

The False Messiahs

(The Story You Were Never Told)

By: William Norwood Hollis, M.A

We are told by the "**Establishment** ¹ Church" that the Jews are Israel, (GOD'S chosen) of the Bible! We are also told by this same organization that these "Jews" of the Old Testament times, both "looked" and "longed" for the prophesied Messiah. We are also told and expected to believe that after centuries of "yearning" by these people and their descendants, through whom the Messiah was to come, that when HE finally made HIS appearance in the stable at the Bethlehem Inn they (the Jews) "just simply could not believe that this was HE whom they had looked for all of those years!" "They wanted an earthly king," we are told, "who would lead them out from under the yoke of Rome". **This story must come from the seminaries, because it is not found in the text of the Bible!**

Yes, and I, too, believed this story until I started reading the Bible for **myself** ² and found that each of the so-called Biblical premises stated above are absolutely not true. What makes them all wrong is the incontrovertible fact that, for the most part, **the Jews were not then, nor are they now, GOD'S chosen race of Israel!** For this reason they did not "long" for anyone who would tell them what to do -- much less a lowly carpenter from Nazareth! **The Bible tells us that they "killed the prophets".** The real Messiah, Jesus Christ, tells us that **the Jews to whom He was speaking were "the children of the prophet slayers" and that they were "not Abraham's children" nor even "of GOD".** In the 23rd chapter of the book of Matthew, Jesus Christ is condemning the Scribes, the Pharisees, and the hypocrites. He tells them in verse 30 that they say:

... if we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. (Matthew 23:30 AV)

But Jesus continues and tells them that,

Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. (Matthew 23:31 AV)

In John 8:39 Jesus is still debating these Jews and

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. (John 8:39 AV)

And in John 8:47, Jesus tells the Jews,

¹ Search the web for "corporation 501c3 church".

² The Bible in **II Timothy 2:15** (AV) admonishes us to do this:
"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

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He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God. (John 8:47 AV)

We see here that the Jews were not then, nor are they presently, either spiritual or physical "children of GOD."

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (1 John 4:3 AV)

In the 6th verse of this reference, the Apostle John tells that,

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:6 AV)

Now we know why the Jews did not recognize the Messiah! **They possessed the spirit of error.** We know this from the above scripture, and we also know that they did not listen to the apostles either, because they "were not of GOD", and thus possessed "the spirit of error". Perhaps this is as strong a teaching to some as it was to me when I first started reading and studying the scriptures for myself. However, when one considers the fact that never in the history of the world has any event been so widely foretold, and anticipated as Israel's Messiah, one must wonder why this is so! From Genesis to Malachi there are prophecies which specifically relate to this promised Messiah!

Then Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) came to the right people (Israel, the Children of Israel -- not Jews), to the right place, (Bethlehem, Judea) at the right time, (star of Bethlehem), to a world unified by one government and one language (Roman Empire) with the right birthright, (tribe of Judah) with a miraculous virgin birth, (the virgin Mary, HIS mother) and HE performed the "works of MY FATHER." (Jesus performed both spiritual and physical miracles.) In the 8th century B.C., the Prophet Isaiah told us in Chapter 7, verse 14:

Therefore the Lord (God) himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (God is with us.) (Isaiah 7:14 AV)

Now, the 8th chapter, 14th verse of Isaiah tells us some additional facts about this coming Messiah which sheds light not only on the thesis of this work: **Israel (the Chosen) in the Old Testament were not Jews;** but also helps us to understand why the Jews "just simply did not believe in Jesus Christ when HE came." Let us "rightfully divide" the scripture quoted below, and savor its full meaning and import. Come along with me:

(1) *And he (Messiah) shall be for a sanctuary;. . .*

This simply means that the Messiah will be a haven of rest for everyone coming to HIM, who "labor and are heavy laden".

(2) *. . . but for a stone of stumbling (Jews) and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, .*

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This, too, is self explanatory. Israel is comprised of

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| (a) | The House of Israel | } | |
| | | } | -- Israel |
| (b) | The House of Judah | } | |

When the Messiah, Jesus Christ, came, the House of Israel (Ten Tribes of Israel), plus a large portion of the House of Judah (two tribes - Judah and Benjamin), had been taken captive to Assyria seven centuries before, and were not in Judea or Jerusalem at this time. They were by now, scattered from the Caucasus Mountain region of the Black Sea, to Gaul (France). Though they were given "ears to hear" the gospel of the Messiah which was evidenced by their easy acceptance of HIS words, the very fact of being the "followers of the Way" caused great persecutions of these "Christians" for several centuries. Of course we all know what "a stumbling block" Jesus Christ has been for the Jews down through the centuries!

(3) . . . for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (**Isaiah 8:14 AV**)

A "gin" threshes the wheat, and separates it (the kernel) from the chaff. Of course, a "snare" is a trap. As you will subsequently learn this is exactly what happened to the Jews in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Since that frightful year, the ensuing centuries have proved these scriptures of prophecy true! **Non-believers in Jesus Christ possess "The Spirit Of Error"**. This error has resulted in their perpetually chasing after "false Messiahs". Listen to what Jesus tells them in John 5:43:

*I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: **if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*** (**John 5:43 AV**)

The following is only a portion of what history records of those "who came in their own name", and in whom the Jews believed; but for Christians who know "in whom we believe", it is a tragic account. After reading these accounts of error you will perhaps formulate this question in your mind: "Just what on earth are they looking for?" And then your knowledge of our Saviour will begin to take form.

You remember the virgin birth which was foretold, as was the village of Bethlehem, Judea -- all in Old Testament scripture. You remember that Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist, was also prophesied. You remember the miracles which the real Messiah performed -- changing the water into excellent wine -- HIS walking on water -- the miracle in which five thousand people participated, being fed on two fishes and five loaves of bread -- the wonderful healings, the lame walked, the blind saw, the deaf heard, the leper cleansed -- the taming of the elements -- and then the ultimate test, restoring Lazarus' life after he had been dead four days "and stinketh" -- and finally, HIS own death and resurrection -- "GOD'S only begotten son" -- witnessed by literally thousands of people, friends and foes alike.

Then after these wonderful events run through your mind you realize that they were all witnessed

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and recorded by more people than most of the historical events we read about, that are taught in school, and believed daily by most people. Then you wonder how on earth could a person read, study, and believe all of these prophecies and having seen their fulfillment -- still not believe? There is only one answer. **GOD gave them the spirit of error!** We do not have to know the whys or wherefores -- this is GOD'S business. All we have to do is to believe!

Another scripture comes to mind in which Jesus said to "doubting" Thomas:

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed [are] they that have not seen, and [yet] have believed. (John 20:29 AV)

So with all of the many prophecies foretold centuries before his coming, and his fulfillment of each of them, plus miracles performed "far too numerous" for Josephus to record, the Jews still did not, and do not, accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and, we are told, "they are still looking for the Messiah". We are told also that they believe the Old Testament but not the New. Well, it is the Old Testament which foretold HIS coming. One such prophesy stated that the Messiah would be deceived for thirty pieces of silver,

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give [me] my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty [pieces] of silver. (Zechariah 11:12 AV -- 487 B.C.)

and that the perpetrator would hang himself and be buried "in a potter's field". And still they do not believe! One still must wonder "just what it is that the jews are looking for?" Or, "who could possibly have done more at the time or have had a greater impact upon the entire world than Jesus Christ?" What do you do for an encore? My research into this question has brought forth some interesting data on the subject of Messiahs which should be shared.

Christians know that we have the world's only Messiah, Jesus Christ, and that we need not look further. The following account of false Messiahs shows this to be true and shows also the dilemma of the Jews, And that they truly "possess a spirit of error".

Jewish False Messiahs 1st Century A.D.

The first century after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was one of the most interesting chapters in the history of the world. To coin a trite expression, "they were times which tried man's soul." We find the Roman Empire, perhaps at its zenith, exacting "law and order" to most of the known world. We find also that Roman Emperor Caligula (37-41 A.D.) declaring himself god of all nations. In 70 A.D. the Roman general Titus besieged the city of Jerusalem, leveled the temple and dispersed the "Jews". A quotation from the "**Outline of Knowledge**" tells us that,

"When the temple of Jerusalem and its priest-hood were destroyed, all that was left the Jews was their Law and the Synagogue. Scattered all over the **world they had become a religious community instead of a nation.** The Synagogue (borrowed from

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Babylonia) . . . seems to have come up and spread through Palestine in the time of the Maccabees . . . In the Synagogue, Judaism has survived through the ages.

"The dispersed Jews learned in their synagogues the truths of their faith, and the Talmud and the synagogue services united them in a religious brotherhood of belief. The Talmud is the Judaic book of the law and doctrine of the schools of the rabbis. It consists of the Mishna, traditions collected by Rabbi Judah, "The Prince", early in the third century A.D., and the Gamara, a commentary on the Mishna."

This era also saw the rise of numerous "false prophets" who were a "thorn in the flesh" of the Roman governors of Palestine.

"Theudas, a wizard, according to Josephus, and a prophet as he himself said, led an enormous crowd of Jews to the Jordan, saying the river would divide at his command as the Red Sea had for Moses. Cavalry sent by the Procurator Fadas cut off Theudas' head before he could reach the river bank and settled the **uprising.**" ³

What is interesting here also, is the statement that the Jews became "a religious community instead of a **nation**". It was prophesied of Abraham that he would be a "father of many **nations**", and of Jacob's grandson, Ephraim, that his seed would become a "company (**commonwealth**) of **nations**"! **Where are the nations and "commonwealth of nations" of the Jews, if they are the "Chosen"?**

Under the governorship of Ventidius Camanus (48-52 A.D.), the Jews, Samaritans, and Romans were continually engaged in free-for-all religious difficulties which included murders, killings, and the bloody suppression of these revolts which all became commonplace!

"Under Felix, the land was full of 'robbers' and 'wizards', Josephus tells us. Pilgrims with daggers under their cloaks murdered the high-priest in the Temple. False prophets were continually leading multitudes into the desert. One led the crowd to the Mount of Olives to see Jerusalem's walls fall at his command. The party of religious fanatics called the Zealots, grew in power and strength. Under Festus **the anti-Roman party massacred the Roman garrison of Jerusalem after it had surrendered on a promise of mercy, sparing only one Roman soldier** who agreed to become a Jew and accept circumcision. This led to the final tragedy. The Emperor Vespasian (67 A.D.) reduced one Jewish city after another, and finally reached Jerusalem, where three rival political and religious party leaders, Eleazar, Simon and John, were busy fighting each other, and the Romans without the walls. The famine-stricken people would gladly have surrendered to Titus (to whom Vespasian had turned over the command), but the Zealots insisted on holding out to the end."

³ All quotations regarding false messiahs are from **Brown's Bible Dictionary** and **The Outline of Knowledge**, by Frederick H. Martens, 1924.

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For some additional information on this momentous event, the **Brown's Bible Dictionary**, published in 1853, provides the following information, some of which is placed in quotations. In Jerusalem, 67 A.D., "over three million Jews had gathered for the passover celebration." The Romans who had already taken the cities of "Galilee, Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum, etc., because of the numerous insurrections, now, under Titus, besieged Jerusalem and surrounded it with soldiers, trenches, and walls so that none could escape." Three different factions (Jewish) within the city, murdered one another, and sometimes united to make a desperate, but unsuccessful, rally upon the Romans. They even murdered the inhabitants "in sport, to try the sharpness of their swords." At last Eleazar's party was treacherously massacred by their brethren.

"Titus, one of the most merciful generals who ever breathed, did all in his power to persuade them to an advantageous surrender; but, mad on their own ruin, they scorned every proposal. The multitudes of unburied carcasses corrupted the air, and produced a pestilence. The famine hastened on their destruction of one another. Magazines failed, people fed on one another and even women broiled their suckling infants and ate them. After a siege of six months, the city was taken. Provoked with their obstinacy, the Romans murdered almost every Jew with whom they met. Titus was bent to save the temple but a false prophet, having persuaded 6,000 Jews to take shelter in it, all of whom were burnt or murdered therein, a Roman soldier set it on fire with a brand he cast; nor could all of the authority of Titus make his troops, who highly regarded him, attempt to extinguish the flames. The whole city, except for three towers and a small part of the wall, was razed to the ground. At Jerusalem alone we hear of 1,100,000 who perished by the sword, famine and pestilence."

There were, however, large numbers of Jews remaining in almost every part of the Roman Empire and, as were the ones in Jerusalem, misled through subsequent centuries by false messiahs. There were far too many to be dealt with here. It is our purpose to bring only enough of them to your attention so that you will, perhaps, ask the same question as the author -- "If the spiritual and temporal powers which Jesus Christ possesses, and which HE very amply exhibited in the feeding of the five thousand, walking on the water, resurrecting HIMSELF, etc. and the redemptive powers which HE continues to show to those who believe in HIM, do not impress the Jews, then it becomes difficult for us to understand what more could one ask in a Messiah? A fair question, I think! Born again Christians know there will never be another Messiah -- to the Jews or to anyone else. We know this because we have found HIM. HE meets every test -- past, present and future. Because of this fact, we know that the Jews continue to search in vain and will continue to do so until they turn their attention to the Man From Galilee. Then, at last they will find HIM! Their fruitless search will end. However, at the dawning of the second century of our Lord Jesus Christ, this was not to be so!

Jewish False Messiahs 130-35 A.D.

The Roman Emperor, Elius Adrian, (Hadrian) in the year 130 A.D., sent a colony of Romans to rebuild Jerusalem. Upon its completion it was renamed Elia after the Emperor, who also forbade the Jews from circumcising their children. Canaan had been infested by bandits for the past century and

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one of them, Simon ben Kzeba, pretending that he was the new messiah, raised a Jewish army of some 200,000 and murdered all of the "heathens and Christians who came their way." Hadrian's forces defeated him in 134 A.D. and it is said that some 600,000 Jews lost their lives in this war by the sword alone, not counting those who died from famine and pestilence. It was also said that the rivers were "swelled high with blood, and the stained water could be followed down to where it met the sea." Rabbi Akiba was later executed by the Romans!

While this was going on in the "Holy Land" the gospel of Jesus Christ was being preached across the Roman Empire to the "Isles of the Sea." (England). "A census at Rome -- 4,037,000 citizens!" The Christian religion published in Britain! The Jews in Cyrene murdered about 200,000 Greeks and **Romans.**⁴

432 A.D.

In 432 A.D. another false messiah appeared by the name of Moses of Crete. He claimed to be their "Messiah", and told the Jews that he would lead them safely through the sea to Canaan. A great number of his followers threw themselves from a steep precipice into the deep and were drowned. "Afterwards many of them, for the sake of presents given to new converts, were baptized at Constantinople."

Meanwhile, Christianity was flourishing and the Roman Emperor, Theodosius II called a general council of the Christian church at Ephesus. Christianity is embraced by France! The Persian and Saracen Kings embrace the Christian religion!

530 A.D.

In approximately 530 A.D. the Roman Emperor, Justinian, prohibited the Jews from making testaments and from appearing as witnesses against Christians. He also prohibited the Jews in Africa from exercising their religion. It was about this time that another false messiah came forward to straighten things out for them. He was Julian of Canaan. He and his followers harassed the Christians but in the end they were overpowered. Some 20,000 were killed and a large number sold as slaves.

About this same time Christianity, imbued with the spirit and power of Jesus Christ, had overcome the Roman Empire and had divided it into four prefectures. Silk is manufactured in Europe! Latin ceased to be spoken in Italy!

724 A.D.

Serenus of Spain had the honor of being the "Messiah" of the Jews in this century. Multitudes followed him and they were successful in their efforts to take possession of Canaan. In their absence, their property was seized.

⁴ **World In A Pocket Book** - published 1859, Philadelphia, John E. Potter & Co.

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Boniface, an Anglo-Saxon, propagated the Christian religion in Germany! The Danes arrive in England! The Saracens were defeated by Charles Martel -- saving Europe for Christianity and the Indo-European (white) race!

831 A.D.

"Another in the east, about 832 A.D., pretended to be Moses, risen from the dead, and was followed by great numbers."

While the Jews were rallying around this false Moses, "The Messiah", the Christian Church was busy introducing the Word to the semi-barbaric Germanic nations. They, "in their sense of personal independence, in their courage, faithfulness, and purity, the Germans excelled other barbarian tribes." Thus they made a great impact on the Christian religion. After all, the Bible says that JEHOVAH-GOD chose the Israel race to be HIS "witness" on earth. JEHOVAH-GOD continued to work through HIS chosen, and on Christmas Day, 800 A.D. Charlemagne became emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, and subdued the Angles and Saxons and Christianized them!

1137 - 1200 A.D.

"Between 1137 and 1200 A.D., there appeared nine or ten pretended messiahs; two in France, two in northwest Africa, one David of Moravia, who could render himself invisible at pleasure, one near the Euphrates who had been cured of leprosy, El David, and two others in Persia. Most of these occasioned a great deal of mischief to those of their nation in the places where they lived." In the year 1147 A.D., David Alroy announced himself as "King of the Jews" in Babylon. He led a revolt of the Jews against the Persian King and stated that his mission was to go on to capture Jerusalem. Before he enjoyed any success in this project he was assassinated by his father-in-law.

In the Christian world at this time the fiery eloquence of Bernard sent the kings of France and Germany on a new crusade. On August 21, 1241, Pope Gregori IX expired and there was a long delay before the next Pope took office.

1215 - 1290 A.D.

In this period, three false Messiahs appeared in Spain. In 1240 A.D., a Jew by the name of Abraham Abulafia was born in Zaragossa. He was hailed as the "Messiah" at an early age. In 1250 A.D. another messiah, Alroy, led the Jews of Azerbaijan in revolts against the Persian government.

About this time in England, the Christian Barons were forcing King John to issue the Magna Carta, or the "Great Charter" of liberty at Runnymede. This, of course, was the forerunner to our most cherished "Bill of Rights".

1500 A.D.

The fifteenth century brought forth numerous prophets and martyrs to announce the coming of the Jews' "Saviour" and Redeemer". In every "shape, form and fashion", they came. Even one "Messiah" was a "dwarfish soldier, David Reubeni", who had an obsession of ridding the Holy Land

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of the Turk. After starving himself in the Nubian desert with "holy fastings", he mounted a white horse and rode to the Vatican in Italy and visited Pope Clement. He left Portugal, after a visit with the king, and sailed for Palestine with a band of crusading Jews only to perish. In 1530 A.D. a Portuguese Marrano, named Solomon Molko, traveled from his native home to Italy, Turkey and Palestine seeking to arouse interest in a joint Jewish-Christian mission to free the Holy Land. After presenting himself as "Messiah" in Greece in the year 1530 he was arrested, tried by the Inquisition for conversion to Judaism and burned at the stake.

During this era, the great Christian Reformation started in Germany with the posting of Luther's theses, and Christopher Columbus had fulfilled a lifetime vision of a God-given mission to find the "New World". John Wycliffe and John Tyndall had translated the Latin Vulgate Bible into English, and King Henry VIII of England broke with Catholic Rome -- exercised his "Divine Rights", closed down the Abbeys, and nailed an English Tyndall Bible to the podium of every church in England!

The "Reformation" began in Germany! The title of "The Defender Of The Faith" conferred on King Henry VIII! The world circumnavigated by Sir Francis Drake! Sir Walter Raleigh discovered Virginia!

1666 A.D.

One of the most famous and successful pseudo-messiahs in Jewish history was Ahebetai Zvi. He gained thousands of followers all over Europe by 1665. This native of Smyrna, Turkey boldly demanded from the Turkish sultan that he be allowed to lead the Jewish people back to the Holy Land. The Sultan, however, imprisoned Zvi in 1666 and soon thereafter his crushed devotees heard the terrible news that their "Messiah" had actually converted to Islam. He died in exile there years later.

The last professed "Jewish Messiah", and perhaps the greatest, had his coming foretold and heralded much in the same manner as John the Baptist preceded Jesus Christ. Luria, the "Messiah of the Race of David", who based his claims on the Kabbalah, which was "the mystic Jewish theosophy of the middle ages", and which encompassed all kinds of magic doctrines. One of its books, the Sefhir Yeshira, which was the "Book of Creation", was a combination of medieval natural history and philosophy. The Bahir, was called "The Book of Illumination", and handed down by patriarchs and prophets generation to generation. (Actually it was compiled in the 13th century, and one of its divisions deals with demonology).

In the year 1648 -- it was the year the Kabbalists had set for the Messiah's coming -- Sabbatini went to Constantinople (for he had been banished from Smyrna) and there let a small circle of devotees into the great secret that the long expected Messiah was none other than himself. He had a winning personality, a good voice -- men went into ecstasies when he sang the Psalms of David -- and children "took to him naturally". It is true, however, that he showered them with sweets. From Constantinople he went to Thessalonica. There in the Jewish colony "virgins untaught to love or to dissemble, lifted adoring eyes . . . but Sabbatini's vision was inward and heavenward" . . . so he married the Scroll of the law! . . . The orthodox cried "blasphemy" and he had to leave town.

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In Cairo Sabbatini, now married -- for the third time. He already, as a boy, had been twice married and twice divorced . . . It was in the house of Raphael Halebi, a rich and influential Jew of Cairo, that the Messiah met his dream fiancée. "I am the Messiah's destined bride," she said . . . nothing could shake Sarah's faith and Sabbatini was inspired at about the same time to announce that a spiritual bride had been promised him in a holy dream. It was a case of love at first sight. And, soon after, having gained the adhesion of most of the Cairoen Jews, a really charming wife, spiritual or otherwise, and a good deal of money, Sabbatini returned in triumph to the Holy Land. There his own special prophet, Nathan of Gaza, in the role of Elijah, announced the coming restoration of Israel and the salvation of the world through the bloodless victory of Sabbatini, "riding on a lion with the seven-headed dragon in his jaws", and the year 1666 was given as the one in which the divine lion-rider would appear.

"When the rabbis of Jerusalem threatened to excommunicate him he returned to Smyrna in 1665. At least they believed in him in his home town. The Jews of Smyrna went mad with joy and the Turks thought them insane. The wild enthusiasm of the masses exceeded all bounds. Men, women and children fell down and worshipped the Messiah as he passed. All prepared for the beginning of the New Sion. Men gave up work. They feasted, and lashed themselves, foamed at the mouth and had visions. They rushed through the streets singing the Psalms. Even the rabbis and men of learning were carried away. Day by day the movement spread until it embraced the whole Jewish world. Everywhere the miracles Sabbatini did were reported and believed. The Jews raised their heads in the ghettos of the Levant, Venice, Amsterdam and London. All Jewry sent him gold and silver. On the Exchanges of the European capitals odds were laid for and against the Jewish kingdom. He assumed the pomp and splendor of royalty, and the treasure poured into this court from Poland, Amsterdam and Hamburg. Jews from all over the earth flocked to Smyrna to do homage to him. In the Levant inspired young Hebrew men and maidens prophesied before him. In Persia the Jews refused to till the fields. 'We pay no more taxes,' they said, 'our Messiah has come.' Day by day Sabbatini was hailed by Jewry as King of the Jews and Emperor of the World. And the decrees and ordinances he sent out were signed: 'I, the Lord your God, Sabbatini Zebi.'

"Sabbatini, who might have carried all before him had he boldly led the way to Jerusalem, did nothing except decree festivities and love his Sarah.

"At the beginning of the Messianic year, 1666, Sabbatini Zebi, King of the Jews, was 'sent for' by the Sultan. Sabbatini Zebi, 'King of the Jews' went. First, however, as 'Emperor of the World' he partitioned it out among his faithful followers. He made them all kings -- there were his brothers, King of the Kings of Judah, there was a King of Persia, a King of Arabia, a King of Italy, a King of Barbary, a King of Portugal, a King of Egypt, a King of England -- twenty-six monarchs in all. The last was made King of Turkey -- for was not the Messiah about to pluck his crown from the Sultan in Constantinople?

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"He had set out in state, with his Queen and his twenty-six kings, but arrested near Constantinople, he made his entry on a sorry nag loaded with chains. Imprisoned, a shower of gold and devotion followed him there. His followers still believed in him, his word still ruled in the synagogues and the ghettos. But the spectacle of an infidel Jew thrown in a prison amid attendant kings and sending out his orders which were obeyed, to the Padishah's own Jewish subjects, could not go on. The Janissaries took him to Adrianople where the Sultan was. The Sultan sat on his high throne, his great turban on his head. He looked at Sabbatini Zebi, then spoke to one of his officers. Through an interpreter, the latter ordered the Messiah's acceptance of Islam or the stake.

"And then Sabbatini showed that he was not made of the right Messianic material. He did not believe in himself. He caved in completely -- an apostate, accepted Islam. Then out of his clemency, the Sultan graciously made him the King of Jews, the Emperor of the World, the Messiah, who was to regenerate the earth -- a gate keeper of the Seraglio, a white-turbaned harem doorman. When he was lax in his duty, the eunuchs beat the back of the 'unfrocked Messiah' as he was called, who was to have come riding to redeem his people on the back of a God-sent lion. Instead, he testified five times a day that there was no God but Allah and that Mohammed was Allah's prophet.

"Black despair and discouragement settled on all the Jews when they learned that the doorman of the Sultan's wives and concubines had died, a sect of Sabbatinians survived whose faith in their King had remained unshakened."

In the Christian world the Pilgrims settled in America. "Next to religion, education was valued by these hearty people and in 1636 they established a college at Cambridge which eventually became known as Harvard." James VI, of Scotland became James I, of England.

Decimal arithmetic invented at Bruges! Galileo discovers, with a telescope, the Satellites of Jupiter! The barometer is invented by Torricelli, and the thermometer by Drabellius! The Habeas Corpus Act was passed in England!

1726 - 1791

As dark as the hour was when Sabbatini, "The King of the Jews", became a Moslem, the new century ushered in a renewed hope for the real Messiah to appear and deliver the Jews. "The Sabbatinic tradition allowed for the appearance of more Messiahs and as they appeared, a guitar-playing gallant of Madrid, a tobacco dealer of Pigeural, a blue blooded Christian millionaire of Copenhagen -- to nourish the great pathetic hope. . ." In Austrian Poland, Jacob Frank (1721-1791) argued the Talmud publicly in the Lemberg Cathedral, and tickets for these events demanded a "top price" from the Polish nobility who attended them. Frank advocated moral laxity. He was addressed as "Holy Lord", and he drove through the Polish towns in beautiful oriental robes in a chariot and surrounded by six guards in Turkish costumes. However this was all "window

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dressing". When Frank had obtained a great following he "sold out" to the Roman Catholic Church and led thousands to mass baptisms in 1759.

"As an award the Empress Maria-Theresa of Austria gave the Roman Catholic Jew, estates and a title, and the Messiah lived in state as Baron von Offenbach. After his death in 1791, the Frankists merged in the Roman Church."

Always the Jews have looked for the great star to rise in the dark skies of persecution. But the stars which rose were only "falling stars". However, in Christian countries Parliament granted Mr. Harrison £10,000 for discovering the longitude with his time piece, and the Americans declared their independence on July 4, 1776!

Well, folks, we have traversed the centuries since the advent of Jesus Christ, "The Anointed One", "The Good Shepherd", "The Incarnate Word", "Emmanuel", "Saviour", the real "Messiah", and we have placed into chronological order some of the myriad "false Messiahs" which have plagued the Jews and their religion down through these ages. We have purposefully inserted in similar chronological order an outstanding event or advance of Christianity so that you may be cognizant of the growth, or lack of it, for the two religions. It becomes evident when one compares the blessings and miracles which JEHOVAH-GOD has bestowed upon the Israelites, his "Chosen" race who became his "witnesses" throughout the world, fulfilling the covenant which HE made with them with the Jews and their religion -- that not only is GOD still in charge but that HE shows us that **"they are not all Israel who appear to be Israel"**. We see also, that GOD continues to deal with these impostors much the same way HE did two millennia ago.

As shown earlier, over a million "Jews" perished in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when the Roman General, Titus, took the city. These, of course, were those who chose to stay in the city, or were forced to do so. Countless others had fled earlier. It is more than interesting to note that when Jehoshaphat was King of Judah, (comprised of only two of the twelve Tribes of Israel) in 897 B.C., there were over **6,000,000**⁵ "Jews" living in the kingdom. When we compare this with the 17,000,000 Jews worldwide, as listed in the **1989 World Almanac**, we can readily see that as a "race" they certainly have not been blessed in population growth as promised the Israelites by JEHOVAH-GOD. The Bible states that the Israelites, Isaac's seed through Jacob, were to become "a great nation, and a company of nations";

*And God said unto him, I [am] God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a **company of nations** shall be of thee, and **kings shall come out of thy loins**; (Genesis 35:11 AV)*

that these "Sons of Jacob", and their offspring were to become as numerous "as the stars in the sky, and the sands of the sea". Certainly you can easily see that this covenant of GOD with Israel cannot possibly pertain to the Jews. They have never been a "great nation" or a "company of nations" as GOD promised. Nor have they become his "witness" here on earth.

5 **Brown's Bible Dictionary**, London and Edinburgh, 1853.

The False Messiahs

There is a race of people, however, who literally "burst upon the scene" in Europe who already were monotheistic in their religion, possessed a written language, who had "ears to hear and eyes to see" which were given them from the "foundations of the earth" to whom the real Messiah, Jesus Christ, came -- to whom HE sent his WORD, through whom HIS WORD has reached "the four corners of the world", and who have been, and are now, and will continue to be HIS "witnesses" here on earth.

So in the first century A.D. "The Old Testament was translated into Greek, the most common language of the Heathen. A rumor of the Saviour's appearance in the flesh was spread far and wide among them (the Jews). When Christ came, he preached chiefly in Galilee where there were multitudes of Gentiles -- nor did he ever prohibit them to publish his **name.**" ⁶ This shows that there was much interest in the coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist was calling out to his fellow countrymen to "repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand", and scores followed him continually to the river Jordan to accomplish this feat. The country, and especially Jerusalem, was rampant with healers, sorcerers, revolutionaries, and yes -- Messiahs! So many, in fact, it became necessary for one to ask the question, "Will the real Messiah stand up?"

Will The Real Messiah Stand Up?

One bright and sunny day on the banks of the Jordan River stood one Jesus of Nazareth, who had come down from his home in Galilee to be baptized by John. After stating that he was not worthy to do so, John baptized Jesus and in the third chapter of the book of Matthew, 16-17 verses it is recorded:

¹⁶*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

¹⁷*And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*
(**Matthew 3 AV**)

With GOD'S stamp of approval, witnessed by hundreds who had come to be baptized that day, **The Real Messiah Stood Up.** HE stood up, "and came straight forward out of the water", ascended the banks of the Jordan, and proceeded within the next three years to fulfill all of the Old Testament's prophecies concerning HIMSELF. Yes, **Jesus is LORD!** He proved it to those Israelites, the "Chosen", who had been given "ears to hear, and eyes to see". **Therefore, when HE commanded his chosen Apostles to "go only to the lost sheep of Israel scattered abroad",** (outside of Judea) they obeyed, and the First Century Church was formed in Corinth, Galatia, Phillippi, Rome, Spain (Iberia), and "the Isles of the Sea" (British Isles). These "seeds of Isaac," or Isaac's Sons, or Saacson, or **Saxons** continued to multiply until their numbers were "as the sands of the sea," and their tribes became a "great nation, and a company of nations," "scattered around the world," and they have truly been "a blessing to the other nations of the world."

6 Brown's Bible Dictionary

The False Messiahs

It is the hope of all Christian people everywhere that the day will soon come as prophesied in **Phillipians 2:10-11**:

¹⁰*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;* ¹¹*And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the **glory of God the Father.** (Phillipians 2 AV)*

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands for right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong.

-- Abraham Lincoln

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? (Galatians 4:16 AV)