

Review: “Mysteries of the Messiah” by Rabbi Jason Sobel

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I am blessed to be participating in an “*I Read with Audra*” blog tour for Rabbi Jason Sobel’s new book: **[Mysteries of the Messiah: Unveiling Divine Connections from Genesis to Today.](#)**

You may be interested to know that the foreword was written by Kathie Lee Gifford, who actually co-authored a previous book with Sobel titled, [The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi](#). Most of the Scripture references in [Mysteries of the Messiah](#) come from the [Tree of Life Version of the Bible \(TLV\)](#), which I find to be an excellent Bible translation and use frequently here on the [Adonai Shalom blog](#).

Book Review

[Mysteries of the Messiah](#) by Rabbi Jason Sobel is absolutely on-topic, as more and more Christians are becoming aware of

the importance of enriching their understanding of the Hebrew roots of their Christian faith. Accordingly, Rabbi Sobel's book is addressed to Christian believers of all denominations. He commends the study of the New Testament, but encourages believers to take a deeper interest in the Old Testament (Hebrew) Scriptures as well, in order to build a more robust theology.

A Primer for Messianic Theology

As a Messianic Rabbi, Sobel does not diminish the Gospel. He uses illustrations from Hebrew to help traditionally-taught Christians encounter deeper meanings behind the words in Scripture that often go overlooked or misunderstood.

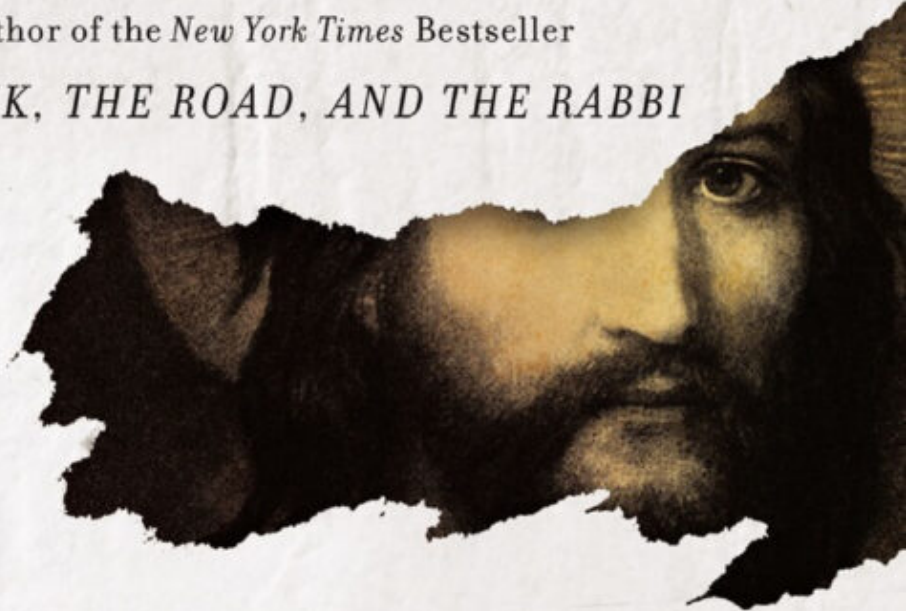
Mysteries of the Messiah is a necessary work for "such a time as this" as Sobel rightly assesses the current spiritual climate: believers are awakening to the true fullness of the Gospel, embracing the continuity of the Hebrew Bible (*Tanakh*) and the New Testament (*Brit Hadashah*). Importantly, Sobel understands that for many American Christians, delving into the riches of the *Tanakh* is a novel enterprise. Mysteries of the Messiah offers a primer for believers to explore Messianic prophecies and Biblical holy days, written in a gentle, conversational tone.

RABBI JASON SOBEL

Coauthor of the *New York Times* Bestseller

THE ROCK, THE ROAD, AND THE RABBI

FOREWORD BY
KATHIE LEE
GIFFORD



MYSTERIES OF THE MESSIAH



UNVEILING DIVINE CONNECTIONS FROM GENESIS TO TODAY

Rabbi Jason Sobel's new book: *Mysteries of the Messiah*

Biblical numerology

First, the book itself begins with an accessible introduction into Biblical numerology. Sobel's time spent under the tutelage of Rabbi Jonathan Cahn's ministry in New Jersey becomes evident right from the start as he seeks to uncover hidden meanings and messages using numbers and calculations based on the Hebrew values of the *aleph-bet* letters. Many of Sobel's insights are compelling and will enrich the thoughtful reader, but the reader may occasionally differ with his interpretive conclusions.

Messiah's Identity

One thing that will *not* be disputed by any Messianic Jewish or Christian believer who reads *Mysteries of the Messiah* is Rabbi Sobel's passionate insistence that Jesus of Nazareth, Yeshua ha-Notzri, was and is the promised Messiah of Israel. In the first chapter, Sobel identifies five specific areas that he believes reveal important clues about Messiah's identity and shares his own testimony of receiving Messiah Yeshua as his own Savior. Readers interested in Messianic Jewish apologetics may particularly appreciate this early section of the book.

Great for readers who enjoy Bible Studies

The middle chapters will appeal to any readers who enjoy Bible Studies. Sobel invites readers to explore the extensive ways Messiah is revealed in the Scriptures from creation to beyond Pentecost (*Shavu'ot*) using the numerology he introduced in the earlier chapters. No knowledge of Hebrew or Greek is required for the reader to be able to gain an appreciation of linguistic nuances in the Bible thanks to Sobel's easy-to-read

writing style. Sobel presents Jewish concepts such as *tikkun olam* (*repairing the world*) in a very understandable and relatable way. Moreover, he writes with a pastor's heart, encouraging believers in their faith. He shares his hope and prayer for Jews and Gentiles alike to unite in Messiah Jesus:

"When Jew and Gentile unite in Jesus, we become an unstoppable force for salvation, transformation, and revival."

Sobel, Jason. Mysteries of Messiah: Unveiling Divine Connections from Genesis to Today. Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2021.

Conclusion

Finally, Mysteries of Messiah concludes with an impressive revelation contained within the beloved Isaiah 9:6 passage related to Messiah's lineage as the Son of David. I found it to be an enjoyable and refreshing read, one that may spark the reader to desire to delve deeply into the richness of Scripture's mysteries and the Jewishness of Jesus even after finishing the book.

Excerpt

[Excerpt-Mysteries-of-the-Messiah-2-22-21.docxDownload](#)

RAFFLECOPTER BOOK GIVEAWAY

A book giveaway is going on now! Enter [here](#) to win! *Update 2/22. This giveaway ended July 30, 2021.*

About the Author: *Mysteries of the*

Messiah by Jason Sobel



Raised in a Jewish home in New Jersey, Rabbi Jason Sobel dedicated much of his life in pursuit of a spiritual connection with God. After years of seeking and studying, he encountered God and found his true destiny as a Jewish follower of Yeshua (Jesus). Suddenly, all the traditions Rabbi Jason grew up with took on new depth and meaning as God connected the ancient wisdom of the Torah with the teachings of the Messiah.

Rabbi Jason received his rabbinic ordination from the UMJC (Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations) in 2005. He has a B.A. in Jewish Studies (Moody) and an M.A. in Intercultural Studies (Southeastern Seminary). He is a sought-after speaker and has made multiple appearances on national television, including the Trinity Broadcasting Network, the Daystar Network, and the Dr. Oz Show. Rabbi Jason is the author of *Breakthrough: Living a Life That Overflows*, *Aligning with God's Appointed Times*, and *Mysteries of the Messiah* and he is also the coauthor of New York Times bestseller *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* with Kathie Lee Gifford.

You can learn more at www.rabbisobel.com.

Title: Mysteries of the Messiah: Unveiling Divine Connections from Genesis to Today

Author: Rabbi Jason Sobel

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Release Date: March 23, 2021

Genre: Religion/Christian Living/Spiritual Growth, Messianic Interest

ISBN: 978-0-7852-4005-1

Did you enjoy this book review? Have YOU read the book? Leave a comment about what YOU thought about it!

Thank you to the publisher, W Publishing Group of Thomas Nelson, for the review copy. I have provided an honest review.

**Giveaway link provided as a service to readers. Giveaway is not sponsored by Adonai Shalom blog. Readers may enter giveaway at their own personal discretion. Rules for giveaways and contests differ in each state/region, please adhere to local laws related to giveaways.*

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You may also enjoy:

[The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and 120 gallons of new wine](#)

[Hebrew “Yeshua” vs Greek “Jesus”:
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replacement theology](#)

**How Genesis 1:2 can help you
lead a friend to the LORD
(and away from the Jehovah’s
Witness movement)**

*Parashat B’reishit ([Genesis 1:1-6:8](#)) (Updated 10/13/2022 5783
B”H)*

Beginning at the Beginning

Each year after [Sukkot \(The Feast of Tabernacles\)](#), it is customary to begin re-reading through *Torah* (the first five books of the Bible). I personally believe it is vital to supplement *Torah* reading with readings from the rest of the Bible, including the Prophets and the rest of the *Tanakh* as well as, of course, the New Testament (*B’rit Chadasha*).

So it is the time of year when we begin back at Genesis (known

in Hebrew as *B'reishit*).

Beginning at the beginning of time.

We do well to understand that in every undertaking in life, we ought embark only with our understanding framed by the history of creation. If we know our Creator and are in right relationship with Him, then we will understand our role as the created and realize our need for restoration and salvation.

Those who do not yet live in right relationship with the LORD, the Creator of All, cannot be called His children.

But there is Good News!

["See how glorious a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God's children—and so we are!" 1 John 3:1](#)

As God's children, it is imperative that we share this Good News so that those who are perishing around us would be able to repent and know our Savior, too, and so, too, become children of the Most High God.

I will show you today a very simple method to share your faith, beginning at the beginning.

Are you confident in your ability to share and defend your faith?

As followers of Messiah Yeshua (the Lord Jesus Christ), it is our joyous duty to share with others the Good News of salvation.

We also need to be able to defend our faith.

Demonstrate that our faith is unshakeable!

It is so important to be equipped to share with others the Truth!

This is often called "apologetics."

But rather than *apologizing* for what you believe, your task is to share it!

And be able to explain why you believe what you believe! Be confident! The LORD is with you and will give you the words and wisdom when you need it.

Today, I will focus on how one simple verse from Genesis can be used as a powerful spiritual weapon against one of the fastest growing cults: *The Jehovah's Witness organization.*

The Jehovah Witness sect presents both a challenge and opportunity to Bible-believing Christians.

Are you ready to challenge yourself to share your faith?

Check out a simple and straightforward way to lead a friend to the True LORD of the Bible!

First, we must recognize that Truth is superior to cult religions and teachings

The Jehovah Witness **cult** continues to grow around the world. It is highly likely you will encounter a Jehovah's Witness follower at some point.

You might think I am being very harsh calling it a cult.

However, given the high level of deception and falsehood, softer terms will not do.

Believers: we need to be educated about sects and cults in

order to ask the Spirit of Truth to help us evangelize and minister to members of these erroneous organizations.

We also need to pray that the Spirit of all Truth, God's Holy Spirit, the only True God would help us **show genuine love, kindness, and compassion toward all of those who are trapped in confusion.**

In order to properly witness to a member of a cult religion, we must ourselves be confident in Whom we have believed and know the Truth of Scripture for ourselves.



Genesis 1:2 can help you lead a friend to the LORD (and away from cult doctrines!)

Second, it is wise to have a solid understanding of *trustworthy* Bible translations

My husband and I [pastored](#) a mission congregation in the southern USA for many years.

The influence of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the area astounded us.

It was a region impacted by true spiritual darkness.

The Jehovah's Witness cult members were particularly successful in sowing their seeds of confusion among the Latino/Hispanic community in that area.

The JW movement convinced many Spanish-speaking farm workers in the community that an adulterated bible, their "New World Translation" was superior to any standard (*ie. reputable*) English or Spanish language Bibles such as the King James Version or Reina Valera 1960.

It is important to educate new believers about trustworthy Bible translations.

We had our work cut out for us teaching the Truth of Scripture as many lay folk didn't seem to really care about the scholastic origins of the Bibles they were reading.

Third, be familiar with the unsettling founding of the Jehovah Witness Movement

If you have ever studied comparative religion or sects, you may know the founding of the Jehovah Witness movement sounds more like a **business enterprise** than a revelatory experience.

A group of men (most say about 30) reportedly gathered in a Brooklyn, NY building and invented the religion.

They produced a “translation” of the Bible without knowing the Biblical languages Hebrew or Greek. Again, this is known as the “New World Translation” or NWT.

The men **changed** generous portions of Scripture to suit their doctrinal inventions (in complete defiance of the command in [Revelation 22:18-19](#) to never add to or take away from the LORD’s Book):

“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his share in the Tree of Life and the Holy City, which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18-19

It is true many of the first followers of our Messiah Jesus were **not** highly educated men.

However, it is **not** true that folks should wholeheartedly trust translations from people who cannot at least rudimentarily engage the languages they are working to translate.

The **sinister** nature of the NWT “translation” becomes obvious from the very beginning of the tarnished text: right there in Genesis.

How to use [Genesis 1:2](#) as a Perfect Starting Point for Effective Evangelism (particularly with Jehovah’s Witness followers)

I discovered an easy way to strike up a conversation with Jehovah Witness followers.

Simply ask them about the Holy Spirit:

I would ask a Jehovah's Witness to open their Bible to [Genesis 1:2](#).

A well known verse, it tells us the Spirit of God hovered over the waters at creation:

[“Now the earth was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the *Ruach Elohim* was hovering upon the surface of the water.” Genesis 1:2, TLV](#)

Ruach Elohim is Hebrew for the “Spirit of God.”

You may be more familiar with the New King James Version's phrasing:

[“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2, NKJV](#)



"Now the earth was chaos and waste,
darkness was on the surface of the deep,
and the Ruach Elohim was hovering
upon the surface of the water.

GENESIS 1:2

Help people recognize the spiritual danger:

In the false translation used by the Jehovah's Witness organization (the New World Translation), the word for the Holy Spirit (*Ruach Elohim* in Hebrew) has been completely **eliminated** and replaced by a lower-case and non-personal term, the "*active force*."

Those who have participated in the JW organization for a long time may be more hostile to you trying to help them, but I found that for those who are newer to the JW ranks, **many would talk to me.**

Many were open to discussing the glaring issue related to [the](#)

[unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit of God \(Matthew 12:31\).](#)

The Holy Spirit gives believers the words we need when we need them.

And I can assure you, He is faithful.

The LORD of Truth can help you to reach those who have been falsely indoctrinated with the lies of the enemy that have been adopted by the Jehovah's Witness organization.

He can save those who have been deceived.

[Nothing is impossible for God! Matthew 19:26](#)

So there is great hope!

The Jehovah Witness cult has injected a stronghold of deception and confusion into vulnerable people looking for answers to life's questions.

There are **SO MANY** false doctrines in the JW religion!

Another easy place to start is with the nature of God.

God has been revealed to humanity as the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We can discuss semantics on "echad," the doctrine of "Trinity," or the "Oneness of God" another time. But the point is, we believe in the Holiness and Deity of God. We do not diminish the Son's standing by denying His divinity – He is Fully God, and we certainly do not take away our reverence and respect for the Holy Spirit of God.

The Simple Truth

For today, rejoice that you know the God of all Truth!

He is the Eternal One, Heavenly Father, the Prince of Peace, Lord of All, and the Mighty Comforter!

Our LORD is the one who saves, fully God and fully human revealed in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ our LORD)!

He is the Conquerer of death and the Conquerer of Confusion. He is King forever!

Do not shy away from sharing your faith!

There are SO many people who are hungry for the TRUTH!

You just might be the very person the LORD wants to use to bring others to know Him.

Are you reading this and have questions about the Truth of our Savior Jesus Christ (Yeshua haMashiach)? Please reach out! We would love to help you know more about the True Savior and Messiah who loves you and died for you so you could live eternally with Him. Pray today for members of the Jehovah's Witness organization, that they would come to be free from the lies of the enemy.

Are you a member of the Jehovah's Witness organization? Are you seeking to know the Truth about the Messiah, the Son of God? Please contact us, we would love to help you walk with the LORD:



GENESIS 1:2

*Now the earth was chaos
and waste, darkness was on
the surface of the deep, and
the Ruach Elohim was
hovering upon the surface
of the water.*

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"Since you were
precious in My sight,
you have been honored,
and I have loved you."

ISAIAH 43:4

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“Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you.” Isaiah 43:4

Replacing replacement theology: is the church the “New” Israel?

For many, many, many years . . . centuries, to be more precise, believers were taught that there is a stark contrast between “the Church” and “Israel.” “Israel” was seen as the “rebellious,” “law-bound,” “old,” “outdated,” “Jewish-other” while the “Church” was seen as the “sanctified,” “free,” “mostly-Gentile,” “new,” “grace-based” non-religion, though “religion” it was and has been. This dichotomy has created a needless split between most of Judaism and modern Christianity.

6 stone jars, 120 gallons of wine, and an extraordinary wedding in Cana

But: have you ever thought about the mechanics of this miracle?

Let’s look to the John’s account: John 2:6. “Now there were 6 stone jars, used for the Jewish ritual of purification, each holding 2-3 measures.”