

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 the good eye and the evil eye. This is one of over 1000 Hebrew idioms found throughout scripture.

Today I want to explore what is meant by “the dead burying their own dead” Matthew chapter 8 and verses 21 and 22:

Mat 8:21 Another of the talmidim said to him, "Sir, first let me go and bury my father."

Mat 8:22 But Yeshua replied, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

One of Yeshua's talmidim asks permission to go and bury his father, Yet Yeshua seemed to be harsh in his response and some have implied that Yeshua is telling him that it isn't important to honor your mother and father as instructed in Torah.

Without an understanding of Jewish culture it is easy to incorrectly understand what is being said here. This passage has been used in an anti-Semitic manner to imply that the dead refer to the Jewish people. However, this is far from what Yeshua was conveying.

If the talmid's father had just died and he was to go and bury him, he would not have been with Yeshua at that time. Within the Jewish culture, burial occurs immediately after death, followed by a time where the family mourns for a period of seven days, known as shivah.

This is what is known in Jewish culture as the first burial.

There is also a second burial. The second burial involves removal of the bones after a one year period from the tomb the body was originally buried in and transferred to a small chest called an ossuary by the eldest son. This practice is referenced in the Jerusalem Talmud and became popular during the first century, the time of Yeshua.

Yeshua's response is in relation to the non-scriptural belief that decomposition of the flesh between the first burial and second burial atoned for the sins of the dead person. In essence, flesh equated to sin and therefore when the flesh was gone, so to was the sin gone, therefore the dead person receiving atonement. If this were truly the case, then the death of Yeshua would mean nothing.

Therefore, Yeshua's response to His talmid had nothing to do with the first burial or violating the commandment to honor father and mother, but to address a tradition that had no scriptural foundation.

It is important to understand the cultural nuances found in scripture in order to properly apply the Word of Adonai to our lives. Misapplication of scripture is an extremely dangerous.

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 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.