

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

In the past two segments of Messianic Perspectives I have provided you with a brief history of how we ultimately got to Sunday. Now, getting back to the initial question:

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

When we look at the first 9 chapters of Acts, it is a very Jewish historical account. This cannot be denied. So, the first believers being Jewish would have received teaching from the Apostles regarding how to properly keep Shabbat.

When we look at Jewish believers and the writings that are directed towards the Jewish community, there is instruction in the book of Hebrews that indicates there is still a Shabbat and its purpose is to rest so we don't fall into disobedience. Hebrews chapter 4 and verses 9 through 11

Heb 4:9 So there remains a Shabbat-keeping for God's people.

Heb 4:10 For the one who has entered God's rest has also rested from his own works, as God did from his.

Heb 4:11 Therefore, let us do our best to enter that rest; so that no one will fall short because of the same kind of disobedience.

Chapter 4 usually gets "spiritualized" out of importance whereby Shabbat becomes abstract instead of actual.

When we get to Acts 10 and Cornelius, he is identified as a God-fearer. In Jewish terms this is a person who is one step away from converting to Judaism. When we look at his actions, Cornelius supports the Jewish community and is doing afternoon prayers in his home. These afternoon prayers are known as Mincha prayers. As a gentile, he could not go past the court of the gentiles at the Temple,

When we get to Acts 15, the issue is what do we do with these Gentiles who are coming to believe in the Jewish Messiah? Do we circumcise them? Notice the ruling when we get to 15:19 - 21

Act 15:19 "Therefore, my opinion is that we should not put obstacles in the way of the Goyim who are turning to God.

Act 15:20 Instead, we should write them a letter telling them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from fornication, from what is strangled and from blood.

Act 15:21 For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Shabbat."

So, the leaders at the council of Jerusalem provide basic instructions for all non-Jewish believers coming out of the pagan world. They are to refrain from these pagan practices and attend the local synagogue where Torah is read every Shabbat.

It would be on Shabbat at the synagogue where the Torah was read that they would be taught the ways of Adonai, just as Yeshua taught His talmadim. Remember there was no canonized New Covenant. The foundation for all believers at this time, whether Jewish or not was what already existed...the Tenach.

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.