



A Twenty (21) Lesson Audio Course
Academic Review of
Post-Talmudic Jewish Messianism
(ARPTJM)
Taught by R. Ariel B. Tzadok

**Covering the major schools
of Halakhic, Midrashic, and Kabbalistic teachings.**

Course Outline

ARPTJM1 – Reading from Kol HaTur 1:1 to establish the foundation of modern messianism. Then we go back into time to read a selection of post-Talmudic messianic writings. We start with Sefer Zerubabel, which for the first time outlines specific details about the roles of Mashiah ben Yosef, and Mashiah ben David, giving each names, even the name of MbD's mother, and her role in things. This class discusses the origins of the legend of the Armilus. All these legends will be discussed within the context of their historical origins, to offset their later midrashic/non-literal interpretations and applications.

ARPTJM2 – Reading from Sefer Zerubabel, Secrets of Rebbe Shimon Ben Yohai and the Prayer of Shimon Ben Yohai. Timing the coming of Mashiah, why this is a terrible, and forbidden thing, according to most Torah opinions. Temple descending from Heaven in accordance to earlier Talmudic tradition. Connections to earlier Merkava/Hekhalot literature. Descriptions of Armilus. Armilus's rise over Edom and taking dominion over religion. His predicted conflict with Mashiah ben Yosef, and the casting of Jews out of Jerusalem to struggle to survive in the wilderness. God comes to fight for His people. In a throwback to possible Shiur Komah literature, God is described as being something “physical” (?), so unlike modern Torah theology. This class continues to lay the foundations for many modern Messianic beliefs.

ARPTJM3 – The Ten Signs. This midrash introduces to us an important blend of concepts old and new. The Ten Signs is a polemic piece whose intent is clearly to frighten its readers with its vivid imagery of terrifying two-headed monsters, and other trials and travails that are to befall the world. What makes this specific midrash so important today is its longevity. It has appeared in numerous forms, and has been published numerous times. It is the foundation for many modern beliefs about the pre-messianic travails, the hevlei mashiah. The Ten Signs holds a place of lasting importance in Jewish eschatology, and it is reviewed here in full.



ARPTJM4 – The Messianic Scenario of Hai Gaon. Written in the 11th century, this is one of finest, and most complete renditions of the messianic scenario that takes into account all of the previous sources that developed since Talmudic times. We see here new takes on old topics, with emphasis on scriptural proof texts. The Armilus legend, while mentioned is downplayed, while an old Biblical teaching, curiously absent from the previous scenarios pops up here, this is Gog and Magog. Hai Gaon discusses the resurrection of the dead, and we see here its polemic purpose. He also speaks about how all Israel are to be resurrected, and inserts a Halakhic directive to encourage his readers to follow the practice of reciting vidui (confession) on one's deathbed to assure one's forgiveness before one dies. Some early parts of this scenario have been applied to modern times, we address if such applications have any factuality. Overall, this scenario is one of the best, and most complete of the genre.

ARPTJM5 – The Fall of Edom, the Rise of Ishmael & the Terrible Test.

This class discusses legends outlined in the midrash Pirkei Mashiah. It will also speak about the world to come as described in the writings of Hai Gaon.

Israel attacks Rome, and recaptures the lost Temple treasures. Persia fights with the Arabs. Israel and Ishmael battle it out over control of the Temple Mount.

A full discussion of why legends should never be taken to be prophecy, and how in spite of similarities to current events, why legends should not be taken as road maps for the future.

After Mashiah comes, the entire world is transformed, death is abolished, hostility ceases to exist, even in the animal kingdom. Human lifespans expand to thousands of years.

Human anatomy is transformed. Human beings grow in stature to over 100 feet high.

The inner Earth connection to redemption, the lost tribes, and the Hopi.

The Living Presence of God physically becomes manifest and transforms the dimensional fabric and space/time.

All these legends describe the future. Are any of them literal, are any of them to be taken seriously? Hai Gaon would say yes. What say you?

ARPTJM6 – RaMBaM, Views on Mashiah, Part 1

Readings from Introduction to Perek Helek and the Igeret Teiman.

Maimonides (RaMBaM) held to a certain point of view about messianism that has come to be called the rationalist school.

Unlike the centuries of messianic legends that preceded him, RaMBaM makes absolutely no mention of the famous/popular beliefs in Mashiah ben Yosef, Armilus or any of the other concepts that developed out of the old apocalyptic schools.

RaMBaM is emphatic and clear to condemn those who seek to interpret the symbolic talk of the Sages in a literal fashion. He says those misinterpretations discredit the Torah.

The time of Mashiah, according to RaMBaM will follow the natural order of things, as



outlined by a singular opinion in the Talmud (and hotly debated by other commentaries).

A quick review of the twelfth principle of the Jewish faith, the belief in the coming of Mashiah.

Igeret Teiman, RaMBaM's comments about predicting the time of Mashiah's coming, and what his character will be like, once he does come.

ARPTJM7 – RaMBaM, Views of Mashiah, Part 2

Readings from the Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 11 – 12.

The messianic king is to be recognized by the things that he does, one of which is to build the Third Temple. This view is one of many that has aroused much controversy and debate with other Rabbinic scholars, who disagreed with RaMBaM.

Is Mashiah a miracle worker? RaMBaM's carefully word opinion on this matter.

Difference between a possible messiah and the definite true article.

A comment about Yeshu HaNotzri, and the purpose of the existence of Christianity and Islam, how it brings Jewish messianic concepts to the world.

No one knows the details of how the coming of Mashiah will transpire, such details are not essential parts of the Torah faith.

Miraculous changes during the Messianic era? None according to RaMBaM. Other opinions regarding this.

The coming of Elijah the Prophet, what he will do, and not do.

How prophesy must be restored before the Temple and be rebuilt (according to RaMBaM).

Only Elijah can bring to us the ashes of the Red Heifer and thus enable there to be ritually pure people who can work in the Temple's construction.

ARPTJM8 – Halakhic Perspectives from When Mashiah Comes, Part 1

Readings from When Mashiah Comes by Rabbi Yehudah Chayoun, chapters 1 – 5.

Topics covered: Belief in the Coming of Mashiah, “Forcing” the End of Galut, Calculating the Date of Redemption, The Redemption, and the Battle of Gog and Magog.

These topics are covered from the point of view that represents a wide variety of opinions from a number of sources.

My comments include references to many issues in current events.

Internalized Mashiah, the ideas of the Talmud and the Ba'al Shem Tov.

When is “the moment” of Mashiah's coming, what does this mean?

ARPTJM9 – Halakhic Perspectives from When Mashiah Comes, Part 2

Readings from When Mashiah Comes by Rabbi Yehudah Chayoun, chapters 6-7

Eliyahu the Prophet, when does he come, before or after Mashiah?

What is he supposed to do? What is TIKU?

This lesson digresses to discuss a very important lesson about the Jewish religion, which is the nature of Torah pluralism. In discussing Eliyahu, we encounter variant opinions, some even exclusive of others. Yet, there are many different opinions, ideas



and beliefs, and it is important that we recognize the subjective value of them, and not confuse them to be objective statements of absolute truths.

The Mashiah himself, who is he, how will he be known, how does he come, what will he do.

Also included is a detailed discussion of the Talmudic statement that speaks of how Mashiah can be “of the dead,” and how these words have been interpreted by the Lubavitcher movement in a literal fashion to apply to their dearly departed Rebbe. The controversial nature of this apparent misinterpretation is explained in decent detail.

ARPTJM10 - Halakhic Perspectives from When Mashiah Comes, Part 3

Readings from When Mashiah Comes by Rabbi Yehudah Chayoun, chapters 8-11

What the messianic era will be like, a natural evolution for all humanity. A political comment dismissing the nonsensical conspiracy theories about Jewish plots to control the world. The religion of the messianic era will be the revelation of natural truths. How nature will change is a matter subject to opinion. Some believe that nature will remain the same as it is now. Others believe that nature will be restored to the original Edenic state, which is radically different than nature is now.

There are ten opinions expressing how long the messianic era will last .

The Third Temple, who builds it, human hands, or is it heaven sent. Why, according to Torah law, we cannot build a Temple until the coming of either Elijah or another prophet. The issue of the Red Heifer is discussed.

The location of the future Temple, the great earthquake, the new 45 mile wide canyon between the New Jerusalem and the New Temple.

The abolition of the Evil Inclination, how will this be achieved, and by whom, and over what period of time.

The transformation of the animal world, will the lion lay down with the lamb literally or is it only a metaphor, the difference between RaMBaM and RaMBaN.

ARPTJM11 - Halakhic Perspectives from When Mashiah Comes, Part 4

Readings from When Mashiah Comes by Rabbi Yehudah Chayoun, chapters 12-13

The Abolition of the Commandments. What is the relationship between the coming of the Mashiah and the cessation of certain Torah observances. This topic is put into context by explaining the underlying kabbalistic concepts of primordial Torah and Tikun that are necessary for its understanding.

Which commandments are to cease, which holidays are to be no longer observed, which books of the Bible will no longer be read.

The importance of respecting different points of views, and the difference between the Halakhic (legal) outlook and the Kabbalistic (mystical), the parameters of each.

The Resurrection of the Dead, what is this, and why this is. What is the Luz bone in light of modern medical insights. The importance of Malukah Malka, the 4th Sabbath meal, and its implied relationship to resurrection. A review of the Sabbath meals.



ARPTJM12 - Halakhic Perspectives from When Mashiah Comes, Part 5

Readings from When Mashiah Comes by Rabbi Yehudah Chayoun, chapters 15-20
Forecasting the Coming of Mashiah – why this cannot be done, especially when the dates that we work with might not be right. Reference to the 163 missing years in dating the Jewish calendar.

Rabbi Akiva and Bar Cokhba – how he could have been considered messiah, and what we learn from this about identifying a messianic hopeful.

Mashiah's sudden arrival – no one knows when Mashiah will come or how.

Opposition to Mashiah – how it is ingrained in the Jewish psyche. Why there must also be a health dose of skepticism in all judgments, especially about something as important as Mashiah.

When does Mashiah actually become aware of his destiny, references from the life of Moses.

The dangers of embellished stories that seek to aggrandize and fantasize rather than to look at things realistically.

ARPTJM13 – The Zoharic Scenario, Part 1

Reading from Zohar, Shemot 7a-fol.

Introduction into the Zohar and its authoritative place in Judaism, whether or not it is the legitimate work of the 2nd century Sage, Shimon Bar Yohai.

How Spanish Kabbalah differs from the original Secrets of Torah from Biblical and Talmudic times.

What is the Shekhina and what it means for it (Her) to be redeemed.

The relationship between life-force energy and human sexuality.

Judgment of the nations and their angelic representatives, based on their treatment of Israel, which included all twelve tribes, and not just the known Jews.

The pillar of fire, the supernatural revelations, and how we can expect collective humanity to react.

The revelation of Messiah from the Bird's Nest in the Garden of Eden. A discussion about Inner Earth, Hebron, Makhpelah, and the connection to modern day conspiracy theories.

The fighting stars and how nebulous Zoharic predictions are that they defy definitive commentary. There is no “rashi” to Zohar.

ARPTJM14 – The Zoharic Scenario, Part 2

Reading from Zohar, Shemot 7a-fol.

The Pillar of Fire and Messiah's ascent into “Heaven” from the Garden of Eden. Does this suggest a connection between Inner Earth and Extraterrestrials?

The entire world unites to combat Messiah, what force on Earth could unite everyone into a single cause?

The fifteen days of darkness, if such an even were to literally occur, what would be world opinion?

Secret of the thirty-two paths of Torah and its relationship to sound technology,

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reference to Sefer Yetzirah, the 1984 film Dune, and Buddhist meditation chanting. Aligning the letters of the Name, aligning forces in the universe, as well as in time, and consciousness.

Messiah's weapons of war, more about sound technology, and examples of alleged modern sonic weapons.

The value of the simple individual, with resolve of faith, as opposed to the learned Sage.

The Shekhina, possible astral body of planet Earth, possible personification of the archetypal feminine, source of ancient Goddess worship.

ARPTJM15 – The Zoharic Scenario, Secrets of the True Redemption.

The Power in our Hands!

Reading from Zohar, Shemot 9. This reading from the Zohar reveals to us profound psychic and psychological lessons about the true nature of exile, and what we can practically do to contribute to its conclusion.

The secret of the unity of the Names YHWH and ELOHIM, and what this means psychologically and psychically.

This lesson talks about psychic powers and their developments and their scientific foundation.

Reference is made to the TV science program Through the Wormhole, Season 2, the episode on the Sixth Sense (available on Amazon.com).

The Twelve Tribes, their exile, and their continuing connection to the essence of Torah within the garments of the world's religions and spiritual teachings.

The importance of building bridges between communities as a means to quicken the Messianic era. Reference to the universal nature of spiritual reality as referred to in Tana D'vei Eliyahu.

The exile of the Yod in Babylon. Reference to Yod consciousness and Hey consciousness and the differences between them and how each is to be used.

The dual universes in which we live are two sides of the same coin, how important it is for us to reconnect our awareness to live in both simultaneously.

This lesson contains an introduction into the Pillar of Fire Kabbalistic Qigong meditation and why it is so important.

This section of Zohar is the foundation for many later teachings found in the lessons of the Ba'al Shem Tov, and others.

ARPTJM16 – Compendium of Zoharic Predictions.

Readings from the text Otzar HaZohar.

There are many messianic teachings scattered throughout the books of Zoharic literature. This class covers many of the predictions, ideas and beliefs not covered in the Exodus section of the Zohar covered in previous classes.

Highlights include the coming role of the “Children of Reuben” and their possible association with the people of China. How they are destined to conquer the world.

The role of Iran, are they destined to conquer and destroy “Mashiah ben Yosef” (the State of Israel) and to perpetuate a holocaust.



The secret cave under the Earth, from which comes forth the devouring fire to scorch the Earth, what is this fire?

Also referenced in the role of Ishmael when Mashiah comes, and how this section of Zohar indicates a possible late origin for this section of text (post Rashbi).

Selections are taken from the Zoharic index, Otzar HaZohar, and cover numerous other topics, culled from all the different sections of Zoharic literature.

ARPTJM17 – R' Avraham Azulai's Hesed L'Avraham

Knowing and Recognizing when is the End of Days.

Hesed L'Avraham (5:35), explaining the secret of the exile, and knowing the end.

Human history is understood as having an “expiration date,” at which time, ready or not, Mashiah does come.

Human history is finite and determined. Each generation successively falls further and further away from collective enlightenment, and falls deeper into ignorance, apathy, extremism and narrow-mindedness.

How far we can slide as a race is predetermined. If we cannot climb out of the pit that we dig for ourselves, we can continue falling deeper and deeper into it, until we hit rock bottom. Yet, as we hit that bottom, we find the bottom not to be made of stone, but more like an egg shell. We find that Higher reality is cyclical. It exists above us, and below us and all around us. By knowing just how far we have fallen from the Primordial Light, enables us to measure how much more (how much shorter) we are from the messianic light that is coming.

ARPTJM18 – R' Avraham Azulai's Hesed L'Avraham

The Kabbalistic/Messianic Torah & the Poverty of the End of Days

Hesed L'Avraham (5: 36, 37). The messianic sufferings will only affect the non-Kabbalist. The sufferings will force them to chose between becoming entirely good (like the Kabbalist) or entirely evil. The Kabbalist will not be bothered by the pre-messianic travails because his level of spiritual consciousness is so high that he will not consider the terrible times to be that bad. This is the view of R'Azulai.

When Mashiah comes how will the commandments be observed depends upon one's level of Kabbalistic understanding prior to Mashiah's coming. The difference between souls from Atzilut and the souls from Beriah/Yetzirah.

The dangers of messianic fervor, and the perversion of one believing oneself to be living in messianic consciousness, in this time period. The debacle of Shabtai Tzvi, the dangerous psychology underlying this movement, and the danger of its repetition today. How God is to cleanse Israel of their worldly attachments by removing from them absolutely everything. God is to reduce Israel to a state of utter hopelessness, where the only thing that they can do is to turn to God.

Then, magically, Mashiah comes. A literal reading of R' Azulai gives rise to the belief of a magical coming of Mashiah without the details of the messianic scenario. We cover and explain why this interpretation is incorrect, and why it can actually be dangerous.

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ARPTJM19 – R' Avraham Azulai's Hesed L'Avraham

The “Rapture” in Judaism, Staying Alive, & the Year When Mashiah is Coming

R. Azulai emphasizes how the messianic travails are meant to make the nation of Israel repent, and return to God. It is not meant to be another holocaust.

People are to be tested, to see if they will separate from their physical ways to embrace a spiritual lifestyle. They are not all going to die.

Readings from my book, Yikra B'Shmi (Call Upon My Name). When Mashiah comes with the gathered exile, the righteous of the Holy Land (7000 in number) will be transformed into Haluka D'Rabbanan bodies, just like Enoch and Elijah. Is the Holy Land a reference to the physical land or a higher level of consciousness (Abulafia, Ba'al Shem Tov).

At this time also is the first resurrection of the dead. Discussion about the Garden of Eden, the astral body, and whether or not Inner Earth is in this dimensional plane or a parallel one.

The days of this world will be measured like the waters of the mikveh. Then the measure is full, Mashiah will come, problem is, this time has already come and gone.

We learn the lesson about not believing in all the calculations and misguiding predictions.

ARPTJM20 - 21 – The Debacle of the False Messiah, Shabtai Tzvi.

Readings from Gershom Scholem's “Sabbatai Tzvi, the Mystical Messiah,” and Jerry Rabow's “50 Jewish Messiahs.”

The events in world Jewish history that led up to the times of Shabtai Tzvi. Why the entire Jewish world was inclined and ready to believe in him.

The dangers in superficial kabbalah study and practice, the psychological imbalances created by the embrace of mythological thinking. Dangers of becoming so heavenly minded that one becomes no earthly good. Practical, personal examples from the lives of Kabbalists that I have personally known.

Bi-polarism, psychological numinosity, delusions of grandeur, and supportive public sentiment oblivious to the nature of psychology impairment.

The story of the rise of Shabtai Tzi teaches us history, and at the same times reveals to us that some of the same problems that led to his rise still exist in the religious world to this day.

Course Details

The cost of the course is \$210.00.

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