

# Mashiah 5770?

*By HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok*

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The big question that seems now to be on everybody's mind is whether or not Mashiah will finally be revealed in this New Year 5770.

I have read so many opinions from so many different points of view. Indeed, there are so many different points of view that I wonder just how on earth any of them can ever expect to be taken seriously.

We have no prophecy today and no prophets. No one today who speaks to G-d gets any kind of answer that he in turn can speak to the world.

There are many people in this world who are psychic. There are many people who can foresee the future. But, so what? We have to ask which future do they see. What world/dimension are they peering into? Are they peering into our future or are they seeing something from only a potential future? Maybe all they are seeing is their own desires and wishes.

We are inundated by predictions and proclamations by those who claim to see and those who claim to follow them. In the end, all these predictions and all these predictors have been proven to be wrong, everyone one of them!

Talk about the Mashiahs, Ben Yosef and Ben David has become a philosophical pursuit. Every religious lesson about them becomes deeper and deeper and more and more detached from reality. We end up learning so much about so many things that we fail to notice the reality of what is going on around us. We are in danger of becoming so heavenly minded that in the end we will become no earthly good.

Messianic speculations are very entertaining. Messianic speculations are very attractive to the desperate soul so very much overwhelmed by what is happened all around us in the world. Yet, Messianic speculations are, and always have been, a complete waste of time. Centuries ago our Sages, expected Mashiah in their own days, they waited and they were disappointed. They witnessed the destruction of the Temple and decades of death and still no redemption came.

The Sages finally decreed that Messianic speculations are a waste of time and actually cursed those who calculated them. They realized that all such speculations only served to promote false hopes. Once the calculated times and expected scenarios passed, and nothing had changed, people lost hope and eventually lost all their faith in Heaven, Torah and even in HaShem Himself.



False hopes are a really bad thing. This is why when RaMBaM postulated the 13 Principles of Torah faith; he wrote with regards to the coming of Mashiah, that even though he may tarry, we wait daily for his coming. And we continue to wait. We know that someday, in some way Mashiah will very well come. Just how and when, RaMBaM admitted we will never know, until the time is right under our very noses.

Well, here we are today in a very different scenario than any experienced before the present century. Jews have reestablished the long-lost State of Israel and true to Biblical prophecy the nations of the world are starting to line up in opposition to the Jewish state and unofficially against the Jewish people and the Jewish Torah. World-wide anti-Semitism, supposed to be dead after the debacle of the Holocaust has again reared its ugly face and is now even more widespread and virulent that it was in pre-WWII Europe.

In spite of all the liberal and embracing proclamations of the world's secular democracies, there is no place in the secular new world order for a "Jewish" State of Israel, with Jerusalem as its eternal, undivided capital. This is not religious issue, it is a political one. Every liberal, Israeli, Jew and Westerner alike, all proclaim that an integral part of their liberal beliefs is that they put an end to "evil apartheid Israel."

Such opposition to Israel can only end in one of two scenarios. Being that both sides, those pro-Israel and those against are mutually exclusive and neither is willing to compromise, in the end one side or the other will have to win out. Either we will have a Greater State of Israel with Jerusalem as its capital, or we will end up not having an Israel at all, most likely at the cost of another Holocaust, this time in the Middle East.

More and more the world seems to be turning against Israel and alongside it against Jews and Judaism in general. It is glaringly clear that anti-Zionism cannot detach itself from anti-Semitism and that the hatred of Israel clearly reflects a hatred of anything Jewish. This is not only true in the Arab/Islamic world; it is also true throughout Europe and is becoming a greater and greater reality here in the USA.

All this is going on and it only serves to further Messianic speculation and desperation. The only ones who seem to be looking at the situation with any sense of normalcy are certain segments of the Israeli government, including the Israeli military. The State of Israel is keenly aware of the growing hostility it faces around the world. Yet, it seems that they are unable to address the rising tides of anti-Semitism that apparently they themselves are fostering.

If and when hostilities do break out between Iran and Israel, Israel in the short term might be able to neutralize an Iranian nuclear threat, but at what cost? How will the world respond to such an Israeli attack? We see the world today is "trigger-happy" in placing sanctions on governments deemed to be intransigent. If Israel were to attack Iran, certainly there would be international sanctions. Not that these would matter any; they do not seem to be hurting either North Korea or Iran. So if Israel were to be placed on this dubious list, it might be completely irrelevant.

If Israel acts to defend itself, it will do so at the cost of arousing world condemnation; this we have already seen. It is a foregone fact. Many in Israel itself even condemn not only their own government but they condemn the nation and the people in general. There is definitely a "fifth column" of Jewish and Israeli sympathizers who identify with the enemies of the Jewish state. What is bizarre about this

is that this was prophesied by the prophet Zecharia centuries ago. He wrote that in the end of days, many Jews would fight against Jerusalem. We see this fulfilled now in our days. This is getting weird.

I believe, like our Sages of old have said that it is dangerous to predict or speculate when Mashiah might come. Such speculations only spread false hope. Even in light of everything happening today, I reiterate these, my beliefs. Mashiah is coming, and maybe sooner than later; but then again, who can say? Prophecies are a funny thing and no one knows how they are to come about. So rather than try to speculate about the future and direct current events towards what we believe to be prophetic ends, we should instead follow the directives of Torah and live each day properly and rightly, as if there will be a tomorrow.

Centuries ago, when Jerusalem was about to be destroyed, Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai had the foresight to think about the future. He escaped a sinking ship and instead of getting involved politically he worked to salvage and save the future. None of us would be here today as Jews were it not for his wisdom in establishing Yavneh.

Yes, Mashiah might very well be right around the corner. Centuries ago, Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakai felt and believed the very same way. Yet, he took the necessary precautions just in case Mashiah would tarry. So today, when we face what very well might turn into a nuclear WWIII, we also must take all necessary and wise precautions to prepare for a turbulent future. No one knows what the future holds, but judging from the natural order of unfolding events, it does not look pretty or blissful. Wisdom demands of us to see the truth and to act accordingly.

So, will Mashiah come in 5770? It is against our religion to categorically say no, but if I could say it, I would! This New Year will definitely bring with it its share of troubles and problems. While I am certain Heaven will intervene in many of our individual lives and save us as individuals from what could be terrible outcomes, these will still only be on an individual basis. Collectively, the State of Israel will have to face many choices about its survival and these choices will not be easy. They will definitely have an effect upon Jews all over the world and upon the world in general.

Who would think that this “shitty little county Israel” as it was referred to by a European diplomat would cause such a commotion in the world body politic? Yet, it does and will continue to do so. This is, for me, a sure sign of Messianic times. Yet, for those of us who do know the prophecies and who disregard the distracting speculations of those who do not know them, we recognize that there is still much darkness to come before the eventual Great Dawn of the Day of HaShem. Rest assured that The Day is coming, and not soon enough for any of us!

***Go to KosherTorah.com and learn the prophecies for yourself. I have full lessons in Biblical End Times prophecies from Isaiah, Zecharia, Daniel and many other sources. Learn and come to see for yourselves what is coming down the pike!***

May we all have a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.