

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 – Born Again

The last few segments I have been discussing Mikveh or immersion, otherwise known as Baptism. I touched briefly on the concept of born again being a Jewish concept. Being born again is anything but new or original in the church, yet is the emphasis of many believers who witness to the unbeliever. “you must be born again” This very statement comes from an encounter between Yeshua and Nakdimon, translated as Nicodemus.

Nakdimon was a leader and teach. He offers an observation in relation to who Yeshua is in John chapter 3 and verse 2:

Joh 3:2 This man came to Yeshua by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know it is from God that you have come as a teacher; for no one can do these miracles you perform unless God is with him."

Yeshua's response is a statement that invokes a question from Nakdimon – verses 3 and 4

Joh 3:3 "Yes, indeed," Yeshua answered him, "I tell you that unless a person is born again from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Joh 3:4 Nakdimon said to him, "How can a grown man be 'born'? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?"

Nakdimon is amazed and puzzled by Yeshua's statement. How can one return to their mother's womb and be born a second time? He wonders.

On the other hand, Yeshua is amazed that Nakdimon isn't understanding what He is saying. In John chapter 3 and verse 10 Yeshua makes this rather challenging statement to Nakdimon...

Joh 3:10 Yeshua answered him, "You hold the office of teacher in Isra'el, and you don't know this?"

Nakdimon is a teacher in Israel, a Rabbi. He is learned in both the written Torah and oral law, yet when it comes to such a topic of being born again, Nakdimon is struggling to grasp and understand this idea.

Next time I will expand upon the question Yeshua posed to Nakdimon and what he should already understand, being a leader and teacher in Israel.

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.

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

Past segments of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site www.shalommaine.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 Kehilah 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.