

Messiah

The Messiah (Mashiach):

- Different views within Orthodox and Reform Judaism about the nature and role of the Messiah

Key Sources of Authority:

- There are no direct references to the Messianic Age in the **Torah** so certain verses such as **Isaiah 11 1-9** are interpreted
- **Maimonides** in the 12th century refers to a belief in the Messiah as one of the **13 Principles of Judaism**

Key Concepts:

Covenant	A promise or agreement between God and the Jews	Shabbat	Day of rest for Jews from Friday to Saturday sunset
Shekhinah	Place where God's presence rests and can be felt	Kosher	Foods and practices allowed
Messiah	Anointed one who will bring about a new age for mankind	Synagogue	Place of worship and learning for Jews
Mitzvot	Duties or commandments	Torah	The five books of the Tenakh

Key Beliefs:

Why there are Different Beliefs about the Messiah?	There are no direct quotes about the Messiah in the Torah so there are many different beliefs as passages that might be relevant are interpreted with people giving different meanings. For some, especially Orthodox Jews, a belief in the Messiah is central to their faith. For some, especially Reform Jews, there is a belief that the Messianic Age can come from the good deeds (mitzvot) that people do to create peace.
What is the Messiah?	Messiah comes from ' Mashiach ' meaning ' anointed ', This refers to the placing of oil on the head of a king showing they are trusted by God . Many Orthodox Jews pray each day for the coming of the Messiah to bring about the Messianic Age .
What is the Messianic Age?	Many Jews believe that the coming of the Messiah will bring about the resurrection of the dead and begin the Messianic Age – a future time of peace on earth.
When Might the Messiah Come?	Some Jews believe there is an exact date when the Messiah will come but most Jews believe the Messiah will come when they are needed most in the world.
What Might the Messiah Do?	There are many different beliefs. The traditional belief was that the Messiah would be a great leader and judge who will bring the world to an end. Some believe he will be descended from King David and an inspiration to others. In the Tenakh there are references to the Messiah bringing Jews back to Israel ; rebuilding the Temple in Israel ; brining about a time of peace for all.

Exam Practice:

- Explain different Jewish beliefs about the Messiah? (8)
- You will also study Christian beliefs about the Messiah. Create a Venn diagram to show Jewish beliefs, Christian beliefs and those beliefs that are shared by Christians and Jews.

Key Connections:

How do beliefs about the Messiah relate to the other areas of your study?

The Afterlife