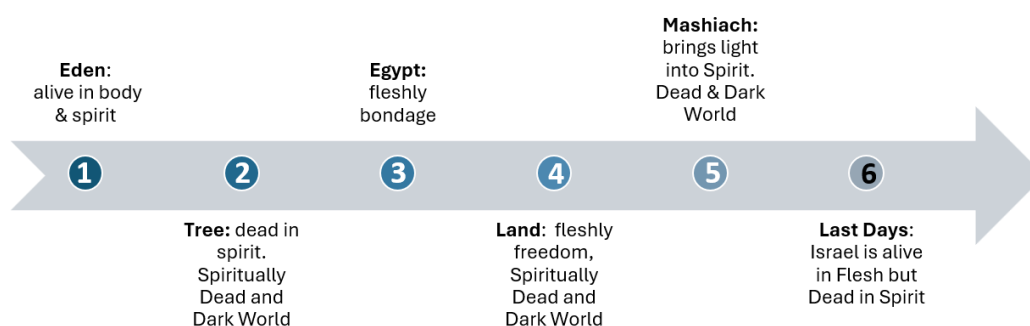


6. Isaiah 9:2-7. Why does Israel need Mashiach as a Deliverer from Spiritual Darkness and Death?

The people who walked in **darkness** have seen **a great light**; those who dwelt in a land of the (**shadow of death**), on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the **yoke of his burden**, and the staff for his shoulder, the **rod of his oppressor**, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the **tramping warrior** in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ **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**. ⁷ 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 9:2-7

Answers: Currently, Israel and its leaders have an overconfidence in their human nature, what the Bible calls the “flesh”—to secure spiritual deliverance and everlasting life for itself. That is, modern Israel has seen a succession of successes internationally and as a people that they believe that they can achieve a Self-Redemption by their own military force and a Self-Righteousness and Life by their own Torah-observance. But, hear what the Lord God says about the reality of their spiritual condition:



Stage 2: Genesis 6:3,5: in the “flesh,” man was “wicked” and set on “evil” continually (5), so the Lord’s “Spirit” could not “abide in man forever” due to his dying “flesh” (3).

Stage 3: Exodus 20:2, 19: The Law commands that only God is the “Lord” who has the place and right to *deliver* out of “slavery” (v.2). But, even the Law does not revive *dead flesh* that recoils at God’s presence and says: “Do not let God speak to us, lest we die” (19; also Genesis 3:10—being in “dead,” *naked—that is, spiritually uncovered flesh—recoils from God’s presence*).

Stage 4: Psalm 82:6. Even after generations of being in the land with opportunities for Torah observance, the Lord God still says of Israel: “you are Elohim, sons of the Most High God, but **you will die** like men” (v.6). There is no indication that *naked flesh* has been revived by God’s heavenly Spirit.

Stage 5: Isaiah 9:2-6. Only the Mashiach brings the light of God’s heavenly life into this dead world and emancipates from the Spiritual Oppression under the Serpent’s Headship (v.4). However, Israel rejects this Life and Redemption.

Stage 6: Ezekiel 37:7-14. Israel from the Babylonian Exile until the Last Days (future) is only “dry bones” (v.11). However, the bones have come together in the land of Israel (v.12) which occurred in 1948, but the people are still “without the Spirit” (v.8). One day, the people will be reborn by the Holy Spirit (v.10) at the coming of the Lord Jesus to save them (Zechariah 12:10). But, this does not come about by achieving a “Self-Righteousness” by Torah observance.

Despite Israel’s misplaced confidence that it can achieve a Self-Righteousness apart from God’s plan of Redemption in Mashiach, simply by observing Torah, has no basis in its entire history from its formation to the Last Days. Nor is there any emancipation from this current Dark

and Dead world under the Serpent's power until Mashiach "crushes" its head (Genesis 3:15).

Thus, even when Israel had a chance during the rule of Kings, even during the Exile, even in the millennia leading to the Last Days, to achieve a Self-Righteousness by its own Torah Observance, **they never succeeded** nor did God ever say: "You have achieved a Righteousness through your Torah observance." Instead, he says: "Your sins are like scarlet," you are still in "death and darkness" and oppressed and powerless under the forces of darkness, you will still "die like men," you are still inhospitable to the Spirit's abiding because you are mere "flesh" (naked and dying), and you are still "dead bones" bereft of the Spirit's Life. Still, they say to Mashiach: "We don't need a Redeemer. We have achieved Self-Righteousness on our own." But, these are comforting lies that Israel tells itself.

Comment:

Passages to Consider:

- Daniel 9:24
- (See passages above)

Tip: To seek to achieve a "Self-Righteousness" by Observing Torah is to misuse the Torah, which commands in the very first line: "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery" (Exodus 20:2). That is, only God-Elohim reserves the **right** as "Lord" to **deliver** from **slavery**. Since Adam, all humanity (including the Jews) have been **enslaved** in this Dead and Dark world under the Serpent's Rule, so it is only the Lord's right to overpower the Serpent by Mashiach (Genesis 3:15) in the same way that it was only his right to deliver from Pharaoh and Egypt's slavery.

This is why both Redemption, as Mashiach's right as the House's Firstborn Son, and Righteousness, which only Mashiach provides as "Yahweh Tzedekenu" and not simply "Tzedekenu."

Also, as Job discovered, any action or ambition, when done by standing on one's own fleshly rights and capabilities apart from God, even the act of seeking to be "Righteous"—apart from God—is unbelief and sin. For, when Job claimed, "I am right" by his own Self-worth and virtue, apart from God whom he accused of being his adversary—such a claim of Self-Righteousness is mere rebellion (Job 31:37). For, Self-Entitled before God, Job is claiming that there are rights and authorities which can be invoked apart from God. When Israel is similarly Self-Entitled, invoking its Oral Torah as separate from Torah as a means to achieve Righteousness, Israel is falling to raw rebellion.

So, if you are a Jew, know that the Law commands surrender and faith in the Lord, who himself promises you a Redeeming Mashiach and the "Righteousness" which he alone gives (Jeremiah 23:6).