When Will the Messiah Return? **is a unique book addressing the end-times from a Messianic perspective. The Messiah stated plainly that He would gather the holy ones or saints "immediately after the tribulation of those days" (Matthew 24:29). Discussed are common false understandings as they relate to "the Church" being taken to Heaven for the duration of the Tribulation period, and instead how all Believers in Messiah Yeshua get to participate in restoration of Israel's Kingdom via His return. Some overlooked elements regarding what has been prophesied in Scripture, may hold some of the insight for today's Believers evaluating why the Messiah has yet to return to Planet Earth.**

This resource has been updated for 2025, being combined with the report *The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism*, and with a new section of material added, "Feeling the End."

When Will the Messiah Return?

The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism

When Will the Messiah Return?

J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.blog

When Will the Messiah Return?

The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism

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"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

Matthew 24:29-31 (NASU)[*]

[*] Cf. Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15.

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Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
ECB: *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encylopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: King James Version
Lattimore: The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)

LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT: Masoretic Text
NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: New English Bible (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: New International Version (1984)
NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
NT: New Testament
OT: Old Testament
REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)
TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition
v(s). verse(s)
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
Vul: Latin Vulgate
YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)
WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

2025 INTRODUCTION

When Will the Messiah Return? and *The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism*, were two of the original books, produced by Outreach Israel Ministries and (then) TNN Online. It has been almost thirteen years since the last major update (2012), and in that amount of time, a huge number of changes have taken place, both to our ministry and to our family. Those of you who have been following our family and ministry progress, have seen how we relocated back from Central Florida to North Texas, we have reintegrated into the Messianic Jewish community (2013), TNN Online transitioned into Messianic Apologetics (2015), and I was ordained in 2022 as a Messianic Teacher with the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS). We have now had over a decade of firsthand experience, as a family, getting to know some of the unique currents and eddies of the Messianic Jewish movement, certainly in North America—and most especially how we believe that **the Messianic movement is the "end-time move of God."**[ii]

I have known for a while that a refresh, update, and expansion of *When Will the Messiah Return?* was going to be necessary. One of the first logical steps to take, was to combine it with *The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism*. Over the years, far too many have acquired only one of these two volumes, often not knowing that more was discussed on the issue of end-time prophecy. Given many of my interactions over the past decade or so, the material in both of these works, while combined, has been edited. While I would not at all say that my overall, post-tribulational and pre-millennial orientation to the end-times has changed—I have, however, had many important experiences in the Messianic Jewish movement, which I have integrated into this previous material.

This volume would be insufficient, however, if all I did was combine *When Will the Messiah Return?* with *The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism.* A new section of material, entitled, **"Feeling the End,"** has also been incorporated. This is mainly a compilation of different FAQ entries from the Messianic Apologetics website, as well as some very important articles and

[ii] Consult our ministry workbook *The Messianic Walk: The End-Time Move of God*.

teachings on the end-times. There are many different opinions and feelings circulating, in the Messianic movement of 2025, as it concerns the subject matter of the Last Days. I definitely believe that we have taken some huge leaps forward toward the return of the Messiah in the past twelve years! At the same time, I continue to hold to my opinion that the Messianic movement still has some significant maturation and development ahead of it. We definitely possess the great potential to make a huge difference in the lives of many people—but we are also going through some unforeseen generational transitions and tensions.

I sincerely hope that you will find this combined volume *When Will the Messiah Return?: The Dangers of Pre-Tribulationism*, to be thought provoking, and a significant blessing in your ongoing studies on the Last Days. I myself sincerely pray that the Lord will release me, in the not too distant future, to conduct further, detailed studies of eschatology, this updated volume being a precursor.

J.K. McKee
Editor, Messianic Apologetics
June 2025

THE END-TIMES: WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

When a person becomes a new Believer in Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and embarks into his or her own study of the Scriptures, there can be many questions, as answers to many topics are sought, especially in regard to the Last Days or the end-times.[iii] A critical question asked by many who are searching is: **"What should I expect?"** A person may confide is his or her friends or Bible teachers with various questions and inquiries, and in many cases may accept their views at face value. But after further examination, though, a Bible student may find such views of Scripture to be inaccurate or incomplete.

As we tread into the Twenty-First Century, many are expecting prophetic related events to occur, such as the rapture or a great evangelistic revival, so the question "What should we expect?" poses some legitimate concern in light of what many are predicting and anticipating.

What should you expect? The answers can be found in the pages of the Bible. Not surprisingly, the Disciples asked Yeshua a similar question:

> "As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" (Matthew 24:3, NASU; cf. Mark 13:4; Luke 21:7).

Yeshua then proceeded to speak in what is commonly called the Olivet Discourse. It is recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Matthew 24 is widely considered the most thorough of all the chapters, and provides an excellent outline of what God's people should expect concerning the End of the Age. I will follow the dialogue the Messiah gives in this text, and provide my own commentary. While you will see many things which you have probably already heard in others' teachings on the Last Days, you will also encounter some of my own unique approaches, some of it from an

[iii] This chapter is reproduced from J.K. McKee, *Introduction to Things Messianic* (McKinney, TX: Messianic Apologetics, 2022).