**Class # 32 –A World of Equality for All – Understanding the Messianic Era**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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 12 Steps to Redemption

The Truman Show Ending Scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_zYn-HHcyA>

1. What was Truman Burbank’s reality?
2. After he got suspicious that he was on a large TV set, he tried to escape. He overcame his fear of “water” and sailed his ship  - into the side of the set. What motivated him?
3. Where would he have had a more comfortable life, in the fantasy world of Truman Show or the real world outside?
4. Why does the comfortable life of the Truman show world limit opportunity to growth in knowledge and maturity?
5. In what way are the challenges and discomfort of the real world necessary to challenge Truman to growth?
6. What was the underlying Bechira choice that Truman faced?
7. What human frailty would Truman have to confront to “choose life”?
8. In what way is Truman’s challenge similar to Neo in the Matrix?

**“How will the Final Redemption happen?**

**Rambam, Laws of Kings and their Wars  12:1**

Do not presume that in the Messianic age any facet of the world's nature will change or there will be innovations in the work of creation...

**Rambam, Laws of Teshuva 7:5**

All the prophets commanded [the people] to repent. Israel will only be redeemed through Teshuvah.

The Torah has already promised that, ultimately, Israel will repent towards the end of her exile and, immediately, she will be redeemed as [[Deuteronomy 30:1](http://www.chabad.org/9994#v1)-3] states: ”There shall come a time when you shall experience all the words of [blessing and curse](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=5&CHAPTER=30#C4448)... and you will return to God, your Lord.... God, your Lord, will bring back your [captivity].”

Questions:

9) What might we presume is the cause of change for the better in the days of Mashiach?

10) What, in fact, is the cause of change for the better in the days of Mashiach - according to the Rambam?

**What will the Mashiach do?**

**The Rambam, Book of Kings and their Wars, Ch.11:1**

In the future, the Messianic king will arise and renew the Davidic dynasty, restoring it to its initial sovereignty. He will build the Temple and gather the dispersed of Israel.

Then, in his days, the observance of all the statutes will return to their previous state. We will offer sacrifices, observe the Sabbatical and Jubilee years according to all their particulars as described by the Torah.

Anyone who does not believe in him or does not await his coming, denies not only the statements of the other prophets, but those of the Torah and Moses, our teacher. The Torah testified to his coming, as [Deuteronomy 30:3](http://www.chabad.org/9994#v3)-5 states:

“...God will bring back your captivity and have mercy upon you. He will again gather you from among the nations... Even if your Diaspora is at the ends of the heavens, God will gather you up from there... and bring you to the land....

These explicit words of the Torah include all the statements made by all the prophets…..

**The Rambam, Book of Kings and their Wars, Chapter 12:2,**

Our Sages taught: "There will be no difference between the current age and the Messianic era except the emancipation from our subjugation to the gentile kingdoms."……

The simple interpretation of the prophets' words appear to imply that the war of Gog and Magog will take place at the beginning of the Messianic age. Before the war of Gog and Magog, a prophet will arise to inspire Israel to be upright and prepare their hearts, as [Malachi 3:22](http://www.chabad.org/16221#v22) states: 'Behold, I am sending you Elijah.'

He will not come to declare the pure, impure, or to declare the impure, pure. He will not dispute the lineage of those presumed to be of proper pedigree, nor will he validate the pedigree of those whose lineage is presumed blemished. Rather, he will establish peace within the world as *ibid.* 3:24 continues: 'He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children."

There are some Sages who say that Elijah's coming will precede the coming of the Mashiach. All these and similar matters cannot be definitely known by man until they occur for these matters are undefined in the prophet's' words and even the wise men have no established tradition regarding these matters except their own interpretation of the verses. Therefore, there is a controversy among them regarding these matters…

**What is the goal and why do we want it?**

**The Rambam, Book of Kings and their Wars, Ch.12:4-5**

4) The Sages and the prophets did not yearn for the Messianic era in order to have dominion over the entire world, to rule over the gentiles, to be exalted by the nations, or to eat, drink, and celebrate. Rather, they desired to be free to involve themselves in Torah and wisdom without any pressures or disturbances, so that they would merit the world to come, as explained in *Hilchot Teshuvah*.

5) In that era, there will be neither famine or war, envy or competition for good will flow in abundance and all the delights will be freely available as dust. The occupation of the entire world will be solely to know God.

Therefore, the Jews will be great sages and know the hidden matters, grasping the knowledge of their Creator according to the full extent of human potential, as [Isaiah 11:9](https://www.chabad.org/15942#v9) states: 'The world will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the ocean bed."

11) What experience in our lives is most like the messianic era?

12) Is removal of racial injustice and all inequalities a solution to problem of life? If we would wake up tomorrow in a world without racism or antisemitism, would our lives be automatically be meaningful?

13) What does the messianic era teach us about a meaningful life?