

Notes: April 26, 2025

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Identifying Messiah

We tend to put our own spin on Messiah that may not always align with Scripture. Thus, we need to focus on Scripture for our understanding of what Adonai has set forth.

Scripture and more specifically Scripture that is prophetic requires interpretation, understanding and context. It is not a perfect science whereby what is read is understood universally. Yet there are consensus views. Though, a majority view is not always correct either.

We have the 80/20 discussions today where consensus of 80% of a position is viewed as a positive, yet majority positions are not always on the right side. For example, the spies who entered the land, 10 of them gave a negative report and were on the wrong side (Numbers 13 & 14)

Thus, we must weigh Scripture against Scripture, invoking context.

The only reason I can fathom not everyone seeing the same thing has to do with either a spiritual blindness or a contextual inconsistency.

According to Sha'ul, it was for a time that the Jewish people would be blinded...

Rom 11:7 What follows is that Isra'el has not attained the goal for which she is striving. The ones chosen have obtained it, but the rest have been made stonelike,

Rom 11:8 just as the Tanakh says, "God has given them a spirit of dullness—eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, right down to the present day."

Why He opens the eyes of some and not all is still a mystery to me.

Yet we are challenged by Scripture to understand it, rightly dividing it...

2Ti 2:14 Keep reminding people of this, and charge them solemnly before the Lord not to engage in word-battles. They accomplish nothing useful and are a catastrophe for the hearers!

2Ti 2:15 Do all you can to present yourself to God as someone worthy of his approval, as a worker with no need to be ashamed, because he deals straightforwardly with the Word of the Truth.

So, as we look at how Messiah is identified, keep what I have shared with you in mind.

Joh 1:40 One of the two who had heard Yochanan and had followed Yeshua was Andrew the brother of Shim'on Kefa.

Joh 1:41 The first thing he did was to find his brother Shim'on and tell him, "We've found the Mashiach!" (The word means "one who has been anointed.")

What prompted this reaction and response by Andrew?

What did he know?

What did he hear?

To start, we need to go back several verses in this passage.

Joh 1:29 The next day, Yochanan saw Yeshua coming toward him and said, "Look! God's lamb! The one who is taking away the sin of the world!"

Joh 1:30 This is the man I was talking about when I said, 'After me is coming someone who has come to rank above me, because he existed before me.'

Joh 1:32 Then Yochanan gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and remaining on him."

Joh 1:33 I myself did not know who he was, but the one who sent me to immerse in water said to me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining, this is the one who immerses in the Ruach HaKodesh.'

Joh 1:34 And I have seen and borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Joh 1:35 The next day, Yochanan was again standing with two of his talmidim.

Joh 1:36 On seeing Yeshua walking by, he said, "Look! God's lamb!"

Joh 1:37 His two talmidim heard him speaking, and they followed Yeshua.

Joh 1:38 Yeshua turned and saw them following him, and he asked them, "What are you

looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi!" (which means "Teacher!") "Where are you staying?"

Joh 1:39 He said to them, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and remained with him the rest of the day — it was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

So, we find out that it is Yochanan the Immerser who is teaching these things?

Where did he get this information from.

One of our first clues is found in verse 23:

When being asked who he was, referencing Isaiah 40:3

Joh 1:23 He answered in the words of Yesha`yahu the prophet, "I am The voice of someone crying out: 'In the desert make the way of Adonai straight!' "

You have this person relating a passage in Isaiah as a response to those who are questioning him and his message.

The first thing we see in this passage is that Yochanan was a witness to what was transpiring. In addition to his witness were those who attached themselves to him, in that they received this message

Mat 11:2 Meanwhile, Yochanan the Immerser, who had been put in prison, heard what the Messiah had been doing; so he sent a message to him through his talmidim,

Mat 11:3 asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for someone else?"

Yochanan the Immerser, apparently discouraged by being **put in prison** after having announced Yeshua as the Messiah ([Mat 3:11](#), [Mat 3:17](#); [Joh 1:27](#), [Joh 1:29](#)), asks, "**Are you the one who is to come?**"-the one who will put an end to political oppression and get me out of jail?

The question is in code, for the phrase, "the one who is to come," would be clear only to those acquainted with Yochanan's teaching.

Had they asked, "Are you the Messiah?" it would have been more difficult for Yeshua to send an answer to Yochanan without revealing his identity, which he was not yet wanting to do (see [Mat 8:4](#) [Mat 9:30](#)).

Yeshua's answer is also in code. He refers to prophecies in the book of Isaiah of six signs which the Messiah will give when he comes:

This coded message was the underlying Messianic expectation for identifying who the Messiah would be based on what He would do.

Regarding His identity, which is a sermon for another day, He was seen as Mashiach ben Yosef and Mashiach ben David. Hence there was in essence a profile developing as to who Messiah would be like. Yosef the son of Ya'akov and King David were these profiles. How they would be combined was still a mystery, yet Mashiach would comprise both in some way.

In addition to the many prophecies that would identify Him:

- Born of a virgin
- Born in Bethlehem
- Entering Jerusalem on a donkey
- The suffering servant

There were hints regarding how to recognize Messiah, so when we look at Yeshua's response to Yochanan, it is based on "facts already in evidence", otherwise known as the Prophets:

Mat 11:4 Yeshua answered, "Go and tell Yochanan what you are hearing and seeing —

In the beginning of Yeshua's response He does not first convey in His message what He is doing, but relying on Yochanan's own experience and observations:

What are you hearing?

What are you seeing?

Yochanan's own talmadim will convey their own eyewitness account in addition to the words of Yeshua.

Causing Yochanan to reflect on what he has taught to others, and therefore rebuilding his faith based on a realization of his teachings becoming reality.

Mat 11:5 the blind are seeing again, the lame are walking, people with tzara`at are being cleansed, the deaf are hearing, the dead are being raised, the Good News is being told to the poor —

Mat 11:6 and how blessed is anyone not offended by me!"

So, let's break down Yeshua's response:

Is based on what I call the Gospel according to Isaiah.

There are more prophecies conveyed by the Prophet Isaiah than any other Prophet, to where his writings read like one of the Gospels.

Think of Isaiah as a prequel to the Gospels

The Blind Seeing and Deaf Hearing:

Based on Isaiah 29:16 - 18

Isa 29:16 How you turn things upside down! — Is the potter not better than the clay, Does something made say of its maker, "He didn't make me"? Does the product say of its producer, "He has no discernment"?

Isa 29:17 In but a little while the L'vanon will be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field regarded as a forest.

Isa 29:18 On that day the deaf will hear the words of a book, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped;

The Lame Walking:

Isa 35:6 then the lame man will leap like a deer, and the mute person's tongue will sing. For in the desert, springs will burst forth, streams of water in the `Aravah;

Evangelize the Poor and Cleanse a Leper:

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of Adonai Elohim is upon me, because Adonai has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom to the captives, to let out into light those bound in the dark;

expand...

Raise the Dead:

Although not directly referenced in Isaiah 11, this passage gives light to the power that Messiah has been given:

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of Adonai will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fearing Adonai —

Isa 11:3 he will be inspired by fearing Adonai. He will not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

Isa 11:4 but he will judge the impoverished justly; he will decide fairly for the humble of the land. He will strike the land with a rod from his mouth and slay the wicked with a breath from his lips.

Something that has not been truly done in the magnitude of Messiah. We will see an example later...

This anointing rests upon Him, thus enabling Him to do what no ordinary man could ever do.

When we look at Isaiah 35 in its totality, it covers a few of these expectations that existed at the time of Yochanan the Immerser:

Isa 35:4 Say to the fainthearted, "Be strong and unafraid! Here is your God; he will come with vengeance; with God's retribution he will come and save you."

Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped;

Isa 35:6 then the lame man will leap like a deer, and the mute person's tongue will sing. For in the desert, springs will burst forth, streams of water in the `Aravah;

Yochanan was teaching about these expectations of Messiah, yet it would be Yeshua who would confirm these expectations through His many healings and teachings

Messiah would do things that no one has ever done before, hence making this proof undeniable – or so you would think.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of Adonai Elohim is upon me, because Adonai has anointed me to announce good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to proclaim freedom to the captives, to let out into light those bound in the dark;

But his answer avoids mentioning the Messianic sign of "proclaiming liberty to the captives" ([Isa 61:1](#)). Added to his remark, "**How blessed is anyone not offended by me,**" Yeshua seems to be saying delicately that even though he is the Messiah, Yochanan will not be set free-as proves to be the case (below, [Mat 14:1-12](#)).

Another view of this passage: Yochanan had prophesied that the Coming One would be an instrument of judgment as well as compassion. But in prison he had heard nothing of judgment, only of compassionate miracles. His question thus arises from lacking insight into a first coming in mercy and a second coming for judgment.

The realization of these many expectations are found in Matthew 8 and 9:

Let's look at a few:

One being healed of tzara'at:

Mat 8:1 After Yeshua had come down from the hill, large crowds followed him.

Mat 8:2 Then a man afflicted with tzara'at came, knelt down in front of him and said, "Sir, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Mat 8:3 Yeshua reached out his hand, touched him and said, "I am willing! Be cleansed!" And at once he was cleansed from his tzara'at.

Mat 8:4 Then Yeshua said to him, "See that you tell no one; but as a testimony to the people, go and let the cohen examine you, and offer the sacrifice that Moshe

commanded."

One who was lame is now able to walk:

Mat 8:5 As Yeshua entered K'far-Nachum, a Roman army officer came up and pleaded for help.

Mat 8:6 "Sir, my orderly is lying at home paralyzed and suffering terribly!"

Mat 8:7 Yeshua said, "I will go and heal him."

Mat 8:8 But the officer answered, "Sir, I am unfit to have you come into my home. Rather, if you will only give the command, my orderly will recover.

Mat 8:9 For I too am a man under authority. I have soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; to another, 'Come!' and he comes; to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

Mat 8:10 On hearing this Yeshua was amazed and said to the people following him, "Yes! I tell you, I have not found anyone in Isra'el with such trust!

Paralyzed Man Healed:

Mat 9:2 Some people brought him a paralyzed man lying on a mattress. When Yeshua saw their trust, he said to the paralyzed man, "Courage, son! Your sins are forgiven."

Mat 9:3 On seeing this, some of the Torah-teachers said among themselves, "This man is blaspheming!"

Mat 9:4 Yeshua, knowing what they were thinking, said, "Why are you entertaining evil thoughts in your hearts?

Mat 9:5 Tell me, which is easier to say — 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up and walk'?

Mat 9:6 But look! I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, pick up your mattress, and go home!"

Blind Seeing:

Mat 9:27 As Yeshua went on from there, two blind men began following him, shouting, "Son of David! Take pity on us!"

Mat 9:28 When he entered the house, the blind men came up, and Yeshua said to them, "Do you believe that I have the power to do this?" They replied, "Yes, sir."

Mat 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it happen to you according to your trust";

Mat 9:30 and their sight was restored. Yeshua warned them severely, "See that no one knows about it."

Joh 9:1 As Yeshua passed along, he saw a man blind from birth.

Joh 9:2 His talmidim asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned — this man or his parents — to cause

him to be born blind?"

Joh 9:3 Yeshua answered, "His blindness is due neither to his sin nor to that of his parents; it happened so that God's power might be seen at work in him.

Joh 9:4 As long as it is day, we must keep doing the work of the One who sent me; the night is coming, when no one can work.

Joh 9:5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Joh 9:6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, put the mud on the man's eyes,

Joh 9:7 and said to him, "Go, wash off in the Pool of Shiloach!" (The name means "sent.") So he went and washed and came away seeing.

Joh 9:8 His neighbors and those who previously had seen him begging said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

Joh 9:9 Some said, "Yes, he's the one"; while others said, "No, but he looks like him." However, he himself said, "I'm the one."

Joh 9:10 "How were your eyes opened?" they asked him.

Joh 9:11 He answered, "The man called Yeshua made mud, put it on my eyes, and told me, 'Go to Shiloach and wash!' So I went; and as soon as I had washed, I could see."

The Dead being raised:

Joh 11:1 There was a man who had fallen sick. His name was El`azar, and he came from Beit-Anyah, the village where Miryam and her sister Marta lived.

Joh 11:2 (This Miryam, whose brother El`azar had become sick, is the one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)

Joh 11:3 So the sisters sent a message to Yeshua, "Lord, the man you love is sick."

Joh 11:4 On hearing it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may receive glory through it."

Joh 11:11 Yeshua said these things, and afterwards he said to the talmidim, "Our friend El`azar has gone to sleep; but I am going in order to wake him up."

Joh 11:12 The talmidim said to him, "Lord, if he has gone to sleep, he will get better."

Joh 11:13 Now Yeshua had used the phrase to speak about El`azar's death, but they thought he had been talking literally about sleep.

Joh 11:14 So Yeshua told them in plain language, "El`azar has died.

Joh 11:15 And for your sakes, I am glad that I wasn't there, so that you may come to trust. But let's go to him."

Joh 11:17 On arrival, Yeshua found that El`azar had already been in the tomb for four days.

Joh 11:18 Now Beit-Anyah was about two miles from Yerushalayim,

Joh 11:19 and many of the Judeans had come to Marta and Miryam in order to comfort them at the loss of their brother.

Joh 11:20 So when Marta heard that Yeshua was coming, she went out to meet him; but

Miryam continued sitting shiv'ah in the house.

Joh 11:21 Marta said to Yeshua, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Joh 11:22 Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Joh 11:23 Yeshua said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

Joh 11:24 Marta said, "I know that he will rise again at the Resurrection on the Last Day."

Joh 11:25 Yeshua said to her, "I AM the Resurrection and the Life! Whoever puts his trust in me will live, even if he dies;

Joh 11:26 and everyone living and trusting in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Joh 11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Joh 11:33 When Yeshua saw her crying, and also the Judeans who came with her crying, he was deeply moved and also troubled.

Joh 11:34 He said, "Where have you buried him?" They said, "Lord, come and see."

Joh 11:35 Yeshua cried;

Joh 11:36 so the Judeans there said, "See how he loved him!"

Joh 11:37 But some of them said, "He opened the blind man's eyes. Couldn't he have kept this one from dying?"

Joh 11:38 Yeshua, again deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying in front of the entrance.

Joh 11:39 Yeshua said, "Take the stone away!" Marta, the sister of the dead man, said to Yeshua, "By now his body must smell, for it has been four days since he died!"

Joh 11:40 Yeshua said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you keep trusting, you will see the glory of God?"

Joh 11:41 So they removed the stone. Yeshua looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

Joh 11:42 I myself know that you always hear me, but I say this because of the crowd standing around, so that they may believe that you have sent me."

Joh 11:43 Having said this, he shouted, "El`azar! Come out!"

Joh 11:44 The man who had been dead came out, his hands and feet wrapped in strips of linen and his face covered with a cloth. Yeshua said to them, "Unwrap him, and let him go!"

For our benefit we have these accounts in the Gospels that provide us with the realization of the expectations of what scripture says about the one who would come.

That he would do things never done before, conveying what Yeshua said in Yochanan 11:40

Joh 11:40 Yeshua said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you keep trusting, you will see the glory of God?"

It is our continued trusting in Yeshua...He is who He says He is, He did what He said He did and that all of this is because He was sent by Adonai and is Adonai.

It would be God who would restore His people, not the people restoring themselves.

Does scripture not say that we are powerless...

Isa 40:27 Why do you complain, Ya`akov; why do you say, Isra'el, "My way is hidden from Adonai, my rights are ignored by my God"?

Isa 40:28 Haven't you known, haven't you heard that the everlasting God, Adonai, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow tired or weary? His understanding cannot be fathomed.

Isa 40:29 He invigorates the exhausted, he gives strength to the powerless.

Isa 40:30 Young men may grow tired and weary, even the fittest may stumble and fall;

Isa 40:31 but those who hope in Adonai will renew their strength, they will soar aloft as with eagles' wings; when they are running they won't grow weary, when they are walking they won't get tired.

Even Yochanan grew weary while in prison, yet Yeshua's message back to him should have eliminated any doubt regarding his search.

Yochanan didn't have a bible in prison that he could read and be reassured.

Yet, we do.

We have all this information at our fingertips. It may be the dealings of this world that may bring on discouragement, but put yourself in Yochanan's position for a minute.

Imagine all that you have done in preparing the way for the Messiah, and as your time draws to an end, a spirit of doubt comes upon you. Even Yochanan struggled with this spirit of doubt.

Had Yochanan had a bible in his cell, I would think Matthew 4:23 would have been reassuring:

Mat 4:23 Yeshua went all over the Galil teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing people from every kind of disease and sickness.

As with Yochanan, Yeshua reassures us:

Joh 16:33 "I have said these things to you so that, united with me, you may have shalom. In the world, you have tsuris. But be brave! I have conquered the world!"

Yochanan reminds us:

1Jn 4:1 Dear friends, don't trust every spirit. On the contrary, test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah came as a human being is from God,

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God — in fact, this is the spirit of the Anti-Messiah. You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already!

1Jn 4:4 You, children, are from God and have overcome the false prophets, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Based on the enormous amount of information we have, in combination with the Ruach ha Kodesh, have His testimony.

Given all that weighs on us, let us remain strong in our walk. Let us be strengthened by the Ruach and equipped by the Word of Adonai, to remain and to continue to press on and Go Forward.

Luk 4:14 Yeshua returned to the Galil in the power of the Spirit, and reports about him spread throughout the countryside.

Luk 4:15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone respected him.

Luk 4:16 Now when he went to Natzeret, where he had been brought up, on Shabbat he went to the synagogue as usual. He stood up to read,

Luk 4:17 and he was given the scroll of the prophet Yesha`yahu. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 "The Spirit of Adonai is upon me; therefore he has anointed me to announce Good News to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the imprisoned and renewed sight for the blind, to release those who have been crushed,

Luk 4:19 to proclaim a year of the favor of Adonai."

Luk 4:20 After closing the scroll and returning it to the shammash, he sat down; and the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Luk 4:21 He started to speak to them: "Today, as you heard it read, this passage of the Tanakh was fulfilled!"

Luk 4:22 Everyone was speaking well of him and marveling that such appealing words were coming from his mouth. They were even asking, "Can this be Yosef's son?"

Luk 4:23 Then Yeshua said to them, "No doubt you will quote to me this proverb — ' "Doctor, cure yourself!" We've heard about all the things that have been going on over in K'far-Nachum; now do them here in your home town!"

Luk 4:24 Yes!" he said, "I tell you that no prophet is accepted in his home town.

Luk 4:25 It's true, I'm telling you — when Eliyahu was in Isra'el, and the sky was sealed off for three-and-a-half years, so that all the Land suffered a severe famine, there were many widows;

Luk 4:26 but Eliyahu was sent to none of them, only to a widow in Tzarfat in the land of Tzidon.

Luk 4:27 Also there were many people with tzara`at in Isra'el during the time of the prophet Elisha; but not one of them was healed, only Na`aman the Syrian."

Luk 4:28 On hearing this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with fury.

Luk 4:29 They rose up, drove him out of town and dragged him to the edge of the cliff on which their town was built, intending to throw him off.

Luk 4:30 But he walked right through the middle of the crowd and went away.

If we are to rely on anything, that being not our own understanding...

Let us rest upon how Yeshua has put the pieces together for us. How he taught the 12 and how Sha'ul learned from the Ruach Ha Kodesh, rightly dividing the Word.

So, if you only remember two things from everything I shared, remember these verses...

Joh 14:25 "I have told you these things while I am still with you.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Ruach HaKodesh, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything; that is, he will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2Ti 3:14 But you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, recalling the people from whom you learned it;

2Ti 3:15 and recalling too how from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which can give you the wisdom that leads to deliverance through trusting in Yeshua the Messiah.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living;

2Ti 3:17 thus anyone who belongs to God may be fully equipped for every good work.

Trust in the Ruach and in the Word of God. Combined they will not let you down, they will not lead you astray.