

Expectation of the Messiah

In non-canonical texts

Psalms of Solomon (50 B.C.)

You, O Lord, chose David as king over Israel,
And swore to him ...that his kingdom should never fail before you.
But for our sins, sinners (successors to the Maccabees) rose up
against us; they assailed us and thrust us out. What you had not
promised to them, they took away with violence. They in no wise
glorified your honorable name;
They set a worldly monarchy in place of that which was their
excellency.

They laid waste the throne of David in tumultuous arrogance.
But you, O God, cast them down and removed their descendants
from the land when a man alien to our race (the Roman general
Pompey, who captured Israel in 63 B.C.) rose up against them.
According to their sins you recompensed them O God, so that it
befell them according to their deeds. 17:4-8

Psalms of Solomon 17

Behold, O Lord, and raise up unto them their king, **the Son of David**,
At the time in which you see, O God, that he may reign over Israel
your servant.

Gird him with strength, that he may shatter unrighteous rulers,
And that he may purge Jerusalem from nations that trample her
down to destruction.

Wisely, righteously he shall thrust out sinners from the inheritance,
He shall destroy the pride of the sinner as a potter's vessel.
With a rod of iron he shall break in pieces all their substance,
He shall destroy the godless nations with the word of his mouth;
At this rebuke nations shall flee before him and he shall reprove
sinners for the thoughts of their heart. 17:21-25

Psalms of Solomon 17

He will make the peoples of the nations serve him under his yoke,

And he will glorify the Lord openly over all the earth.

And **the gentiles will come from the corners of the earth to see his glory.** 17:30-31.

For he shall not put his trust in horse and rider and bow,

Nor shall he multiply for himself gold and silver for war.

The Lord himself is his king. 17:33-34.

He will be pure from sin to rule a great people. 17:36.

Psalms of Solomon 17

Blessed be they who shall live in those days.

May the Lord hasten his mercy upon Israel; may he rescue us from the uncleanness of defiled enemies.

The Lord himself is our king forever and ever.

17:44-46

A Future Priest

Then the Lord will raise up a new priest, to whom all the words of the Lord will be revealed; and he will execute true judgment on the earth for a multitude of days. And his star will arise in heaven, lighting up the light of knowledge.

Testament of Levi 18:2-3

A Future King

And after these things there will arise for you a star out of Jacob in peace; and a man from my seed (that is, a descendant of Judah) will arise like the sun of righteousness; and no sin will be found in him. ...Then the scepter of my kingdom will shine, and from your root will arise a stem. And in him will grow a rod of righteousness for the Gentiles, to judge and save all who call upon the Lord.

Testament of Judah 24:1 and 5

Dual leadership

Zechariah 3-4

These chapters put the leadership of post-exilic Judah under two anointed leaders: Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel, a descendant of David. They are called “sons of oil.” Cf. Jer 33:14-26, which envisions a succession of Davidic kings and Levitical priests.

The Community Rule

The members of the community are not to depart from the counsels of the Law until there shall come **the Prophet** and the **Messiahs of Aaron and Israel**.

In the New Testament Jesus is identified as the son of David **and** the high priest after the order of Melchizedek Hebrews 6:19-7:3

4Q Testimonia

Deuteronomy 18

¹⁸ I will raise up for them again and again a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.

Deuteronomy 34

¹⁰ Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face.

4Q Testimonia

Numbers 24

¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near-- a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites.

A Future Prophet

1 Maccabees 14

⁴¹ "The Jews and their priests have resolved that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, **until a trustworthy prophet should arise**

A Future Prophet

Mark 1

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴ **John the baptizer** appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

A Future Prophet

John 6

- ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,
- ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

A Future Prophet

John 6

- ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.
- ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "**This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.**"

A Jewish Messiah Brings Abundance

2 Baruch 27-30

A time of terrible tribulation is coming, but Palestine will be spared. When the messiah is revealed, he will provide food for all the survivors **by serving them steaks made of Behemoth and Leviathan**. The vine will produce a thousand-fold and more. **Each grape in fact will yield 120 gallons!** The end time will bring back the good old wilderness days: The treasury of manna shall again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years.

Jesus, a Messiah of Abundance?

- **The Church Father Irenaeus**
- As the elders who saw **John**, the disciple of the Lord, related that they had heard from him how the **Lord Jesus** used to teach in regard to the last days and say: The days will come, in which vines shall grow, each having ten thousand branches, and in each branch ten thousand twigs, and in each true twig ten thousand shoots, and in every one of the clusters ten thousand grapes, and every grape when pressed will give five and twenty measures of wine.

A Victory Banquet of Abundance and our Hope

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with Your presence, and

give us a foretaste of the feast to come. Amen!

The death of the Jewish Messiah

4 Ezra

And after these years my son the Messiah will die, and all who draw human breath. And the world shall be turned back to primeval silence for seven days. 7:29-30.

Another picture of the Messiah

4 Ezra

And as for the lion (the Messiah) whom you saw rousing up out of the forest and roaring and speaking to the eagle (the Roman Empire) and reproving him for his unrighteousness, and as for all his words that you have heard, this is the Messiah whom the Most High has kept until the end of days, who will arise from the posterity of David and will come and speak to them; he will denounce them for their ungodliness and for their wickedness and will cast up before them their contemptuous dealings.

The Messiah in 4 Ezra

For first he will set them living before his judgment seat, and when he has reproved them, then he will destroy them. But he will deliver in mercy the remnant of my people, those who have been saved throughout my borders, and he will make them joyful until the end comes, the day of judgment, of which I spoke to you at the beginning.

4 Ezra 12:31-34.

The Many Promised Figures in the Old Testament and Jesus

The Old Testament talks about a future king (messiah), prophet, priest, son of man, and servant, and the NT sees all of these fulfilled in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ (the Messiah) crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.