

Kehilah Portland



A Messianic Jewish Synagogue

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Messianic Perspectives

Shalom and welcome to Messianic Perspectives – a program aired on radio stations WRKJ 88.5 and WMTP 91.1 in Maine, with the purpose of exploring the scriptures from a Jewish point of view. Paul, whose Hebrew name is Sha'ul writes in Romans 9:4 – 5:

Rom 9:4 the people of Isra'el! They were made God's children, the Sh'khinah has been with them, the covenants are theirs, likewise the giving of the Torah, the Temple service and the promises;

Rom 9:5 the Patriarchs are theirs; and from them, as far as his physical descent is concerned, came the Messiah, who is over all. Praised be Adonai for ever! Amen.

It is from this perspective that we will explore the relationship between the Tenach – the Jewish Bible and the Brith Hadoshah – the New Covenant writings.

Today's topic – Baptism

The concept of baptism within the church is that it is an ordinance specific to and unique to the church. However, baptism is anything but new.

I have a saying...there is nothing new in the New Covenant. Meaning that everything you read about are not new ideas, concepts or instructions, but are found throughout the Tenach, which is known as the Jewish Bible. This is also true for baptism.

When we see Yochanan the Immerser, more commonly known as John the Baptist in John Chapter 1 and verse 26:

Joh 1:26 To them Yochanan replied, "I am immersing people in water, but among you is standing someone whom you don't know.

Immersion is something very common within the Jewish culture, both then and today. The term in Hebrew to represent immersion by water is known as Mikveh. Mikveh means pool or gathering.

A Mikveh is typically a vessel that is constructed to gather water and is part of a permanent structure. It is not portable and can not be filled by human hands, but is to gather water naturally through rainfall.

The concept of a Mikveh vessel originates from Leviticus chapter 11 and verse 36:

although (only) a spring or cistern for collecting water remains clean.

Meaning a vessel that collects water without the assistance of human action remains ritually clean or undefiled.

Yochanan was performing Mikveh in a natural body of water that was flowing which was permitted. No human hands were used to bring forth the water used for immersion.

At the time of Yeshua there were some 500 Mikveh vessels in Jerusalem alone. Meaning that immersion was performed at various times.

Next time we will look into the origin of immersion itself.

During the month of June, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message "Covenant Confusion" to anyone sending a tax deductible gift in any amount in support of this ministry and Portland's only Messianic Jewish Synagogue, Kehillah Portland. If God places this ministry upon your heart, please send your offering to Jewish Heritage Revival – 12 Liberty Lane, Unit 68, South Portland, ME 04106. Please be sure to include your name and address so that we may send you a copy of the message and your tax deductible receipt.

Past episodes of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site – www.shalommaine.com

Feel free to send your questions and comments to info@jewishheritagerevival.com

So, until next time when we will continue our journey into Messianic Perspectives, todah and shalom (thank you and peace)

Messianic Perspectives is brought to you by Kehillah Portland, a Messianic Jewish Synagogue located in South Portland, where both Jew and non-Jew come together to worship on Shabbat and believe Yeshua is the Messiah spoken of in scripture and is the fulfillment of many promises given to Israel and the Jewish people. We meet every Saturday at 1338 Broadway Ave. in the Greater Portland Christian School gymnasium. Our service begins at 10:00 with meet and greet, followed by Torah study at 1 pm.