *Genealogical Scams and Flimflams* – <http://thejewishhome.org/counter/Genealogies.pdf>

Was Jesus ever married and did he (biologically) father any children? The authors of the New Testament are silent on this matter. According to the New Testament, Jesus never married nor did he father any children. Though Christians generally refer to themselves as the "spiritual" children of Jesus, this is not the same as biological children, which are also referred to as seed, offspring, and progeny.

"Candidate" Jesus passes the "Prior Job Experience" test. However, he does not possess the requisite "Qualifications" to be a viable candidate for the job.

**Conclusion: Jesus failed to qualify as candidate for the job**

### C. Performance Appraisal Criteria – Did Jesus Do the Job Right?

Christianity has claimed Jesus as its Messiah. Therefore, even though he failed to have the requisite qualifications for the position, the evaluation process will continue in order to determine whether he performed that job as required.

#### 1. The Coming of Elijah to Herald the Messiah's Arrival

Jesus claimed that John the Baptist was Elijah:

**Matthew 11:10-14(KJV) – (10) For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. (11) Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (12) And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. (13) For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. (14) And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.**

Yet, according to the New Testament, John the Baptist himself denied it:

**John 1:21(KJV) - And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.**

John the Baptist was also unsure about Jesus being the Messiah:

**Luke 7:19-20(KJV) – (19) And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? (20) When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?**

Given that Elijah will be announcing the arrival of the Messiah, is it possible that he will not know who the Messiah is?

Moreover, Elijah's mission is clearly defined in the Hebrew Bible. He will herald the arrival of the Messiah (Malachi 3:1), and he will also be the helper and healer, the reconciler and peace-bringer (Malachi 3:23-24[4:4-5]).

The only meaningful conclusion is that Elijah has not yet returned.

## **2. Building the Third Temple in Jerusalem**

The authors of the New Testament are silent about Jesus having built the Third Temple in Jerusalem, and there is no mention of the Third Temple built after his death on the cross. The historical record of the first century C.E. testifies to the fact that the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E. In contrast, the Hebrew Bible teaches that the future Temple will be permanent, it will not be destroyed.

## **3. In-Gathering of the Jewish Exiles to the Promised Land**

The authors of the New Testament are silent on whether this occurred during the lifetime of Jesus. The historical record of the first century C.E. shows that not only were all the Jewish people not repatriated to the Holy Land, they were exiled and dispersed into the Diaspora much more than during the previous exile following the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E.

## **4. Reunifying Judah and Israel into One People**

According to Hebrews 8:8, a misquoted verse from the Hebrew Bible, Judah and Israel were not "one people" during the first century C.E. Eight centuries after the destruction of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and its population dispersed into exile by Assyria, there was only a Judean remnant populating the Holy Land.

## **5. Establishing World Peace**

The historical record of the first century C.E. testifies to the fact that war, not peace, was raging all over the region of the Holy Land and elsewhere in the known world of that time.

## **6. Bringing about the Universal Knowledge of God**

The historical record of the first century C.E. testifies to the fact that paganism was rampant, and that a new false religion, which quickly embraced many of these pagan principles, further diverted people from a universal knowledge of the One God of the Hebrew Bible.

## **7. Realizing the Resurrection of the Dead**

Both the historical record of the first century C.E. and the conflicting accounts in the New Testament lead to the conclusion that no general resurrection of the dead ever took place, and that the story of the alleged "rising from the

dead" of Jesus, even if it were not a myth, does not qualify according to what the Hebrew Bible teaches.

The performance of "Candidate" Jesus did not meet the stated "Performance Appraisal Criteria".

**Conclusion: Jesus failed to do the job right**

**D. Candidate's Score Card**

As was already demonstrated, Jesus did not possess the necessary credentials to qualify him as a candidate for the position of Jewish Messiah. Yet, owing to the fact that he is the declared Messiah of Christianity, it was actually possible to evaluate his performance on the job using the criteria provided in the Hebrew Bible. Together, the results of the two phases of the evaluation clearly demonstrate that Jesus did not meet the requirements that would entitle him to the title of Jewish Messiah. Table III.D-1 replicates the "Job Requisition" and includes a scoring column to indicate whether "candidate" Jesus, the Messiah of Christianity, satisfied each of the listed requirements.

**Table III.D-1 – Did Christianity's candidate satisfy the job requirements?**

| Category                                     | Requirements  | Met?       |
|--|---|------------|
| <b>Prior Job Experience</b>                  | None  | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Qualifications</b>                        | The successful candidate will possess attributes that must include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:  |            |
|  | 1. Be a direct descendant of King David, through King Solomon   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 2. Be a spiritual and political/military leader   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 3. Be married and have children during  | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>Performance Appraisal Criteria</b>        | The successful candidate will be expected to bring about certain conditions as part of his sovereignty, though some will commence prior to his being identified as Messiah. These must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: |            |
|  | 1. The coming of Elijah to herald the Messiah's arrival   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 2. Building the Third Temple in Jerusalem   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 3. In-gathering of Jewish exiles to the Promised Land   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 4. Reunifying Judah and Israel into one people  | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 5. Establishing world peace   | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 6. Bringing about the universal knowledge of God  | <b>No</b>  |
|  | 7. Realizing the general resurrection of the dead   | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>Criteria Score Card: 1 "Yes", 10 "No"</b> |   |            |

"Candidate" Jesus, the Messiah of Christianity, satisfied only one out of the eleven requirements described in the "Job Requisition" for the position of Jewish Messiah. *Does he qualify for the title of Jewish Messiah? Would you hire him?*

**Conclusion: Jesus was a failed candidate for the job of Jewish Messiah**

#### IV. SUMMARY

According to the Hebrew Bible, and as the historical record testifies, the position of Jewish Messiah has not yet been filled, and it remains vacant to this day. Christianity has proclaimed Jesus as its Messiah, and that the New Testament contains the "evidence" – accounts of the fulfillment of literally hundreds of alleged messianic prophecies in the "Old Testament".

A careful analysis of the requirements for identifying משיח, as set forth in the Hebrew Bible, demonstrates that Christianity's claims concerning its Messiah are incompatible with the vision of the Jewish prophets. The events detailed in the Hebrew Bible as part of the messianic agenda did not occur nor have they been fulfilled. In fact, and quite to the contrary, history shows that exactly the opposite conditions prevailed from the alleged time of the birth of Jesus, during his ministry, and long after his death, even to the present time.

According to the "Job Requisition" model used in this essay, this may be summarized with the following two questions and their respective answers:

**Question: Did Jesus, Christianity's "candidate" for the position of Jewish Messiah, qualify for the job?**

**Answer: No. Jesus did not possess the requisite qualifications for the job.**

**Question: Did Jesus, the Messiah of Christianity, do the job right?**

**Answer: No. Jesus did not meet the performance objectives of the job.**

**The position of משיח, the Jewish Messiah, remains open!**

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