WHEN WAS THE MESSIAH SUPPOSED TO COME?

John 1:19&20 Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

Were the Jewish People Looking for the Messiah?

John 20:30&31 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

“The following list contains the passages in the Old Testament applied to the Messiah or to Messianic times in the most ancient Jewish writings. They amount in all to 456, thus distributed: 75 from the Pentateuch, 243 from the prophets, and 138 from the Hagiographa, and supported by more than 558 separate quotations from Rabbinic writings. The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Alfred Edersheim, Appendix 9, page 710 (the listing itself is on pages 710-741).

Only Two Passages Use the Term Messiah (Anointed One)

Christ: Greek *“christos”* means the anointed one

Messiah: Hebrew *“mashiach”* one who is anointed

Anointed One: a direct translation of either the Hebrew or Greek

Psalm 2:2(NASB) The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

Daniel 9:25&26a “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.”

Context of Daniel 9:25&26

Jeremiah 29:10 This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.”

2 Chronicles 36:20&21 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power. The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

Leviticus 25:1-7 gives the rules for the Sabbath Year.

Leviticus 26:33-35 I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived on it.

Daniel 9:1&2 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom – in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

Daniel 9:24 “Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.”

“Sevens” in Hebrew is a word meaning seven: Exodus 34:22 “Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year.”

Leviticus 23:15&16 “From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present a offering of new grain to the LORD.”

Daniel 9:27 “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Daniel 12:11 “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.”

Daniel 10:2&3 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used not lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

“Three weeks” is “sevens of days.”

From the Time the Word Goes out to Restore and Rebuild Jerusalem

Nehemiah 2:2a In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes,

This is a historically verifiable date. It falls in 444BC.

Seven sevens and sixty-two sevens is sixty-nine sevens or 483 years. The Jewish lunar calendar year has 360 days; our solar calendar has 3651/4 days. Depending on which one you use, you arrive at either the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry or the Triumphal Entry. After that the Messiah will either “be put to death and have nothing” or “be put to death and have no one,” or be “put to death, but not for himself.” (NIV footnote)

Then “The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.” (Daniel 9:26b) Another historical event, the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70AD.

When Did Daniel Say the Messiah Would Come?

483 years after the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, either in 30 or 33 AD, and before the destruction of the Second Temple, which had not yet been built. The Jewish people would return to Jerusalem and start rebuilding the temple after this prophecy was given. Therefore, the Jewish Messiah came before 70AD and presented Himself as the Messiah in either 30 or 33AD or somewhere in between or very shortly before or after those dates.

THEREFORE NO ONE CAN LEGITIMATELY CLAIM TO BE THE MESSIAH PROMISED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WHO ARRIVED BEFORE AROUND 30AD OR WHO CAME ON THE SCENE AFTER 70AD.

Things to Remember

The Old Testament is full of prophecies that, according to Jewish understanding before Jesus came, predicted the coming of *“Mashiach,”* the Messiah. Alfred Edersheim lists 456 passages that Jewish commentators said referred to the Messiah or Messianic times.

When Jesus came many, if not most Jews, were looking for the Messiah to come. According to Daniel 9:24-27 the Messiah had to come before the Second Temple was destroyed in 70AD and 483 years after the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem issued in 444BC.

The only Person who fits the other qualifications in that time frame is Jesus, the Christ (Messiah).