

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 – The New Covenant Writings

Last time I left you with the following question:

What commandments are Yeshua talking about when he made the following statement in John chapter 14 and verse 15:

Joh 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commands;

The same commandments that the foreigner and stranger, such as Ruth desired to do when she said she would accept the God of Israel as her own.

Some will say all we are required to do is Love Adonai and Love one another. This is true, but ask yourself "how do we do this?"

The challenge is knowing what applies to whom and in relation to the New Covenant. In earlier episodes we explored Torah. I had stated that Torah offers instructions that are both specific to a certain people, whether the priests, king of Israel, men or women, but that there are also instructions that apply to all people. The ratification of the New covenant does not change many of these instruction.

When we recognize that the intent of the covenant Adonai made with Israel through Moshe, it was to distinguish a single nation from all other nations. A nation unique in that Adonai identified Israel by placing His name upon them. As the only God and creator of all things, He gave them specific instructions that no other nation had. Deuteronomy chapter 7 and verse 6:

Deu 7:6 For you are a people set apart as holy for Adonai your God. Adonai your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

Adonai's own unique treasure. In other words – one of a kind. Ultimately, when more is expected, more is required. The New Covenant does not replace this relationship but adds to it.

It isn't about replacing Israel as many will teach, but just as the foreigner and stranger mentioned previously, it is becoming part of a people with whom the covenant is made. Sha'ul reminds the Ephesians of their former state of life: chapter 2 and verses 11 and 12:

Eph 2:11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised —

Eph 2:12 at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

Ultimately, we are not talking about a new entity, but rather the inclusion of a people, the nations, who were once excluded, but now as part of this New Covenant are able to enter without physical circumcision, but rather a circumcised heart.

During the month of July, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message “Whatever Happened to the Sabbath” 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 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.