

What Jews Believe

Lesson Six: Redemption

Text 1

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.

(Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 11:1)

Text 2

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 states: 'The world will be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the ocean bed.'

(Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Kings 12:5)

Text 3

Serve G-d with joy...

(Psalms 100:2)

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is the belief in Moshiach the fulfillment of the entire Torah? How does this idea tie together all of the ideas we have learned of so far in this series?
2. Why does Judaism describe a perfect world as one in which humanity's only pursuit is to know G-d?
3. How would you describe the process whereby this world becomes redeemed? Who does it? How?
4. Why must there be a figure known as Moshiach and not just a utopian "Messianic Era"? What will his role be?