

The Resurrection of Jesus: The Old Testament Case

This is the way Paul made the case for Jesus:

‘Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.’ (Acts 17:1 – 3)



So there was a two step reasoning process:

1. Explaining that the Old Testament Scriptures predict that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, contrary to the popular Jewish ‘military Messiah’ theory which said that he would not die.
2. Explaining that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

By the time of Jesus, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament had been in its final form for a few centuries. The Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) was translated from Hebrew into Greek in stages in the 2nd and 3rd centuries BCE. The Dead Sea Scrolls are the oldest known surviving copies of the Old Testament, written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek; they date to between 335 BCE – 70 CE.

Hope for Resurrection: Israel and Her Messiah

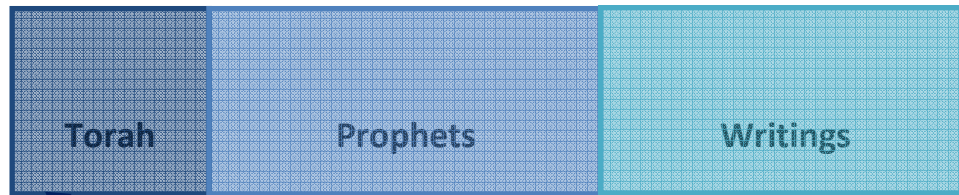
In the first century, this is what most Jews believed about resurrection, contrasted with Greco-Roman beliefs.

DIFFICULTY:	<u>EASY</u>	<u>HARD</u>
BELIEF SYSTEM:	CLASSICAL GREEK BELIEFS	CLASSICAL JEWISH BELIEFS
US: What are we?	SOUL We are good, immortal souls trapped in a bad, mortal body	BODY & SOUL We are both; both were created good
DEATH is...?	LIBERATION of the soul	THE ENEMY God will overthrow it in a fresh new creation
HOPE: What is there to hope for?	DISEMBODIMENT the separation of soul from body	RESURRECTION God's renewal of Israel and the physical world
GIVE WEALTH up for the poor, the weak...?	NO since other people's bodies are not important	YES Because the body and soul were important, Jewish ethics had a strong concern for the poor
SEX & MARRIAGE are...?	From NEUTRAL to BAD Neutral: Epicureans said have sex with anyone Bad: Stoics said don't have sex at all	UNITED & GOOD Marriage and sex are inseparable because God designed it that way.

*Although the sell-out Sadducee minority renounced the idea of resurrection because they were collaborators with Rome and profited from Roman occupation, the rest of the Jews hoped for **the bodily resurrection of Israelites**. In fact, it was **a fighting doctrine**, since resurrection was a future reward for standing up against the Gentiles for God, Israel, and Torah. Where did this belief come from?*

Hope for Resurrection: Israel and Her Messiah

Where did the Jewish belief about bodily resurrection come from?



Genesis 1 – 4: God created the **physical world good**. Sin and death were problems, but God was still committed to the **goodness of the creation**.

Isaiah: ^{25:6} The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. ⁷ And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. ⁸ **He will swallow up death for all time**, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth...^{26:19} **Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.**

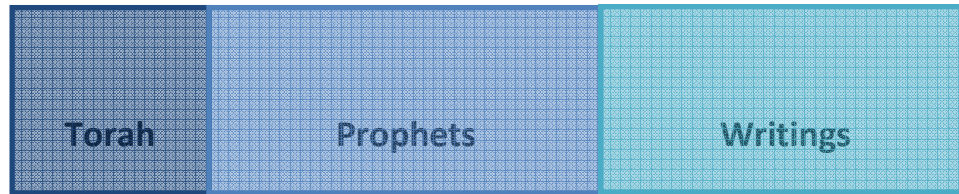
Ezekiel: ^{37:1} The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones... ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.' ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them...¹⁰ and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹ Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you will know that I am the LORD, **when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves**, My people. ¹⁴ **I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life**, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it,' declares the LORD."

Hosea: ^{6:1} Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. ² **He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him.**

The bodily resurrection of Israel is both a literal hope and a metaphor/metonym for Israel's restoration from exile.

Hope for Resurrection: Israel and Her Messiah

Where did the Jewish belief about bodily resurrection come from?



Psalms: ^{16:8} I have set the LORD continually before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will dwell securely.
¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
¹¹ You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalms: ^{49:14} As sheep they are appointed for Sheol;
Death shall be their shepherd;
And the upright shall rule over them in the morning,
And their form shall be for Sheol to consume
So that they have no habitation.
¹⁵ **But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol,
For He will receive me.**

Job: ^{19:25} As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶ Even after my skin is destroyed, yet **from my flesh I shall see God,** ²⁷ whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

Daniel: ^{12:2} Many of **those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.** ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

The bodily resurrection of Israel is both a literal hope and a metaphor/metonym for Israel's restoration from exile.

Hope for Resurrection: Israel and Her Messiah

Where did the Jewish belief about resurrection come from?



Intertestamental Writings (historical value)

2 Maccabees: ^{7:5}When he was utterly helpless, the king ordered them to take him to the fire, still breathing, and to fry him in a pan. The smoke from the pan spread widely, but the brothers and their mother encouraged one another to die nobly, saying, ⁶'The Lord God is watching over us and in truth has compassion on us, as Moses declared in his song that bore witness against the people to their faces, when he said, 'And he will have compassion on his servants.' ⁷After the first brother had died in this way, they brought forward the second for their sport. They tore off the skin of his head with the hair, and asked him, 'Will you eat rather than have your body punished limb by limb?' ⁸He replied in the language of his ancestors and said to them, 'No.' Therefore he in turn underwent tortures as the first brother had done. ⁹And when he was at his last breath, he said, 'You accursed wretch, you dismiss us from this present life, but **the King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life**, because we have died for his laws.' ¹⁰After him, the third was the victim of their sport. When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously stretched forth his hands, ¹¹and said nobly, 'I got these from Heaven, and because of his laws I disdain them, and **from him I hope to get them back again.**' ¹²As a result the king himself and those with him were astonished at the young man's spirit, for he regarded his sufferings as nothing. ¹³After he too had died, they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way. ¹⁴When he was near death, he said, 'One cannot but choose to die at the hands of mortals and to cherish **the hope God gives of being raised again by him**. But **for you there will be no resurrection to life!**' ¹⁵Next they brought forward the fifth and maltreated him. ¹⁶But he looked at the king, and said, 'Because you have authority among mortals, though you also are mortal, you do what you please. But do not think that God has forsaken our people. ¹⁷Keep on, and see how his mighty power will torture you and your descendants!' ¹⁸After him they brought forward the sixth. And when he was about to die, he said, 'Do not deceive yourself in vain. For we are suffering these things on our own account, because of our sins against our own God. Therefore astounding things have happened. ¹⁹But do not think that you will go unpunished for having tried to fight against God!' ²⁰The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honorable memory. Although she saw her seven sons perish within a single day, she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord. ²¹She encouraged each of them in the language of their ancestors. Filled with a noble spirit, she reinforced her woman's reasoning with a man's courage, and said to them, ²²'I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. ²³Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of humankind and devised the origin of all things, **will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again**, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws.' (written ~125 BCE)

The bodily resurrection of Israel is both a literal hope and a metaphor/metonym for Israel's restoration from exile.

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Isaiah as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>Jerusalem will be the capital.</p> <p>The Messiah-King will rule over Israel and the Gentile nations by his power.</p> <p>He will instantly (more or less) cause and enforce world peace.</p>	<p>^{2:1} The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.</p> <p>² Now it will come about that in the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.</p> <p>³ And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.</p> <p>⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war...</p>	<p>Jerusalem will be the starting point of his reign.</p> <p>Jesus as Messiah-King will rule over Israel and the Gentile nations by their voluntary assent, i.e. faith.</p> <p>He will cause peace to unfold as his movement unfolds.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Isaiah as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>God, speaking to the Messiah-King says, 'You will restore Israel and the Gentiles.'</p> <p>God will extend salvation from idols and lies.</p> <p>This refers to Israel. Israel will be rejected by the world, but vindicated as a nation.</p>	<p>^{49:5} And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him</p> <p>(For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength),</p> <p>⁶ He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant</p> <p>To raise up the tribes of Jacob And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'</p> <p>⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One,</p> <p>To the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers, 'Kings will see and arise, princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You.'</p>	<p>God, speaking to the Messiah-King says, 'You will restore Israel and the Gentiles.'</p> <p>God will extend salvation from idols, lies, evil, and self-centeredness.</p> <p>This refers to the Messiah-King. He will be rejected by Israel initially, but vindicated, as in Isaiah 53.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Isaiah as a whole?

<p>Militant & Rabbinic</p> <p>This refers to Israel. Israel will be rejected by the world, but vindicated as a nation.</p> <p>Israel's suffering is somehow God's way of redeeming the world.</p>	<p>^{53:4} Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.</p> <p>⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.</p> <p>⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him...</p> <p>¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.</p> <p>¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.</p>	<p>Jesus</p> <p>This refers to the Messiah-King, not Israel (notice the contrast between <i>him</i> and <i>us</i>).</p> <p>Jesus shared in the disease of our self-centeredness. But he fought against it all the way to his death, and perfected the antibodies in himself so he could share that with us after his resurrection. Hence, for our healing, Jesus shared in our suffering though he did not deserve it. How else can God transform humanity, except by creating a new human being, and then connecting us to him?</p>
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Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

*So why did belief in Jesus' resurrection spread among Jews?
By discussing the Hebrew Bible, **not** primarily the New Testament.*

A Closer Look: The Suffering Servant-King Prophecy of Isaiah 52:13 – 13:12

^{52:13} Behold, My servant will prosper,

He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, My people,

So His appearance was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.

¹⁵ Thus He will sprinkle many nations;

kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;

For what had not been told them they will see,

and what they had not heard they will understand.

^{53:1} Who has believed our message?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of parched ground;

He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him,

nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

³ He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

and like one from whom men hide their face, he was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**Who do you think this
refers to?**

Reign

Rejection

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried;
yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ **But He was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.**

**His Death
for Others**

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is **led to slaughter**, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
so He did not open His mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away;
and as for His generation, who considered that He was **cut off out of the land of the living**
for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

**Rejection &
Death**

⁹ **His grave** was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man **in His death**,
because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief;
if He would render Himself as a guilt offering,

He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days,
and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

**Reign &
Resurrection**

¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, **He will see it** and be satisfied;
by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,
and He will divide the booty with the strong;

Because **He poured out Himself to death**,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

So why did belief in Jesus' resurrection spread among Jews?

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The Great Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls. While the traditional date attributed to Isaiah – 700 BCE – is impossible to verify, it is sufficient for our purposes to discuss the complete Isaiah scroll found in Cave 1 among the Dead Sea Scrolls (along with the partial copy in Cave 1 and the other 17 partial copies found in the other Caves). A team from the University of Arizona ‘radiocarbon-dated the famous Book of Isaiah scroll at between 335 BCE and 122 BCE. Paleographers had dated this scroll at between 150 – 125 BCE.’¹ The Dead Sea Scrolls show that: (1) Isaiah was heavily scrutinized during the time of Jesus in anticipation of God fulfilling the prophecy; and (2) the Suffering Servant-King prophecy unquestionably existed before Jesus.

This and other passages show that the Messiah was to die and rise from the dead in order to bring about God’s restoration – of Israel and the world.

¹ <http://www.physics.arizona.edu/physics/public/dead-sea.html> published in 1995

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

So why did belief in Jesus' resurrection spread among Jews?

Jesus' Death and Resurrection According to Luke	The Suffering Servant-King According to Isaiah
Jesus quotes Isa.53:12 in Lk.22:37, 'and he was numbered with transgressors,' showing his awareness of being the Suffering Servant. This refers first to the sword-bearing disciples, who will be mistaken for revolutionaries, and later to the two criminals. It marks off the beginning of the crucifixion narrative.	And was numbered with the transgressors (Isa.53:12)
I find no guilt in this man. (23:4) ...I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against him. (23:14)...No, nor has Herod, for he sent him back to us, and behold nothing deserving of death has been done by him. (23:15)...Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in him no guilt demanding death. (23:22) Certainly this man was innocent (23:47)	He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in his mouth (Isa.53:9)
And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there, accusing him vehemently. (23:10)...The people stood by, looking on, and even the rulers were sneering at him. (23:35)...The soldiers also mocked him. (23:36)...And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at him. (23:39)	Yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted (Isa.53:4)
And he questioned him at some length, but he answered him nothing. (24:9)	Like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth (Isa.53:7)
And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him and the criminals. (23:33)...But Jesus was saying, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' (23:34)...Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise. (23:43)...[The two Emmaus road disciples walk with Jesus and their eyes are opened – a scene that comes from Genesis and the Fall where two people walk with God and their eyes are opened, only this time it is used to describe the return to paradise.]	He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed (Isa.53:5, 11-12)
And two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with him. (23:32)...And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man...and he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. (24:50-53)	His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet he was with a rich man in his death (Isa.53:9)
Jesus rose from the dead (24:1 – 12)	He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied (Isa.53:10 – 11).
Jesus' death and resurrection extends forgiveness to all nations; he tells his disciples to proclaim this (24:47)	Thus he will sprinkle <i>many nations</i> , kings will shut their mouths on account of him (Isa.52:13)
'Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: 'He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearers is silent, so he does not open his mouth. In humiliation his judgment was taken away; who will relate his generation? For his life is removed from the earth.' The eunuch answered Philip and said, 'Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?' Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.' (Acts 8:32 – 35)	The eunuch was reading Isaiah 53. Philip explains it as being fulfilled by Jesus.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection fit the hope and story of the Hebrew Bible.

Options for Interpreting the Old Testament

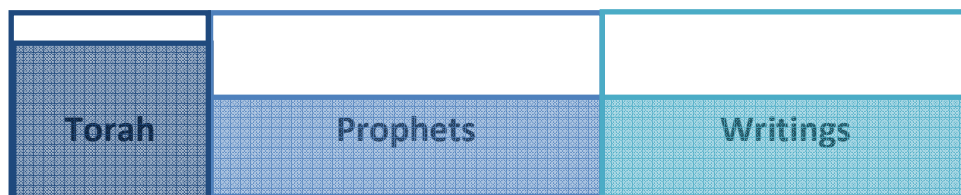
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Persuasion by the Hebrew Scriptures: What best fits our story? What fulfills our hopes?

- Torah: stresses Jewish ethnic identity markers and points to national hope in Messiah
- Prophets: stresses Israel's self-criticism and national hope in Messiah
- Writings: stresses Israel's national hope in Messiah



Jesus is Messiah



Military Messiah



Rabbinical Judaism

'All things which are written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled' (Luke 24:44)

Of the three main descendants of first century Israel, **only Jesus (option #1) fulfilled all of the Hebrew Scriptures.**

The Military Messiah option (#2) claimed many passages but collapsed after Rome crushed Jewish resistance in 135 AD.

Rabbinical Judaism (option #3) focuses on ethnicity via the Torah, and places much less stress on the Prophets and Writings.

Options for Interpreting the Old Testament

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GOD'S GOODNESS

God's goodness, love, and justice meant that evil would be defeated one day, namely through the Messiah.

It even meant that God would resurrect those who are faithful to Him, into eternal life.



HUMANITY'S SIN

But humanity's sin and corruption posed a problem. Could Israel be cleansed and resurrected? Would any other human beings? Would the line of King David?

Torah: Humanity sins; Israel sins.

Prophets: Even the line of King David sins, like everyone else (*Samuel, Kings*).

Writings: Is there anyone righteous? (*Psalms 51, 130, etc.*)



GOD WILL TRANSFORM HUMANITY

So God must create a new humanity, somehow involving the Messiah.

Torah: God must transform the human heart (*Deuteronomy 30:6*).

Prophets: God must give us a new heart and new spirit (*Jeremiah 31:31 – 34, Ezekiel 36:26 – 36*). The Messiah will share in Israel's suffering to share his victory (*Isaiah 53*).

Writings: The Messiah would be righteous and victorious (*Psalms 22, 110*).

The Christian explanation: Jesus, the Messiah and heir of King David, shared in the disease of our self-centeredness and evil. But Jesus fought against it all the way to his death, overcoming the disease. He perfected the antibodies in himself so he could share that with us after his resurrection. In essence, Jesus cleansed his own humanity, and created a new type of humanity, a God-soaked humanity. **How else can God, who is committed to human agency, transform humanity? Except by transforming (i.e. resurrecting bodily) the Messiah into a new type of human being, and then calling us all to join ourselves to him spiritually?**

Appendix A: Other Old Testament Passages

Daniel

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

The pattern of the prophets

The pattern of King David

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Daniel as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>The coming of the Messiah, here titled 'Son of Man,' up to the throne of God to be enthroned.</p> <p>???</p>	<p>7:13 I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven, one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. ¹⁴ And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.</p> <p>9:24 Seventy weeks [of years] have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. ²⁵ So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.</p>	<p>The coming of the Messiah, here titled 'Son of Man,' up to the throne of God to be enthroned.</p> <p>The Messiah will first be executed, which is the literal meaning of 'be cut off.'</p> <p>Also, the Gentiles will destroy the city of Jerusalem and the sanctuary of the Temple. The Messiah will not be the one to 'save' the city or the Temple.</p> <p>Hence, Jesus was crucified and then resurrected and then ascended to his throne.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Jeremiah as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>The Messiah will be from the house of David.</p> <p>God will cleanse us by giving us His Spirit once the Messiah triumphs over the Romans.</p> <p>The Messiah must liberate Jerusalem and reinstitute proper worship in the Temple.</p>	<p>^{23:5} ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.</p> <p>^{31:31} ‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ³³ ‘But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’</p>	<p>The Messiah will be from the house of David.</p> <p>God cleanses us by His Spirit, who first cleansed the humanity of Jesus to share his new humanity with us. Jesus’ Spirit now enables us to be morally transformed.</p> <p>The Messiah will not liberate Jerusalem nor reinstitute proper worship in the Temple because God has always wanted to write His law on human hearts, not stone tablets. God wants to indwell humanity, not a building.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of Ezekiel as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>The Messiah will be from the house of David.</p> <p>God will cleanse us by giving us His Spirit once the Messiah triumphs over the Romans.</p> <p>God will prosper us economically and agriculturally.</p>	<p>34:23 Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.</p> <p>36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. ²⁸ You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. ³⁰ I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.</p>	<p>The Messiah will be from the house of David.</p> <p>God cleanses us by His Spirit, who first cleansed the humanity of Jesus to share his new humanity with us. Jesus' Spirit now enables us to be morally transformed.</p> <p>God is prospering us spiritually. The historic life of Israel in the promised land was a physical metaphor for the state of blessing of our spiritual lives now. It was also a foreshadowing of God's renewal of the whole earth when Jesus returns.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of the pattern of the Prophets as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>???</p>	<p>Noah was chosen to warn against human violence. <i>Rejection:</i> People refused to stop. <i>Vindication:</i> The Flood came.</p> <p>Joseph was chosen to save his family from famine. <i>Rejection:</i> His brothers disowned him; he became a slave in Egypt. <i>Vindication:</i> Joseph rose to power in Egypt and instituted a grain-saving plan to outlast the famine.</p> <p>Moses was chosen to deliver Israel from Egypt. <i>Rejection:</i> The Israelites initially rejected him. <i>Vindication:</i> Moses returned to Egypt and led Israel out.</p> <p>David was chosen to be King of Israel. <i>Rejection:</i> He was driven into the wilderness by Saul and hunted for 40 years. <i>Vindication:</i> David later became King.</p> <p>The Prophets were chosen to speak God's word to the people. <i>Rejection:</i> They were generally but consistently scorned because people don't want to hear God. <i>Vindication:</i> Their predictions came to pass.</p>	<p>Jesus was chosen to be the ultimate prophet, and King of Israel and the world <i>Rejection:</i> He was turned over to the Romans and crucified. <i>Vindication:</i> He was resurrected from the dead.</p>

Would the Messiah Die and Rise?

Who has the better interpretation of the pattern of King David as a whole?

Militant & Rabbinic		Jesus
<p>???</p>	<p>David was anointed by a prophet, Samuel, to be King of Israel.</p> <p>David confronted and defeated Goliath, the enemy of Israel</p> <p>David was driven into the wilderness by the reigning King Saul who hunted his life.</p> <p>David took five loaves of the holy bread and fed his men.</p> <p>David suffered while he was hunted, was vulnerable to the Gentiles.</p> <p>David later became King and brought the ark of God's presence back to indwell Jerusalem's Temple.</p>	<p>Jesus was anointed by a prophet, John the Baptist, to be King of Israel.</p> <p>Jesus confronted and defeated Satan, the greatest enemy of Israel.</p> <p>Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the reigning powers who hunted his life.</p> <p>Jesus took five loaves of bread and fed 5,000 men.</p> <p>Jesus suffered while hunted, was vulnerable to the Gentiles and even was killed by them.</p> <p>Jesus was resurrected and enthroned to God's right hand, and brought God's Spirit to indwell His people as a living Temple.</p>