

# 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 – Hebrew Idioms

An idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words, meaning the literal sense does not equate to the intended meaning. Some common idioms are:

- “It's raining cats and dogs”
- “Killing time”
- “Eat your heart out”
- And the non-kosher “when pigs fly”

Each phrase, when taken literally implies a visual meaning that is quite different than its intended meaning. The words used convey a specific visual idea, however the meaning is quite different.

In looking at the examples I had provided and their actual meaning will show that the meaning is far from the meaning it should be when you take the terminology literally.

- “It's raining cats and dogs” (It is raining extremely hard)
- “Killing time” (waiting)
- “Eat your heart out” (it is an expression invoking envy)

- And the non-kosher “when pigs fly” (is a response to something that whatever was said will never happen)

We see the use of idioms throughout our culture. Likewise, there are regional idioms. In New England, the term “wicked” is added to emphasize something, such as “wicked good” means that it is better than good, but is really good. However if you are in the south and you hear the term used, you would not associate wicked as a word that emphasizes whatever it is associated with.

I provide this background, because just as culture uses idioms in communicating thoughts and ideas, so too does the Word of Adonai.

Throughout the scriptures there are over 1000 Hebrew idioms. This means both the Tenach or Jewish Bible and the Brith Hadoshah or New Covenant writings.

Yeshua not only taught in disguised Jewish parables, but constantly used idioms when communicating His message.

To be fluent in Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic isn't sufficient, because not only are idioms language based, but are also culturally influenced. This is a dynamic that many believers miss, because all scripture is taken literally. Over the next several episodes of Messianic Perspectives, we will look at Hebrew idioms and their true meaning.

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](mailto:info@jewishheritagerevival.com)

Past segments of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site [shalommaine.com](http://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.