

MESSIANISM TODAY
Eighth Day of Pesach 2012

1. Yeshayahu 11:1-5

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| <p>But a shoot shall grow out of the stump of Jesse, a twig shall sprout from his stock. The spirit of the L-rd shall alight upon him: a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and valor, a spirit of devotion and reverence for the L-rd. He shall sense the truth by his reverence for the L-rd. He shall not judge by what his eyes behold, nor decide by what his ears perceive. Thus he shall judge the poor with equity and decide with justice for the lowly of the land. He shall strike down a land with the rod of his mouth and slay the wicked with the breath of his lips. Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his waist.</p> | <p>וַיֵּצֵא חֹטֵר מִגֵּזַע יֵשׁוּעַ וַיִּנְצֹר מִשְׁרָשָׁיו יִפְרֶה. וַיָּנֹחַ עָלָיו רוּחַ ה' רוּחַ חֵכְמָה וּבִינָה רוּחַ עֵצָה וּגְבוּרָה רוּחַ דַּעַת וַיְרָאת ה' וַהֲרִיחוּ בִירָאת ה' וְלֹא- לְמַרְאֵה עֵינָיו יִשְׁפּוּט וְלֹא- לְמִשְׁמַע אָזְנוֹ יוֹכִיחַ וְשִׁפְט בְּצַדֵּק דְּלִים וְהוֹכִיחַ בְּמִישׁוֹר לְעֹנֵי-אֶרֶץ וְהִכָּה-אֶרֶץ בְּשִׁבְט פִּי וּבְרוּחַ שְׁפָתָיו יָמִית רָשָׁע וְהָיָה צֶדֶק אֲזוֹר אֲזוֹר מִתְּנָיו וְהָאֱמוּנָה אֲזוֹר חֲלָצָיו.</p> |
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Zionism as Messianism

2. Statement of Zionist Rabbis in Ha'melitz newspaper – early twentieth century

Anyone who think that the Zionist idea is somehow associated with future redemption and the coming of the messiah and who therefore regards it as undermining our holy faith is clearly in error. Zionism has nothing whatsoever to do with the questions of redemption. The entire point of this idea is merely the improvement of the condition of our wretched brethren. In recent years our situation has deteriorated disastrously, and many of our brethren are scattered in every direction, to the seven seas, and in places where the fear of assimilation is hardly remote. The Zionist saw that the only fitting place for our brethren to settle would be the Holy Land. And if some preachers, while speaking of Zion, also mention redemption and the coming of the messiah and thus let the abominable thought enter people's minds that the idea encroaches upon the territory of true redemption, only they themselves are to blame, for it is their own wrong opinion they express.

3. Prayer for the State of Israel

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| <p>Our Father in heaven, rock and redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel the beginning of the flowering of our redemption...</p> | <p>אבינו שבשמים צור ישראל וגואלו ברוך את מדינת ישראל ראשית צמיחת גאולתנו...</p> |
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The Blessing for the Messiah from Different Sidurim

4. Guiding Principles of Reform Judaism

Adopted at the 1937 Conference of Reform Rabbis in Columbus, Ohio

Throughout the ages it has been Israel's mission to witness to the Divine in the face of every form of paganism and materialism. We regard it as our historic task to cooperate with all men in the establishment of the kingdom of G-d, of universal brotherhood, justice, truth and peace on earth. This is our messianic goal.

5. Gates of Prayer (Reform) Prayerbook

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| Cause the plant of justice to spring up soon. Let the light of deliverance shine forth according to Your word, for we await Your deliverance all the day. Blessed is the Lord, who will cause the light of deliverance to dawn for all the world. | את צמח צדקה מהרה תצמיח, וקרן ישועה תרום כנאומך, כי לישועתך קוינו כל היום. ברוך אתה ה', מצמיח קרן ישועה. |
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6. Kol Haneshama (Reconstructionist) Prayerbook

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| May you speedily redeem your people Israel, and raise their stronghold with your help, for we await with hope throughout our days the coming of your help. Blessed are you, The God of Israel, who plants the stronghold of your help. | את עמך ישראל מהרה תגאל, וקרנו תרום בישועתך כי לישועתך קוינו כל היום. ברוך אתה ה', מצמיח קרן ישועה. |
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7. Emet Ve-Emunah: Statement of Principles of Conservative Judaism, pg. 31, 1988

We do not know when the Messiah will come, nor whether he will be a charismatic human figure or is a symbol of the redemption of humankind from the evils of the world. Through the doctrine of a messianic figure, Judaism teaches us that every individual human being must live as if he or she, individually, has the responsibility to bring about the messianic age.

8. Sim Shalom (Conservative) Prayerbook

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| Bring to flower the shoot of Your servant David. Hasten the advent of Messianic redemption. Each and every day we hope for Your deliverance. Praised are You, Lord who assures our deliverance. | את צמח דוד עבדך מהרה תצמיח, וקרנו תרום בישועתך, כי לישועתך קוינו כל היום. ברוך אתה ה', מצמיח קרן ישועה. |
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9. Artscroll (Orthodox) Prayerbook

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| The offspring of Your servant David may you speedily cause to flourish, and enhance his pride through Your salvation, for we hope for Your salvation all day long. Blessed are You, Hashem, Who causes the pride of salvation to flourish. | את צמח דוד עבדך מהרה תצמיח, וקרנו תרום בישועתך, כי לישועתך קוינו כל היום. ברוך אתה ה', מצמיח קרן ישועה. |
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