

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 Sabbath

I recently had this statement and question posed to me:

The apostolic writings make clear that the early church in the time of the apostles did NOT keep a sabbath day of rest.

He goes on to ask...

What apostolic writing causes you to think Christians in Bible times observed a sabbath day?

Over the next few days I will address this question regarding the Sabbath.

To begin, let's provide some historical context:

As I have conveyed over past segments, the first believers were Jewish and it wasn't until some 10 to 17 years after the resurrection of Messiah did we see the first non-Jewish believers. The first recorded non-Jewish believer was Cornelius and his family in Acts chapter 10.

So, given that the first believers were Jewish, the concept of the Sabbath wasn't in question. What was at issue was the manner in which it was being kept. Yeshua's teachings deal with these issues. I will talk more about Yeshua's teachings on Shabbat in future segments.

There was a distinct paradigm shift for believers that occurred in 325 of the common era. This change was the result of the Nicean conference and the Roman emperor Constantine. With the establishment of what would become known as Christianity becoming the official religion of the Roman empire, the purpose of this conference was to unify practices and beliefs throughout the empire. Many things were addressed and recorded:

As recorded in the Catholic Encyclopedia from 1967 regarding the Council of Nicea in 325 CE:

"At this meeting the question concerning the most holy day of Easter was discussed, and it was resolved by the united judgment of all present that this feast ought to be kept by all and in every place on one and the same day And first of all it appeared an unworthy thing that in the celebration of this most holy feast we should follow the practice of the Jews, who have impiously defiled their hands with enormous sin for we have received from our Savior a different way...

Continuing in Canon 20 – regarding the Council of Nicea (325 CE)

"Forasmuch as there are certain persons who kneel on the Lord's Day (Sunday) and in the days of Pentecost , therefore, to the intent that all things may be uniformly observed everywhere (in every parish), it seems good to the holy Synod that prayer be made to God standing." (Source Catholic Encyclopedia)

Here we have the official establishment of Sunday gatherings. There was a distinct bias against anything of Jewish origin...more on this next time.

This week, 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 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.