



## THE TEN EXPECTATIONS OF ISRAEL

**Hope:** A wish, a dream, a strong desire.  
Its strength is the strength of my desire.

**Biblical Hope:** The confident expectation of what *God has promised*, knowing it will come to pass and waiting for it to happen.  
Its strength is in God's faithfulness.

At the close of the intertestamental period, many people had distorted expectations of the Messiah because they didn't understand the big picture plan of God - they thought the promises were just for Israel, not all the nations.

### Expectation #1: The Coming of The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is the reign of God.

*"The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name."* (Zechariah 14:9). This verse was part of the Temple liturgy at the time of Jesus and has been recited for centuries at the end of the three periods of daily prayer. It's called the Aleinu prayer.

Jesus came proclaiming "The Kingdom of God is Here" and he demonstrated the kingdom of God with healings and miracles. While the kingdom of God has already come in part, because of Jesus, there is a future fulfillment:

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:9-11).

### Expectation #2: The Coming of The Son of Man

*"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 7:13-14)

"The Son of Man" was Jesus' favorite title for himself.

*"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—'Rise, pick up your bed and go home.'*" (Matthew 9:6)

*(When the Pharisees got on Jesus because his disciples were picking wheat to eat on the Sabbath) "For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:8)*

These references emphasize Jesus' identity as the Son of Man, a title that combines his humanity with his divine authority and role as the promised Messiah.

### **Expectation #3: The Coming of The Son of David**

*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. **And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.**"* (2 Sam 7:11-16)

This was the promise of Jesus - the future Messianic king who would rule forever. Jesus is The Son of David.

*"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham..."* (Matthew 1:1)

*The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"* Matthew 21:9

### **Expectation #4: Atonement for Sin**

The people who studied the Scriptures knew that when Messiah came, He would bear our sins and be pierced for our transgressions.

*"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."* (Isaiah 53:4-5)

But the people wanted a conquering hero, not a suffering servant. Scripture is clear about the Messiah coming as a suffering servant before He became a conquering king. This suffering servant is exactly what we needed, because **only a sacrifice can make atonement for sin**. Jesus brought Atonement for Sin, but the people could not see it.

### **Expectation #5: The Institution of The New Covenant**

Instead of attempting to keep external laws out of our human discipline, God will put His Spirit in our hearts, so that we can keep His law by His Spirit.

*"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them" declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34).*

While the Old Covenant had to be kept by the people, This New Covenant would be kept by God - because God's Spirit would dwell in them and it would be HIS strength and HIS power in them who would keep it, not their own strength.

Jesus instituted The New Covenant but the people missed it.

### **Expectation #6: Pouring Out of the Holy Spirit**

The promise of the New Covenant leads directly into the promise of the Holy Spirit. God promised that the Spirit would not just come upon them at times or dwell in their Temple among them, but that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on them.

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days." (Joel 2:28-29)*

This is exactly what happened at Pentecost in Acts 2 and Peter quoted this passage in his sermon to the people.

### **Expectation #7: The Blessing of Abraham to the Nations**

God promised to bless the whole world through Abraham and his family – *"all peoples of the earth will be blessed through you"* (Genesis 12:3).

When Christ came, all the nations were blessed, because He brought atonement, forgiveness, and reconciliation to all the nations, Jews and Gentiles alike. But the Jews conveniently forgot the promise of Genesis 12:3 - they were looking for a Messiah coming just to them, to bless them, to deliver them only.

But Christ, the seed of Abraham, was a blessing to the Gentiles, bringing the blessing of Abraham to them.

*"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.'" He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." (Galatians 3:13-14)*

### **Expectation #8: Resurrection from the Dead**

Israel believed in a bodily resurrection, not just a spiritual afterlife.

*"Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.' ... This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them" (Ezekiel 37:4-6, 12)*

*"But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:1-2)*

*"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)*

### **Expectation #9: Final Judgment of the World**

The Old Testament prophets talk consistently about "The Day of Yahweh" as a day of judgment for the wicked and vindication for the righteous. In that day, evil will be judged and destroyed and the righteous will live forever with God in His kingdom.

*"Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless." (Isaiah 13:6-7)*

The Jews typically thought of themselves as the righteous (the chosen ones of God) and the rest of the nations, the Gentiles, as the wicked who would be destroyed in The Day of the Lord.

The truth about the Day of the Lord is that it will be a day of judgment for the wicked and vindication for the righteous, but the "righteous" are not defined by their ethnicity. God's people are defined as those who follow the Lord by faith – they are the true children of Abraham.

*"Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."*  
(Galatians 3:7).

### **Expectation #10: Creation of New Heavens and Earth**

The Old Testament prophets wrote that Messiah would usher in the kingdom of God and this would mean not just a physical kingdom of Israel, but a new heavens and a new earth.

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*‘See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.’ (Isaiah 65:17-19)*

The disciples seemed to think that Jesus was simply restoring the throne to David and independence to physical Israel.

Jesus said, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be my witnesses all over the earth. Because His kingdom wasn't about Israel. It's a spiritual kingdom in every nation. The disciples finally got that only after the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost.