

Introduction

1. Talmud, Berachot 34b

Rabbi Chiya bar Abba cited Rabbi Yochanan: All of the prophets only prophesied about the time of Mashiach. For "the world to come" – no one has seen it, Gd, other than You (based on Isaiah 64:3).

That disagrees with Shemuel, who said: There is no difference between this world and that of Mashiach, other than the tyranny of empires.

2. Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dirt will awaken; these for eternal life, and these for humiliation and eternal shame.

A World of Converts?

3. Pirkei Avot 4:16

Rabbi Yaakov said: This world is like a vestibule before the World to Come; prepare yourself in the vestibule, so that you will enter the palace.

4. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 30:10

To what may Avraham be compared? To a king's friend, who saw the king walking in dark streets. The friend spotted this and began illuminating the path, from his window. The king looked and saw him and said, "Rather than shine for me from a window, come shine before me!" So Gd said to Abraham, "Rather than shine for Me in Mesopotamia and her surroundings, come shine before Me in Israel!"

5. Talmud, Yevamot 47b

Once he accepts, we circumcise him immediately. Why? We do not delay a mitzvah.

6. Talmud, Pesachim 87b

Israel was exiled among the nations only so that converts would be added to them.

7. Michah 4:1-3

And it will be, at the end of days, the mountain of the house of Gd will be established at the head of mountains and elevated above hills, and nations will stream there. Great nations will say, "Let us ascend to the mountain of Gd and the house of the Gd of Yaakov, and He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths, for Torah will come from Zion and the word of Gd from Jerusalem." And he will judge between many nations and he will clarify for mighty nations, even those from afar, and they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not raise up sword against nation, and no longer shall they learn war.

8. Isaiah 19:18-21

On that day, five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by Hashem, Lord of multitudes; one of them shall be called "City of Destruction". On that day, there will be an altar of Gd in the land of Egypt, and a monument for Gd at her border. And it will be a sign and witness for Hashem, Lord of multitudes, in the land of Egypt: when they cry out to Gd before their oppressors, and He will send them a redeemer and leader, who will save them. And Gd will be known to Egypt, and Egypt shall know Gd on that day, and they will serve Gd with sacrifices and gifts, and they will vow to Gd and fulfill it.

9. Isaiah 66:23

And it will be, at each month, and on each Shabbat, all flesh will come to bow before Me, declares Gd.

10. Zechariah 14:16

And all who remain from all of the nations who ascended against Jerusalem will ascend annually to bow to the King, the Lord of multitudes, and to celebrate the holiday of Succot.

11. Isaiah 56:6-7

And the foreigners who join Gd to serve Him and to love the Name of Gd, to be His servants, all who guard Shabbat from desecration and hold on to My covenant. And I will bring them to My holy mountain and gladden them in the house of My prayer. Their burnt offerings and celebration offerings will be desired upon My altar, for My house will be a house of prayer for all nations.

12. Tzefaniah 3:9

Then I will convert the nations to clear speech, for all of them to call in the Name of Gd, serving Him with a united effort.

13. Yoel 3:1-2

And then I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your elders will dream dreams, and your youths will see visions. Also upon the male and female servants at that time I will pour out My spirit.

14. Isaiah 19:24-25

On that day Israel will be a triad with Egypt and Assyria, blessing in the midst of the land, as Gd has blessed it, saying, "Blessed is My nation Egypt, the work of My hand Assyria, My portion Israel."

15. Zechariah 2:15

And many nations will join Gd on that day, and they will be a nation for Me, and I will dwell among you; you will know that Gd, Lord of multitudes, sent me to you.

16. Malbim to Zechariah 2:15

"And many nations will join Gd" – they will convert and accept the religion of truth.

And Yet

17. Talmud, Yevamot 47a

If someone comes to convert in our day, we say to him, "What did you see, that caused you to come convert? Do you not know that Israel today is in mourning, pushed around, drowned and torn, and beset by suffering?"

18. Menachem Begin, *Basic Outlines of our Life-Worldview and National Outlook*

Israel's prophets and seers, from whom we have inherited the aspiration for justice that guide our repose, elevated visions that are very difficult to realize... Their vision is a vision of truth, because even beyond the historical horizon, beyond "the end of days", they did not promise to abolish any difference. Indeed, "at the end of days" nation will not raise sword against nation, but even then there will be many "nations"; and while "at the end of days" devouring hatred will disappear for "the wolf will lie down with the lamb", but even then the differences between one species and another will not be eliminated. In other words - if one expands the symbolic meaning of the metaphor – the differences between a person and his fellow will not disappear with the desired disappearance of the hatred between them.

19. Zecharyah 14:16-19

And all who remain from all of the nations who ascended against Jerusalem will ascend annually to bow to the King, the Lord of multitudes, and to celebrate the holiday of Succot. And he who does not ascend to Jerusalem from the nations of the land, to bow before the King, and they will not receive rain. And if the nation of Egypt shall not ascend and not approach – will not the plague with which Gd will strike the nations who do not ascend to celebrate Succot be upon them? This shall be the sin of Egypt, and the sin of all nations which do not ascend to celebrate Succot.

20. Rabbi Avraham ibn Ezra to Zecharyah 13:8

Two-thirds of the world will be eradicated, and the last third will be tested, and the survivor will be the servant of Gd who will come annually.

21. Talmud, Avodah Zarah 3a

They said, "Master of the Universe! Give it to us from the start and we will do it!" Gd said to them: World-class fools! One who worked before Shabbat shall eat on Shabbat; one who did not work before Shabbat, how shall he eat on Shabbat?

22. Talmud, Yevamot 24b

Our Sages taught: We do not accept converts in the time of Mashiach. Similarly, they did not accept converts in the time of David or the time of Solomon.

Which is Correct?

23. An excellent summary of early views <http://dafyomi.co.il/sanhedrin/insites/sn-dt-090.htm>

24. Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook (20th century Israel), Orot haMilchamah 4

Were it not for the sin of the Golden Calf, the inhabitants of the Land of Israel would have been reconciled with the People of Israel, for the name of Gd called upon them would have aroused awe. No war would have been necessary, and the [Divine] influence would have proceeded peacefully as in the Days of Messiah...