

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

The topic of the ongoing conflict in Palestine has become a significant subject of discussion among both academics and the general public. The conflict, which has involved two nations—Israel and Palestine—has persisted for a long time. This dispute is believed to have originated from the struggle over the territory of Palestine. According to Jewish religious beliefs, Palestine is a land promised by God to the Jewish people. This belief is the primary reason behind Israel's actions to seize the land from Palestinian Arab Muslims. In addition to occupying Palestinian land, they also have plans to demolish the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site and the first qibla for Muslims, to make way for the construction of the Temple of Solomon as a place of worship for the Jewish community. However, behind these plans and actions lies another agenda, which serves as the foundation for all of the efforts undertaken by the Jewish people to date. This agenda is to prepare for the arrival of the Messiah, a savior figure in their belief system. So, who is this Messiah? Why do Jewish leaders resort to various means to reclaim Palestine?

The academic problem of this study lies in the fact that many people, both from academic circles and the general public, have yet to understand the global implications of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, particularly for Muslims. This conflict is merely the beginning of a series of other plans that

Israel has prepared. Additionally, we still lack a deeper understanding of key historical events, such as the French Revolution, World Wars I and II, among others, and the forces that may have orchestrated these events. By gaining knowledge and understanding of these matters, we will become more attentive to the Palestine-Israel conflict and less indifferent to major global events, both past, present, and future.

The reason the author chose this topic and discussion is due to an interest in the connection between the concept of the Messiah and various significant events in world history. The author discovered various hidden secrets and historical accounts in this study, which further motivated a deeper investigation. Additionally, what makes this study intriguing is that it allows us to understand the worldview and life goals of the Jewish people, their motivations, and their determination to survive despite facing oppression from major powers.

The primary research problem of this study is: What is the concept of the Messiah as a savior figure in Judaism? Does the concept of the Messiah share similarities with the savior concept in other religions? This is an aspect that researchers need to consider. Additionally, another interesting issue to examine is the various facts and realities surrounding significant historical events. These events did not occur naturally but rather were orchestrated by certain individuals or groups. This study aims to understand the Messiah as a savior figure in Judaism. It also seeks to explore the relationship between the concept of the Messiah and major events in the history of human civilization, particularly the ongoing conflict in Palestine.

In this study, the author formulates the research problem into two main points. First, what is the concept of the Messiah as a savior figure in Judaism? The author aims to uncover the true nature of the Messiah, including its characteristics and traits. Additionally, what are the objectives and missions of the Messiah upon their arrival? Second, what is the relationship between the Messiah and Israel's occupation of Palestine today? The author intends to reveal the facts and realities behind various significant global events and their connection to a fundamental belief within Judaism.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

1. How is the concept of the Messiah according to Jewish beliefs?
2. What is the relation between the Messiah and the Israeli Occupation of Palestine?

## **C. Purpose Of Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the figure and concept of the Messiah according to Jewish beliefs.
2. To explore the relation between one of the core tenets of the Jewish faith and significant historical events, particularly the Palestine-Israel conflict.

#### D. Significance Of Study

This research is expected to provide the following benefits:

1. Theoretical Significance:

This study aims to provide a clear understanding of the concept and characteristics of the Messiah in Judaism, as well as the history and causes of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

2. Practical Significance:

This study is expected to contribute additional knowledge regarding the conflict in Palestine and the relationship between the Jewish people and various major global events, not only for students but also for the general public directly.

#### E. Previous Study

To support the development of this research and to avoid duplication or plagiarism, the author has reviewed several scholarly works relevant to this study, including:

1. **First**, this book was written by Anggun Gunawan, a researcher from Universitas Gadjah Mada, titled *Messianik Yahudi: Juru Selamat Yahudi dalam Telaah Psikoanalisa Erich Fromm* (2010). It discusses the characteristics, history, and traits of the Messiah.<sup>1</sup> The difference

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<sup>1</sup> Anggun Gunawan, *Messianik Yahudi: Juru Selamat Yahudi dalam Telaah Psikoanalisa Erich Fromm*, (Yogyakarta: GRE Publishing, 2010)

between this work and the author's research lies in the fact that the book mainly explains these topics from a Jewish perspective.

2. **Second**, this journal article by Mohammad Nawir, a student in the Department of Qur'anic and Hadith Studies at Universitas Islam Negeri Datokarama Palu, titled *Inclusive and Exclusive Understanding of the Doomsday Prediction Hadith* (2022), explores the events that will occur during the end times.<sup>2</sup> The distinction between this article and the author's research is that the journal only provides a general explanation of the events of the apocalypse.
3. **Third**, this journal article, authored by Muhammad Afif Afnan bin Mohd Fadhli and Nurhanisah Binte Senin, students at Kolej Universiti Islam Antar Bangsa Selangor, titled *Analisis Perbandingan Etimologi Messiah dalam Agama Yahudi, Kristian, dan Islam* (2020), explains the etymology of the Messiah in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and analyzes the differences and similarities in these three religions.<sup>3</sup> The difference with the author's research is that this journal only discusses the general concept and history of the Messiah without incorporating views from notable scholars or small sects related to the discussion.
4. **Fourth**, this journal article by Muhammad Rikza Muqtada, a student at the Institut Agama Islam Negeri Salatiga, titled *Mahdiisme dalam Hadis-Hadis Mahdawiyah* (2019), explores the concept of the Savior in the three

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<sup>2</sup> Muhammad Nawir, *Inclusive and Exclusive Understanding of the Doomsday Prediction Hadith*, (Palu: UIN Datokarama, 2022)

<sup>3</sup> Muhammad Afif Afnan bin Mohd Fadhli et.al, *Analisis Perbandingan Etimologi Messiah dalam Agama Yahudi, Kristian dan Islam*, (Selangor: Universiti Islam Antar Bangsa, 2020)

Abrahamic religions and hadith literature.<sup>4</sup> The difference from the author's research lies in the fact that this journal leans heavily towards defining and characterizing the Mahdi based on hadiths.

5. **Fifth**, this journal article by M. Afif Afnan, a postgraduate student at the International Islamic University Malaysia, titled *Perbandingan Konsep Messiah Menurut Perspektif Islam dan Kristian* (2016), explains the definition and history of the Messiah in Islam and Christianity.<sup>5</sup> The difference with the author's research is that the journal focuses solely on the general meaning of the Messiah.
6. **Sixth**, this journal article by M. Tohir Ritonga, a lecturer at UNIV Medan, titled *Imam Mahdi Dalam Perspektif Hadis* (2021), explains various hadiths that describe the signs, characteristics, and traits of the Imam Mahdi.<sup>6</sup> The distinction with the author's research is that the journal focuses solely on Imam Mahdi as described in hadiths.

## F. Theoretical Framework

In this study, the author employs the following theoretical framework:

### 1. Theological Approach

The term *theology* is derived from the Greek words *theos* and *ology*, which have been adapted into the Indonesian term *teologi* or *theology* in English. *Ology*

<sup>4</sup> Muhammad Rikza Muqtada, *Mahdiisme dalam Hadis-Hadis Mahdawiyah*, (Semarang: IAIN Salatiga, 2019)

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, *Perbandingan Konsep Messiah Menurut Perspektif Islam dan Kristian*, (Selangor: International Islamic University Malaysia, 2016)

<sup>6</sup> M. Tohir Ritonga, *Imam Mahdi dalam Perspektif Hadis*, (Sumut: Al Kaffah vol. 9, 2021)

comes from the Greek root *logos*, meaning discourse, study, or a rational structure that can be understood through human speech and thought. Meanwhile, *theos* in Greek refers to God or anything related to the divine. Therefore, in Greek, theology signifies a rational inquiry into everything related to God.<sup>7</sup>

The theological approach can be categorized into several types<sup>8</sup>:

a. Normative Theological Approach

The normative theological approach seeks to understand religion through the framework of religious science. This approach is popular within Islamic studies and is perceived as an effort to understand or examine religion using theological principles, based on the belief that the empirical manifestations of a particular religion are considered superior to others. In other words, the normative theological approach attempts to interpret religion in a literal sense. It starts from the premise that the empirical form of religion is seen as the most accurate compared to its alternatives. This approach, grounded in the idea that the empirical form of religion holds the highest accuracy, is a theological perspective employed to comprehend religion among other theological perspectives.

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<sup>7</sup> Aulia Diana Devi et.al, *Implementasi Pendekatan Teologis Normatif dalam Pluralisme Beragama di Indonesia*, (Yogyakarta: TA'LIM: Jurnal Studi Pendidikan Islam, 2021), p. 4

<sup>8</sup> Kartini et.al, *Berbagai Pendekatan Studi Islam Teologis dan Normatif*, (Sumut: Jurnal Edukasi Nonformal, 2023), p. 5-6

## b. Dialogical Theological Approach

This approach derives from the word *dialogue*, which, in the Indonesian language, refers to a conversation or exchange. Based on this concept, the dialogical approach in theological debate refers to a perspective that involves dialogue about the normative principles of each sect or religion. For this method to function effectively, openness between different religious traditions is required, aiming to foster mutual understanding among adherents of various faiths. The dialogical theological approach also helps build trust in communication.

## G. Methods of Research

### 1. Kind of Research

This study employs a qualitative research method aimed at understanding the history, concepts, signs, and their alignment with sacred texts, as found in journals and other written sources, holistically and descriptively through language and words within a specific context. As for its type, this study is categorized as literature research. This research type involves a series of activities related to library data collection, documentation, and management of research materials.



## 2. Sources of Data

### a. Primary Data

Primary data are obtained directly from sacred texts such as the Qur'an and the Torah, as well as other religious scriptures. The following primary sources are referenced in this research:

1. *Messianik Yahudi: Juru Selamat Yahudi dalam Telaah Psokoanalisa Erich Fromm*, Anggun Gunawan, 2010, Yogyakarta: GRE Publishing.
2. *Yahudi Dalam Lintasan Sejarah*, Prof. Dr. Hj. Syamsudhuha Saleh, M.Ag, UIN Alauddin Makassar.
3. *Yahudi Menggenggam Dunia*, William G. Carr.
4. *ILLUMINATI: Gerakan Pembajakan Dunia*, Henry Makow, Ph.D, UFUK Press: Jakarta Selatan, 2012.
5. *The Rabbis, Donald Trump, and The Top Secret Plan to Build the Third Temple: Unveiling the Incendiary Scheme by Religious Authorities, Government Agents, and Jewish Rabbis to Invoke Messiah*, Dr. Thomas R. Horn, Defender Publishing: United States of America, 2019.

### b. Secondary Data

Secondary data are indirectly obtained through intermediaries (collected and recorded by others), such as books, scholarly works, and various internet sources related to this research. Examples include journal articles such as "*Analisis Perbandingan Etimologi Messiah dalam Agama Yahudi, Kristian dan Islam*" (2020), by Muhammad Afif Afnan et al., "*Perbandingan Konsep Messiah*

*Menurut Perspektif Islam dan Kristian*" (2016), by Abdul Halim Syihab et al., *"Aliran-Aliran Dalam Agama Yahudi"* (2022), by Andika Andika, *"Sejarah Zionisme dan Berdirinya Negara Israel"* (2016), by Andi Satrianingsih et al.

### 3. The Technique of Data Analysis

This research employs a descriptive analysis method aimed at describing the concept of the Messiah in Judaism and the sources of conflict in Palestine. The analysis will ultimately lead to a conclusion on the relationship between the concept of the Messiah and the ongoing conflict in Palestine.

### 4. The Technique of Text Analysis

This research also employs a text analysis method. Text analysis is the process of extracting information and insights from unstructured textual data. Textual analysis can be defined as various research methods used to describe, interpret, and understand texts.<sup>9</sup> Information extracted from a text can range from its literal meaning to subtext, symbolism, assumptions, and the values it reveals. The methods used in text analysis are broad, depending on the field and the research objectives.

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<sup>9</sup> Link: (<https://www-scribbr-co-uk.translate.goog/research-methods/textual-analysis-explained/? x tr sl=en& x tr tl=id& x tr hl=id& x tr pto=sge#:~:text=Diterbitkan%20pada%207%20Mei%202022,atau%20seni%20yang%20lebih%20luas>)

## H. System of Study

To facilitate the reader's understanding of this research, the author has conducted a systematic analysis of the content by dividing it into several sub-chapters, each dealing with aspects related to the relationship between the concept of the Messiah and the conflict in Palestine. The systematic discussion of this research is as follows:

- **Chapter I:** This chapter elucidates the background of the research problem. Additionally, Chapter I outlines contemporary topics and issues related to the Messiah and the conflict between Palestine and Israel. It also discusses other elements relevant to the composition, such as previous studies, research methodology, theoretical framework, and more.
- **Chapter II:** This chapter also presents the concept of the savior from the perspectives of other religions. Subsequently, it explores core beliefs within Judaism, including beliefs about the existence of God, angels, prophets, holy scriptures, and the Day of Judgment. The chapter concludes with a discussion on the origins of the conflict between Palestine and Israel.
- **Chapter III:** This chapter serves as the central part of this thesis. It presents the concept of the Messiah as the savior within Judaism. In this section, it provides definitions of the Messiah, the purpose of the Messiah's arrival, written evidence in the holy scriptures, views of the Messiah according to various Jewish figures or groups, and lastly, the

characteristics of the Messiah figure. The second subchapter elaborates on the relationship between the arrival of the Messiah and significant events in world history. Finally, it discusses the connection between the Messiah and the ongoing conflict in Palestine.

- **Chapter IV:** This chapter presents the conclusion and final results of the author's research.

