

The revelation of Messiah

The rock

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.”

(Isaiah 28: 16 NIV, also in the following Bible quotes if not stated differently)

How amazing is it that *the God of Israel* makes **“known *the end from the beginning*, from ancient times, what is still to come.”** (Isaiah 46: 10)

This God is so unfathomably *good*, but still *holy*, which means *different* from our *mere human mindsets and ways*. And *sadly* we *so often* practise outward religiosity, yet with *our hearts - which matter most* - stubbornly hardened towards HIM; as Isaiah warned his people from the start regarding *their Lord*: **“He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured.”** Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples. I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob. I will put my trust in him.” (Isaiah 8: 14-17)

Indeed, what a *tragedy!* What an irony that exactly *God’s beloved, eternally chosen people* are foretold *here through Isaiah* to be the ones who will at some point *take offence* on Him and His divine work; so that it will cause them to *seriously stumble* because of this *“holy rock”*.

This rock points to the very rock that *the prophet Daniel* speaks about, which is *not of human*, but of *godly origin*; which will come down and ultimately destroy all the world’s kingdoms *previously described figuratively by a metal statue*, and usher in *God’s eternal kingdom* on earth:

“While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. (...) In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” (Daniel 2: 34-44)

Only *the long awaited Messiah* will be able to do this – but the crucial question is: *Who is He?* What is *His character, origin, and nature?*

“Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Whose hands have gathered up the wind? Who has wrapped up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is the name of his son? Surely you know!” (Proverbs/Mishlei 30: 4)

The Tanakh reveals here that God has *a Son, Who is of His very nature, but also promised to appear as a man Who will reign forever here on this earth*: The very “stone” the Lord testifies about when He proclaims:

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed (...) “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Now therefore, O kings, be wise; (...) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him (- *the Son!*).” (Psalm/Tehillim 2: 2-12 ESV)

It is He Who was *one with the Most High* from the beginning. The deepest reason why “Elohim” is a *plural form*, although God is *ONE* and *always will be!*

It is He to Whom the Creator spoke when He said: **“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...”** (Genesis/Bereshit 1: 26, confer also 3: 22)

It is He, the *“Word of God”* Who came forth from Him, *“His embodied wisdom”*, Who testifies about *His own person*:

“The Lord created me as the first of his works, before his acts of long ago. I was formed at the very beginning. I was formed before the world began. Before there were any oceans, I was born. There weren't any springs of water at that time. Before the mountains were settled in place, I was born. Before there were any hills, I was born. It happened before the Lord made the earth and its fields. It was before he made the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place. When he marked out the place where the sky meets the sea, I was there. That was when he put the clouds above. It was when he fixed the ocean springs in place. It was when he set limits for the sea so that the waters had to

obey his command. When he marked out the foundations of the earth, I was there. I was the skilled worker at his side. I was filled with delight day after day. I was always happy to be with him. His whole world filled me with joy. I took delight in all human beings.”

(Proverbs/Mishlei 8: 22-31 NIRV)

The humble king

His eternal purpose was always that He would *one day* come to this earth - *first and foremost to His city Jerusalem* - and reign on the throne of David, *who was only a mere foreshadow of the Messiah and His kingdom to come.* But still, already the Tanakh reveals that this *Anointed One* will not only appear - *like many human kings in their pride* - with mere force, cruel judgement and suppression, but will be very different:

“City of Zion, be full of joy! People of Jerusalem, shout! See, your king comes to you. He always does what is right. He has the power to save. He is gentle and riding on a donkey. He is sitting on a donkey's colt.”

(Zechariah 9: 9)

It is He Who is further described by the prophet Isaiah who even addresses *both* of these two different sides of Him in *one single scripture*:

First describing His ministry as *the humble priest* Who will not only establish the covenant with *His people*, but also become a light to *the gentiles.* And *secondly*, *after the first things have come to pass*, His final coming as *the glorious king and judge* Who will not hold Himself back any longer. Birthed by the mighty praise, joyful singing, and heartfelt invitation of many nations (even *those around Israel!*) welcoming Him as *Who He is*:

““Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who

sit in darkness. “I am the LORD (JHWH); that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them. Let the wilderness and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops. Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim his praise in the islands. The Lord will march out like a champion, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies. “For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.” (Isaiah 42: 1-16)

This scripture reveals the *two-fold ministry of the Messiah*, Who is not only supposed to *come, judge and reign*, but had to fulfill *something else, even more important to God, first*: ...*Since the true hindrance to His kingdom on earth* are not mainly *His enemies*, but - *may we grasp it* - *our own hearts!*

What *mattered to God* was always *His people*. As long as Israel followed Him, it was no problem for Him to give them victory over all their enemies, but *the true problem and reason for all later judgements* was *the sin of His own nation*. The **“people holy to the Lord”** turning away from Him, though He had chosen them **“out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”** (Deuteronomy/Devarim 7: 6)

It is *this “sin-problem”* that - *up to now* - is the most severe obstacle to God’s will for this earth. Our own insufficiency to keep *all His law* out of our *own strength*. Our inability to live up to God’s high standards and become righteous before Him *merely by our own works of the law*. The impossibility to *deserve* heaven and eternal life with Him Who is *perfectly holy and completely pure*.

But yet, *from the beginning*, God *knew* that we would not be able to “make it by ourselves”.

From the beginning God provided a way out of this misery of *failure, sin and righteous punishment for it*, by revealing that it would need a sacrifice being brought for us.

Already the first attempt of Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness and shame with *fig leaves, that means their own religious attempt to somehow cover their sin*, failed and God clearly showed them that *something else* would be necessary. Already at this point a *sacrifice* had to be killed, so that their nakedness could be covered. It was *He Himself* Who provided for them the real covering and righteousness that would *not only do in their eyes*, but also *before Him*, when the Torah declares:

“The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” (Genesis/Bereshit 3:21)

Later, *Isaac* who should be killed by his father Abraham, but ultimately God intervened and His Angel said “stop!” At this, *He* provided a sacrifice that was brought *in his place*, exactly like Abraham had prophesied beforehand: **“God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”** (Genesis/Bereshit 22:8)

It is a mystery, but actually *all of us* are represented in Isaac, since *we all* would deserve punishment and ultimately death, if our Heavenly Father was to judge us *by our works alone!* For **“there is no one who does good”** and is *completely righteous* before the *Holy God*. (Psalm 14:1)

Nevertheless, HE knew it from the start and had established a plan to *redeem us* and *bridge the insurmountable gap* between *His perfect justice and desire for complete righteousness* on the one hand, and *His perfect love, compassion and desire to make us totally clean, righteous and fit to be with Him for eternity* on the other hand.

By somebody capable *stepping in, closing the gap, paying the necessary price, mediating* between the *Holy One* and us, as already *Job* desired, crying: **“If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together, someone to remove God’s rod from me...”** (Job 9:33f.)

With Abraham God had found a *true friend* and *man after His own heart*. He tested him in *the very thing that He Himself was ready to do later*: Namely, *to heavy-heartedly offer up His own Son, giving Him over to death (while yet receiving Him back later)*, so that *our sin* would be placed on Him - like on a sacrificial animal - and we could be forgiven!

Fulfilling *exactly* what Isaiah prophesied about the One Who humbled Himself to the lowest point *out of love*, giving His own perfect life in the

cruellest way, being lifted up on a tree, despised by *the Ones He came for*. But yet knowing that it will be *worth it all* and God will thereat lift Him up: **“See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him— his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness— so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.”** (Isaiah 52:13-15) ... This most awesome passage continues with the *so appropriate, penetrating question* to His people:

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:1-12)

In the most stunning way the prophet reveals the outrageous fact that “He” was pierced for *our transgressions*, “He” bore *our sins* and by His suffering *we are set free!*

This passage is sometimes pointed to *the people of Israel*, who have also gone through a lot of suffering and with whom their Messiah also identifies most, *but yet*, what it’s ultimately speaking about is what *only the Messiah* could fulfill: Only the wounds of *Him, Who was the Only One fully “righteous”*, as it says, could heal us. Only He, Who was holy and sinless, *son* but still *obedient servant* of God, could justify *many* and bear their iniquities.

Truly, *we all*, like sheep, had been going astray, walking our own ways that didn’t bring us life. But God provided for us a way back to Him: Not by *manmade religion* or *a mere set of rules* (which, however, may be right and eternally valid), but by a Saviour Who gave Himself on our behalf; so that the way for us would be opened up again into *complete purity, real peace, unhindered access and living relationship with God our Father* by this perfect sacrifice that was introduced gradually *from the beginning* in His story of redemption.

Until *He finally came*, Who in *His last hour* still spoke *the first words of Psalm 22*; in which David *himself* was *at least to some extent* already taken into *the reality of His suffering* by the Holy Spirit; but which, however, was written *prophetically* about what was *yet to come*. When the Messiah - *though completely innocent* - would deliberately choose to bear the punishment for our guilt, even up to the point of enduring *the momentary separation from His heavenly Father*, the hardest thing ever! Crying:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? (...) But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him. (...) Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (...)

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him. (...) Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!” (Psalm/Tehillim 22)

David predictively describes *His suffering*, but also *the fruit of it*: That people from all the ends of the earth will once remember this event, turn to God through it, humble themselves in light of it and serve Him. Because He has accomplished what mankind was *inevitably in need of* for its salvation.

The announcement

To *the prophet Daniel* God, almost equally *long ago*, even revealed *a concrete time-table* of crucial things to come; through the angel Gabriel telling: **“Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision:**

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One (Mashiach), the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.” (Daniel 9: 23-26)

A “seven” (in Hebrew: “shavua” or “week”) in this context speaks about a *year-week*, which means *seven years!* If You start counting from the time when the king of Persia gave the decree for the Jewish people to return from captivity and rebuild Jerusalem, including the wall, *in 445 BC* (cf. Nehemiah 2), and add 69 year-weeks, *that is 483 biblical/lunar years or 476 common solar years* ($483 \times 360 \div 365,24$), You end up at the year 32 AD.

It was exactly about the time when **Yeshua**, a Jew from the line of David, was given over by His nation’s religious elite to the Romans, who flocked and crucified Him - *one of the cruelest ways a human being can be killed*.

He *exactly fulfilled* what Daniel had prophesied *most accurately* in the significant word above about His *coming* and *being cut off from life*, before the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, *including the temple*, about 40 years later.

So at least in part - that means for those people who accepted Him as their Lord and Saviour - He already finished transgression, atoned for wickedness and brought in everlasting righteousness for them. Although - due to His rejection by most of His people - this last and final 70th year-week, including the full effect of what is promised through Him, is *still outstanding* till the end of this age, which is approaching now.

But the *all decisive point of the matter* is, that it is **Yeshua**, the “King of the Jews” (as Whom He was mocked, even by a sign on his cross stating His crime, but what He yet indeed was and is!), Who came to do what the scripture had predicted about Him; *first*, however, in this *mainly unexpected way*:

He was born in Bethlehem, of which it was foretold by the prophet Micah: **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”** (Micah 5: 2)

He, Who was of divine origin, in Whom God really visited us and was with us, was born by a virgin, as Isaiah indicated, predicting “a sign”:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (meaning “God with us”).” (Isaiah 7: 14 ESV)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.” (Isaiah 9: 6f. ESV)

About 30 years later He began His public ministry, where He healed and delivered uncountable people, proclaiming the good news of the “kingdom of God” that *is to come*, but yet *already was present in part and had come closer than ever with its king*; whereby He proclaimed the following words about Himself in Nazareth’s local synagogue:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion”. (Isaiah 61: 1-3)

He came as He spoke before, revealing His heart cry that remains until now: **“Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last. (...) Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. (...) O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river...”** (Isaiah 48: 12-18 KJV)

He led a perfect life, keeping the entire law, yet was fearlessly confronting mainly *the proud religious people*, who *outwardly* appeared righteous, but still were full of hypocrisy and falsehood *inwardly*. Which caused Him many enemies who finally even initiated His assassination. Which, nevertheless, was all in God’s eternal plan and *known by Him* from the start.

Like a lamb He gave Himself over to be slaughtered, fulfilling *once and for all* what the entire sacrificial system in the temple was *only foreshadowing* up to this point.

From the early days God revealed in the *tabernacle of Moses* that *the first thing we have to pass* to get into the sanctuary, where His direct presence is found, is *the altar*; where *the lambs* were sacrificed on *our (the people’s)* behalf, so that we can have forgiveness, be cleansed, renewed, and become able to enter into God’s presence, where - *ultimately not only the Levites but we all* are supposed to enter and abide in forevermore!

All along God made it clear that there is *no forgiveness* without the *shedding of blood*! Moreover explaining through Moses *again hereafter* that it is *He Himself* Who provides the sacrifice:

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.” (Leviticus/Vayikra 17: 11)

The New Covenant

It was *Yeshua HaMaschiach* Who opened up the way for His people into the *New Covenant* that was promised through the prophet Jeremiah. Only through what *He* had done for the *cleansing of our soul*, this *deepest, inward renewal* was made possible, which makes us be *born again as a whole new person* and *changed forever*. So that - *through the Holy Spirit coming and dwelling inside of us* - we don’t want to sin any longer and desire to completely renew our way of thinking and living; as an effect of *the inside change of our heart*. When - *by faith* - we receive God’s true righteousness that *He Himself*

provided for us - not *we* by our own achievements and works of the law! So that *the veil* that had once blinded us and prevented us from recognizing God is suddenly taken away. With the tremendous effect that our spiritual eyes/ears are opened to perceive Him and His word comes truly alive in us.

Yeshua introduced this *New Covenant* to His disciples the night before He died, revealing it to *come into effect* by His blood shed for us. By *His own broken body and poured out blood* represented in *the bread and the wine* which He handed them. Showing that it is **He Himself** Whom we are to receive, *let become part of us and live in us!*

Then He, *the perfect Lamb of God*, died. - Exactly on the preparation day of Pessach, around the time when the lambs are slaughtered in the temple. Like Jonah - *who was given over to death and yet came "alive" again after three days* - Yeshua was laid in the grave. But *unlike David - who died* - it was *HIM* of Whom was truly said by this *godly king of Israel who used to know his Lord (cf. Psalm 110:1) so well*: **"you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay."** (Psalm 16: 10)

And three days later - *exactly on the Feast of Firstfruits* - He was raised as a *firstfruit* from the dead, later appearing to thousands of His followers.

He abided with His disciples for 40 days, before He was finally taken up into heaven from the Mount of Olives, the very place He will return to *soon* as conquering LORD! (Cf. Zechariah 14: 3f.)

But yet, He had promised to leave a *gift* with His followers, a comforter, companion and teacher That would always remain with them:

The *Holy Spirit* Who was powerfully given to them some days later - *exactly on the Feast of Shavuot* -; Who revived them, filled them and abided with them, as well as with *so many of His real followers since then*. Exactly on the day when once *the law, written on stone*, was given through Moses, now God was finally able to fulfill what He wanted to do *all along*, but which *only now, through Yeshua's finished work*, was made fully possible:

To write His law on believing, cleansed and renewed hearts of flesh. Just as Jeremiah had announced:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those

days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31: 31-34 ESV)

Like *the First Covenant* on Mount Sinai was sealed by *the shedding and sprinkling of blood* (cf. Exodus/Shemoth 24:8: **"Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."**), correspondingly *the New Covenant* came into effect by *the ultimate sacrifice* for those who were "sprinkled" with Yeshua's blood; who received Him; who were *born again out of His pierced side* like Eve was once born out of Adam; and so became *part of "His bride"* He will *come to receive*.

Fall and rebirth of the nation

All who *didn't* receive Him - *and so also rejected His warning to flee from Jerusalem as soon as it is surrounded (cf. New Covenant, Luke 21: 20ff.)* - in truth *concurrently* cut themselves off from *the true source of life* and likewise *unavoidably* even *the Father, Who had sent Him* (cf. New Covenant, 1 John 2: 23, 5: 12); hardened their heart towards *the One Who testified*:

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

(New Covenant - *in Hebrew*: "*Brit Chadasha*" -, John 14: 6)

And a *severe judgement* came upon Israel after these events, lasting for almost 19 centuries. ... As Yeshua had foretold with deep sorrow, beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans:

"For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Brit Chadasha, Luke 19: 44 ESV)

But God's intention was never to *reject* His chosen people, but always to *heal* them!

"How long?" asks already *Isaiah* when the LORD spoke to him out of His manifest presence:

“Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”

And he answered: “Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the Lord has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken. And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.” (Isaiah 6: 9-13)

God always planned to let this “tree” grow again and lead it into its full calling *because of His faithfulness, compassion and grace!* To bring Israel, which was exiled for so long, back into its land and - *even more important* - the loving fellowship with Him, based on *His righteousness*, not *their own!* Causing them to *know Him, trust Him, obey Him and walk in His ways:*

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.” (Ezekiel 36: 22-31)

God promises a *natural and spiritual* restoration of Israel in the last days (cf. also Ezekiel 37), which *to some degree* is already happening before our very eyes in the present time.

And although the number of *Jews who have recognized and follow Yeshua as their Saviour and Messiah* has increased *just in the last few decades* to more than 100,000, still a *general, national repentance* is needed deeply. A critical mass of representatives of the descendants of the people who once spurned their own king, claiming:

“His blood be on us and on our children!” (Br.Ch., Matthew 27: 25)

Especially of the *religious leadership*, who sadly *in many cases* keep cursing Him up to now, but whom He promised before His death:

“I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” (Br.Ch., Matthew 23: 39)

Stating that *He will not come back to this earth as king and judge* before they will not *duly welcome Him as their Messiah and Lord!*

Looking at Him!

Yet a time is promised when God will **“make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. (...) a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves.”**

Already now we see how the nations of the world are almost obsessed with judging and intervening in the conflicts concerning Israel and Jerusalem, mostly simply *condemning Israel*. Which will ultimately even end up in the situation that **“all the nations of the earth will gather against it.”** (Zechariah 12: 2f.)

Then, however, God will - *just as He did already in the past wars where Israel had to defend itself* - powerfully intervene, but *beyond that* even *much more:*

“And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan

of Shimei and their wives, and all the rest of the clans and their wives.
“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”
(Zechariah 12:10 - 13:1)

God promises an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which will lead up to a stirring vision and powerful revelation of Yeshua, Who - at this point of the prophecy - at once rises to speak Himself: “**they will look on me, the one they have pierced**”, which will cause such a heart-piercing conviction, brokenness and repentance, that the inner pain about this truth - that His own people rejected their Messiah for so long and in such a repulsive way - will be equal to the pain of losing one’s own only child, which is probably the biggest pain imaginable.

But yet, this will lead to their salvation! A “source against sin and impurity” will be opened on that day, which can be nothing else than the blood of Yeshua, cleansing and enabling them altogether to change every wrong believe, attitude and way they had until then before the Most High and His beloved Son, the Messiah.

Their (spiritual) eyes will be open to Him and they will ask Him about His resurrected body, which, however, still has the marks of His suffering on it, that He chose to take for them:

“**And they will say to him, what are these wounds between your hands? Then he will answer, they were given me in the house of my beloved.**”
(Zechariah 13:6)

Yeshua always loved His own people and will always do so! We can only imagine how much He longs for each one of them, even right now, to open their hearts to Him, believe and surrender their lives to Him!

When even in sight of His own painful death He was crying not over Him but over the people, exclaiming:

“**Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.**”
(Br.Ch., Matthew 23:37)

But ultimately He will have His deserved reward, even among His own people! They will recognize Him as the “stone” they have rejected, the true Pessach-lamb we are to receive deep inside, Whose blood alone saves us from our deserved punishment and eternal death, and will finally welcome Him with the call reserved for Him, as all implied in the Tehillim (Psalms):

“**The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. (...) Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. Bind the festal sacrifice with ropes up to the horns of the altar.**” (Psalm 118: 22-27)

Then their eyes will simultaneously be opened to so many hints in their own scriptures that all pointed to Yeshua.

Also the occurrence when once in the wilderness a lot of the Israelites were bitten by snakes and about to die (like we all have the deadly poison of sin in us that will ultimately produce death!)

and “**The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.**” (Numbers/Bamidbar 21: 8f.)

So, just as those who looked at the bronze snake were healed, everyone who “looks by faith at”, who “knows” Yeshua in an intimate way, who believes in Him and His saving act, will be set free from the righteous punishment we would deserve by God’s law. (Cf. Deuteronomy/Devarim 27: 26) Since “**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”**”
(Br.Ch., Galatians 3:13)

Yeshua Himself spoke long before His death to a Pharisee who visited Him in secret at night:

“**Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.**” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.“
(Br.Ch., John 3: 14-18)

Nevertheless - as back then in the desert with Moses (who later even testified about Yeshua: “**The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.**” Deuteronomy/Devarim 18: 15) - Israel is promised to “look on Him”, the real source of healing and salvation!

It will be the fulfillment of *Yom Kippur*, when Israel *as a nation* will be reconciled to God by the sacrifice of *the true High Priest*.

When the people's guilt will be atoned for by *everyone identifying* (corporately and personally!) with the true *slaughtered "Lamb of God"*. As well as with the "*scape goat*", on Whom the guilt of the nation was laid and Who was thereupon cast out. - What *both* found its true realization by Yeshua.

(Cf. Leviticus/Vayikra 16: 8-10 ESV: "**And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering, but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.**" Cf. also 16:22)

It is interesting that *once* there was the tradition that each year on Yom Kippur a *red ribbon* was put on the horns of the *scapegoat which was sent away*, as well as on the *door of the temple*. And *at the end of the day - as a sign that God had accepted the sacrifice - it miraculously turned white*. (Cf. analogously Isaiah 1:18) This happened *year after year* for a long time. However, *exactly in the year of Yeshua's death* the Talmud reports that *at once* this occurrence abruptly stopped!

(Cf. Babylonian Talmud, Yoma 39b: „*Forty years before the Temple was destroyed the chosen lot was not picked with the right hand, nor did the crimson stripe turn white, nor did the westernmost light burn; and the doors of the Temple's Holy Place swung open by themselves...*“)

Likewise - *as it implies here, too* - it was *at the day of Messiah's crucifixion* that the curtain in the temple, that separated the *Holy of Holies* from the remaining sanctuary, was miraculously torn in two!

(cf. Br.Ch., Matthew 27:51) Clearly showing that *through this event* the way to enter into the Most Holy Place was *opened wide for everyone* since then!

Still a stumbling block to overcome

It were thousands of Jews who believed and followed Yeshua immediately after His death and resurrection, alone in Jerusalem. The first *kehila*, or *church*, was nearly completely Jewish. *Only later* the question arose if also *people from the nations* could be joined to the believing community without being circumcised, what the Holy Spirit, Who had come on *them also*, clearly confirmed to the Jewish apostles and leaders. Since it is *the heart* that is most important to be circumcised. (Cf. Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Br.Ch., Romans 2:29)

Still Yeshua never came to change the Law of Moses, as He said:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

(Br.Ch., Matthew 5:17-19)

Yet there was a change in *this way*, that He fulfilled many *mere outward signs* in a much higher way which was now revealed, so that *the former things, which were mere foreshadows of it*, lost their central relevance by this. Some laws, *like about marriage and sexual morality*, Yeshua even amplified (cf. Br.Ch., Matthew 5:21ff.) while *on the other hand* He freed us from *solely manmade religious bondages* and mere outside practices to *observe laws in a tight, legalistic way*. He showed us what is *really* important, and what *not so much!* (Cf. Br.Ch., Matthew 7:12, 12:1-13, 23:23-26,...)

But *most of all* He made clear: We cannot make it by ourself, by a mere set of rules we try to keep, while yet remaining unrenewed inside, refusing to listen and accept what He offers us! He made clear: Our old man has to *die* and we have to be made *utterly new*:

“Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. (...) unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” (Br.Ch., John 3:3-8)

Words like these were not easy to accept, especially by the religious, and after all, the greatest part of the Jewish people - *both then and now* - didn't believe in Yeshua and accept Him as *their Messiah and God's Son, Whom HE sent to them from Heaven*. Since *from the beginning* He did not match the image of the *conquering Messiah* Who was expected to simply drive out their enemies by force and set Himself up as king. Since He did *not yet fulfill all* that was written about Him, because His own people did not yet accept Him as Who He *truly is*. And *beyond that* even: Since it was still God's will to let *all nations* receive the chance to be reconciled to Him,

redeemed by Messiah's blood and get into the new covenant with Him, as *the Most High* declares through the prophet Isaiah - *speaking to His Son*:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49: 6)

Although Yeshua Himself said that He **"was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel"** (Br.Ch., Matthew 15: 24), yet *from the beginning* it was God's plan to extend His offer of reconciliation and salvation, which was *first* given *only to the nation He chose from the start*, to people from every tribe, tongue and nation.

As Shaul (*a former Pharisee who once persecuted the believers in Yeshua, but finally encountered Himself powerfully in a vision, repented and henceforth followed Him wholeheartedly, proclaiming His gospel to many nations*) explains about **"the mystery of Christ (= Greek for Messiah), which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus."** (Br.Ch., Ephesians 3: 4-6)

God's plan of a *holy people - consisting of believing Jews and Gentiles* - was always there. But *as sad as it is* that so many Jewish people rejected their own, wonderful Messiah, it is nevertheless *sad as well* how the church, *soon after it had spread across the nations*, developed a strong antipathy against *everything Jewish*. And simultaneously began to reject even *many God-given, eternal orders*, establishing *its own* instead (cf. analogously 1 Kings 12: 26-33); yes, even more, to reject *their own root* and *the general understanding of belonging to Israel* by following its king.

It was totally against Yeshua's attitude, as well as His first followers' such as Shaul (Paul), who likewise loved *his own people* with such an intensity that it can only come *from God Himself*, when he states:

"I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship..." (Br.Ch., Romans 9: 1-4)

"Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Isra-

elites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness." (Br.Ch., Romans 10: 1-3)

"I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. (...) Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!" (Br.Ch., Romans 11: 1-12)

He continues to compare God's holy people with a *noble olive tree*, of whom many *original (Jewish) branches* were taken of because of their unbelief and many *wild (Gentile) branches* were grafted in against nature through their faith in Messiah. Yet he insistently warns the gentile believers to be *humble and grateful that they share in the (Israelite) root* and not become proud and feel superior against the other branches, who *can* and *will* easily be grafted into their own tree again as soon as they believe:

„I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: **"The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins." As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all."** (Br.Ch., Romans 11: 25-32)

He *concurrently* reveals by this *the plan of God*, that *the Jewish people's partial blindness and rejection of their Messiah for all the past time* still served the purpose that the fullness of *God's chosen ones in the nations* could come to salvation in Messiah. When *this*, however, is about to be completed, - *even through times of great tribulation, humiliation and cleansing-*

a time of great mercy for His *originally chosen people* will come, when a vast majority of them will receive eternal salvation.

Which will *at once* initiate His *physical coming and reign on the earth*. Accompanied by a *restoration of all things*, how life was meant to be *in the Creator's perfect way* from the beginning.

One shepherd and one flock

Nevertheless also a restoration of *God's people* is utterly needed, who - *since we all fell short of our calling and missed to live according to God's heart, His will and His word* - early split and moved away from each other so far. Not only during the crusades and the inquisition the *so called "church"*, which, however, for a long time hadn't followed the *real Yeshua* anymore and even persecuted His true followers inside its own manmade institution, gave such a bad and wrong impression to the Jewish people that *even more hindrances* were put in their way to come to *their own redeemer and king*.

Until now the *utterly wrong "replacement theology"*, which - *against both the Tanakh and the New Covenant* (cf. Jeremiah 31: 35ff., 33: 24ff., Br.Ch., Romans 11) - states that the church would have **replaced** Israel as God's people, causes a lot of *wrong believes and apathy* about the Jewish people. From the early centuries, throughout the persecutions of the middle age, up to the Shoah and *until lately*, so many Christians held the *fatal believe* that God had eternally rejected Israel in their stead - *exactly the thing Shaul warned them of* in his earlier quoted letter! **This teaching only** enabled so much indifference and sometimes even hostility towards *the people and the land of Israel*, which God is so zealous about!

For: **"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, and I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they went too far with the punishment.'**" (Zechariah 1: 14f.)

Yet, *all over the earth* God has also a *real holy people* who joined themselves to Him and became (grafted into) His people by faith in Yeshua; knowing Him, loving Him, obeying Him and truly belonging to Him, as He continues to proclaim:

"Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the Lord. "Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose

Jerusalem. Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from his holy dwelling." (Zechariah 2: 10-13)

Finally, God will cause *reconciliation and unity* among His chosen people - *both of the Jews and His elect among of the nations*. In recognizing *both the Messiah Yeshua*, bowing down to Him and embracing Him as *personal Lord and desperately needed Saviour*, Whose character we profoundly adopt, as well as on the other side *God's persisting election and plan for Israel*. Altogether in mutual humility and love, caused by the *true perception of our heavenly Father's heart*. After a *long and partly sad* story of failure of both Israel and the church, that led to this deep separation. - Which was never *desired* by God, yet *early indicated to come*:

The history of the *division* and even *enmity* between the house of Juda and the house of Israel/Joseph already *foreshadowed* what would later happen in the big context. Ephraim - *born of an Egyptian mother* -, who became the leading tribe in the *Northern Kingdom of Israel*, is already a picture of those who are not *full physical children of Israel*, but yet later got "*adopted*" into the family as *children and fellow heirs*.

Like the aged Jacob declared to Joseph: **"Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine."** (Genesis/Bereshit 48: 5)

Over the same *Ephraim* was prophesied directly thereupon: **"his seed shall become a multitude** (literally: **fullness**) **of nations."** (Genesis 48: 19 KJV) Foretelling that *a multitude of people(s) from all over the world* will once be considered as *his descendants*, who will be supernaturally attached to Israel as God's holy people; be "*added*" to them, as the name "Joseph" (in Hebrew meaning: "*JHWH shall add*") already expresses!

Likewise Hosea prophesies about *those* who were once *not His people*, but would later *be joined (again)*:

"Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved"), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them. (...) Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.' The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel." (Hosea 1: 6-11)

Thus, this whole sad division between the true followers of Yeshua, His “kehila” (Greek: “ecclesia”, English: “church”) *in the nations* as well as *among the Jews who follow Yeshua and are born again by the Holy Spirit*, will totally cease at the end of the age.

As Yeshua stated about *both His Jewish and Non-Jewish flock*:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father– and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (Br.Ch., John 10: 14-16)

And as finally *also Ezekiel* prophecies about Israel, *symbolic with two sticks*. What will happen *at the latest* when Messiah returns and His age is dawning: **“I am going to take the stick of Joseph – which is in Ephraim’s hand – and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ (...) I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.”** (Ezekiel 37: 19-23)

Mashiach Ben David

Yeshua Himself promised: **“Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”** (Br.Ch., Luke 24: 44) - And He will *bring about* exactly this!

It was *right before His death* that the high priest asked Him in front of the whole Sanhedrin: **“Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”**

“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”” (Br.Ch., Matthew 26: 63f.)

- Which was an obvious hint to the prophecy of Daniel, who foresaw how *the ungodly, anti-messianic kingdoms of the world* will be finally judged at the end of the age and who then continues about this *“Son of Man”* (Hebr.: *“Ben Adam”*), this long-promised *“seed/descendent”* (Genesis 3: 15) of Eve

Who will ultimately bruise Satan’s head:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” (Daniel 7: 13f.)

Even *his own disciples* asked Yeshua after His resurrection:

“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Br.Ch., Acts 1: 6-8)

- Thus indicating that it will be *just a matter of time* that He will do *exactly all that*, but that first of all *something else* is still needed, namely the salvation of (His chosen ones spread over) the whole world.

Afterwards, when Yeshua had been taken up into heaven and the gift of the Holy Spirit had been powerfully given to the disciples, it was one of the first messages that *His close companion Shimon, called Peter (rock)*, gave in the temple area, proclaiming to his people:

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.” (Br.Ch., Acts 3: 19-21)

And truly, He will *come soon!* **“For the LORD will rebuild Zion and appear** (Hebr.: „be visible“) **in his glory.”** (Psalm 102:16; cf. Zechariah 14:3f.) - In form of *Him* in Whom JHWH is represented!

Whereby this Yeshua once stated: **“Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”** (Br.Ch., Luke 21: 24)

- And we see this approaching since 1967, as a clear sign that God is slowly returning *His main focus* away from the nations, *once again* towards Israel. (Cf. Ezekiel 36: 9) The land where He chose to establish His kingdom more than anywhere else and *Yeshua the Messiah* will come back to *in first place!* As *the One He claimed to be* and the scripture reveals Him as: The Son of God and yet a descendent of David. As Israel’s saviour, Whom *even they* will wholeheartedly welcome in the end, as Jeremiah announces:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.** (Jeremiah 23: 5f. KJV, cf. 33:15f.)

The branch, *which is the Messiah* (cf. Zechariah 3:8f.: “**I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. (...) and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.**”), will finally execute His great authority as judge and king.

And *all Israel* will recognize that lastly *their righteousness* is not found in *their own deeds of the law*, but in *Him alone! Mashiach Yeshua*, “**who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption**” (Br.Ch., 1 Corinthians 1: 30); In Him Who is divine; Who claimed: “**I and the Father are one.**” (Br.Ch., John 10: 30), for which people wanted to stone Him at that time. But what, however, even the *just quoted scripture from Jeremiah* already latently implies, where the name of God, JHWH, is brought together directly with the very person of Messiah, what He did and became for us!

JHWH in human bodily/angelic form

And *in deed*, scripture reveals from the very start *this mysterious figure*, Who already appeared to *Abraham* repeatedly - in a very real way:

So it says: “**The LORD** (JHWH) **appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.**” (Genesis 18: 1f.)

There were *three men, before whom Abraham reverently fell down*; two of them “*common*” angels, and one of them, however, a *very unique one* Who is addressed by *not less than* the divine name of “JHWH”:

“**The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD**(JHWH). (...) **The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening...**” (Genesis 18:22, 19: 1)

The mysterious “God-man”, called “JHWH”, spoke to Abraham face to face - *not symbolically speaking, but as a real man in human bodily form, who just had bread, meat and milk with him before -*, directly shared secret things with him and even allowed him to debate with Him concerning His planned judgement over Sodom:

“**Then the LORD** (JHWH) **said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am**

about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, (...) Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see...” (Genesis 18: 17-21)

Likewise in other passages it is *JHWH Himself* Who appears to people in form of - not *an*, but - “*the* angel” (meaning “messenger”) of Him.

So too, when: “**The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; (...) The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.”**” (Genesis 16: 7-10)

This “*JHWH - angel/messenger*” speaks to her *as God* in the first person: “*I will increase...*”, similarly like already in the passage above: “*I have chosen...*”, and later, when: “**The angel of the LORD** (JHWH) **called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD** (JHWH), **that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars...**” (Genesis 22: 16f.), that means *things that undeniably only God can say and do!*

Hagar equally testifies thereafter that she has seen - *not only an angel or the like*, but - *God Himself*:

“**for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”**” (Genesis 16: 13)

Even about *Jacob* it is told concerning this same “God-man-angel”: “**The angel of God said to me in the dream (...) I am** the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow **to me.**” (Genesis 31: 11-13)

And later, “**Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till day-break. (...) Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.**”, whereby Jacob thereupon confessed: “**I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.**” (Genesis 32: 24-30, cf. also Judges 13: 20-22!)

There are many more examples about this divine figure, Who went with the people of Israel throughout their history. What He later, *during the taking of the land*, even explains *Himself* before the whole congregation of Israel:

“**The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you (...) When the angel of the Lord had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud...**”(Judges 2: 1-4)

He was the One God had sent ahead of them, warning: **“obey his voice; do not rebel against him (...), for my name is in him.”** (Exodus 23: 20f. ESV) - Whereby *even literally* “JHWH (Jehova)” is contained in “Je(ho)-shua”!

He did not yet reveal *His name* to Jacob, since this was kept until *God’s proper time for that*. But still, it were *already the patriarchs* who had live-changing encounters and made covenants with God *in form of* this mystical JHWH-man, this messenger Whom they didn’t separate from the Most High.

Just like *the Tanakh, the Brit Chadasha* - since the two are telling one and the same progressing story of God with His people - makes it clear that **“No man hath seen God at any time; (but yet) the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”**

(Br.Ch., John 1: 18 κλν, confer also 5:37, 6:46, Exodus/Shemoth 33:20)

Further explaining about Him: **“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”** (Br.Ch., Colossians 1:15)

And truly, Yeshua is the One in Whom *God is displayed* and *we can see Him*. This “Sent One” (what “angel” means), this “Son of God” (cf. Psalm 2:7) and “Son of Man” (Daniel 7:13) was there all the time - in a *more or less glorified form*! Even before He was born *as a man in the flesh by the young Jewess Miryam* He encountered the patriarchs; just as He did with Moses (Exodus 3: 2f.), Joshua (Joshua 5: 13-15, *even accepting his worship and speaking to him the same words as to Moses out of the burning bush!*), David (Psalm 22, 45, 72, 110), Gideon (Judges 6: 11-24, *where “the angel of JHWH” and “JHWH” are once more used interchangeably!*), Daniel (Daniel 10:5-17, *cf. also 3:25!*), Amos (Amos 7:7), and the other prophets.

They knew Him and He knew them, as Yeshua testified about *one of His first true friends* (cf. again Genesis 18):

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” (Br.Ch., John 8: 56-58 ESV)

Whereby *His last two words* again are another subtly reference to *the name meaning*: “I am that I am”.

Mashiach Ben Joseph

Up to the present day “the stumbling block” remains for a lot of Jewish people who resist to accept the divinity of Yeshua as *God’s begotten Anointed One*. (Cf. Psalm 2: 6f.) Which is *in no way* against the Tanakh and the

spirituality of the fathers of their faith, *as we just saw*; yet against a lot of manmade religious teachings, interpretations and traditions that they were taught *all along*. For the last 2000 years they were told *over and over again* that *“this Jesus is not for them”*. They have heard so many wrong things about him and *over a long time* even received such an *unworthy testimony* from the people who called themselves *followers of this man*, although so many of them in reality were not!

However, already *the story of Joseph* is a picture where God describes what would later happen to *the ultimate Saviour of Israel*:

Like Joseph, Yeshua was hated and outcast by His *brothers according to the flesh*. Like him, He was robbed of His garments and given over to death. (cf. Br.Ch., Matthew 27: 35) Like him, He suffered severely, but yet, ultimately was lifted up high by God and raised up to the (second) highest place! Like Joseph wasn’t recognized by his own siblings, equally *Yeshua’s brothers according to the flesh* up to this day *in most cases* do not recognize Him as the One He truly is; since He appears to them *outwardly* more like a *Gentile* than the *Torah-observant Jew* He in fact was and is.

And like Joseph didn’t reveal himself fully until *also his only full-brother, who was born of the same mother*, had come to him *first*, likewise, Yeshua will not reveal Himself fully before *His fleshly brothers, the Jewish people*, will finally *come to Him, too*. What *He is awaiting* with such a holy passion and zeal! The *ten brothers* (who *to some degree* even symbolizing the *ten tribes* or *the believers from the nations*) were not enough for Joseph to show himself, and equally, *Yeshua* is still waiting.

For so long He had kept silent, but finally He will not be able to hold Himself back anymore.

It was the moment when one of his half-brothers *so much identified* with his full-brother, *humbled himself so much out of love for the Father, that he was even ready to take the place of him and suffer bondage instead of him*; which finally triggered the exposure of Israel’s saviour, Who - *for all this time* - *in reality* stood so much closer to them than *any of them* could ever imagine:

“Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph!”

(Genesis 45: 1-3)