

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 hate in relation to our relationship with Adonai through Yeshua. This is one of over 1000 Hebrew idioms found throughout scripture.

Hebrew idioms are often misunderstood when translated literally, as I have expressed during the last several episodes of Messianic Perspectives. Another such example is found in Mark chapter 9 and verse 43:

Mar 9:43 If your hand makes you sin, cut it off! Better that you should be maimed but obtain eternal life, rather than keep both hands and go to Gei-Hinnom, to unquenchable fire!

Other translations say “if your hand offends you, cut it off!

Taken in its literal sense, would violate every aspect of Torah.

Another way to look at “cut it off” would be simply “cut it out” In other words, whatever it is you are doing, stop doing it. Again, as with previous examples of idioms, it isn't sufficient to know Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek. What is often translated is translated in a literal sense, yet the terminology isn't meant to be taken in a literally

So, the challenges have increased over the centuries due to a vast number of bible translations and the lack of importance placed on understanding the non-literal idea behind the translated scripture. How do you take scripture literally when it says to do things that no one can fathom actually doing.

In a similar vein of thought we see this also with the verse an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, originally found in Exodus chapter 21 and verse 24, and referenced by Yeshua in Matthew 5:38 during His sermon on the mount.

What this passage means is that one is to be compensated in equal measure. Again, the literal translation of this passage would violate the very intent of Torah. As we know Yeshua didn't come to do away with it, but to fulfill it. This too is an idiom that I talked about in a previous segment. To fulfill, means to provide proper understanding of what is written.

Scripture is saturated with idioms. Just in this segment alone I have referenced three different idioms. Even the most experienced believers and theologians will be challenged in grasping these very basic Jewish concepts. If you are never taught them, how will you know?

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.