

# 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

Last episode I discussed the Hebrew idiom of binding and loosing, meaning to permit and prohibit. I also provide examples of this idiom in action. This is one of over 1000 Hebrew idioms found throughout the scriptures.

Today I am going to look at the idiom of a good eye and evil eye. Matthew chapter 6 and verses 22 and 23

**Mat 6:22** 'The eye is the lamp of the body.' So if you have a 'good eye' [*that is, if you are generous*] your whole body will be full of light;

**Mat 6:23** but if you have an 'evil eye' [*if you are stingy*] your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

These verses tend to be referenced together and are typically understood as a reflection of one's spiritual condition. That is whether they are walking the walk so to speak and emanate from themselves the essence of Yeshua in their lives.

However, the error for believers is in isolating these verses from the context of the previous verses that begin the thought Yeshua is conveying here. When we begin at Matthew chapter 6 and verse 19 and continue through verse 21, we find that the context of this passage is about giving...

**Mat 6:19** "Do not store up for yourselves wealth here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and burglars break in and steal.

**Mat 6:20** Instead, store up for yourselves wealth in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and burglars do not break in or steal.

**Mat 6:21** For where your wealth is, there your heart will be also.

So, now that we have an understanding of what Yeshua's point is, we can now apply the Jewish context to what is translated as a good eye and an evil eye.

**Mat 6:22** 'The eye is the lamp of the body.' So if you have a 'good eye' [*that is, if you are generous*] your whole body will be full of light;

**Mat 6:23** but if you have an 'evil eye' [*if you are stingy*] your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Jewish thought, teaches that a “good eye” designates an attitude of good will, kindness and generosity towards others. While an “evil eye” represents the opposite.

Yeshua is saying that you shouldn't store up for yourselves wealth here, but you are to use what Adonai has provided. Your generosity will convey light to those who benefit from your kindness. Our excess beyond what we need to live should be used to aid others in need. Keep in mind that we are to be good stewards of what has been provided to us, and not to do things foolishly.

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 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.