

# The History of the Messiah in the Tenakh (Hebrew Bible)

The Tenakh (Hebrew Bible) includes numerous mentions of a Messiah, or anointed one. Despite many different important figures being anointed, the belief in one important anointed person becomes more and more prominent. The Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament) looks at the history of the Jews who are called 'Israelites' or 'the people of Israel' and their relationship with the Almighty over time. Their covenant with God is an important aspect of this history, meaning their agreement to follow the rules set by the Almighty, in return for being taken care of and being restored into a great nation, thus reuniting Israel. The Torah covers turbulent times where the Jews are expelled from their homeland due to being punished by the Almighty for turning away from Him. However, throughout the Tenakh there is hope. The hope is of an anointed one, or Messiah to bring the nations back together with the power of a King and the holiness of a priest and restore peace.

Within the Tenakh, the Messiah comes from the family lineage of King David and will be covered with oils (anointed). The Messiah will gather the Jewish people from where they have been forced to flee in exile from the land of Israel and allow them to return, bring peace to the land and build a third Temple which will be the centre of the Jewish religion. Jews are still to this day waiting for the arrival of the Messiah, even though many Jews have returned to Israel which was re-established as nation state in 1948. There are now different interpretations of what the Messiah's purpose may be for some Jews.

