

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

Last week we looked at a question that was posed regarding the Sabbath and the instructions of the Apostles. In essence, the person asked for evidence regarding believers and the Sabbath.

The Sabbath amongst believers at the time of Yeshua wasn't a question of if, but rather how. How are we intended to honor Adonai?

When we look at the Gospels and the teachings of Yeshua, they involved improper instruction that were fully engrained within the culture. Yeshua's response was to correct these incorrect views being conveyed by the leaders of this time.

When we look at Matthew chapter 12, there are several examples regarding Yeshua's instruction. In response to the following question in verse 10:

Mat 12:10 A man there had a shriveled hand. Looking for a reason to accuse him of something, they asked him, "Is healing permitted on Shabbat?"

Yeshua's response uses a classical Jewish method of answering a question with a question, to evoke both a thought and response.

Mat 12:11 But he answered, "If you have a sheep that falls in a pit on Shabbat, which of you won't take hold of it and lift it out?"

Mat 12:12 How much more valuable is a man than a sheep! Therefore, what is permitted on Shabbat is to do good."

The intent of Yeshua's response is to convey the value of someone being made whole and therefore being able to enjoy the day that Adonai has set apart from all other days of the weekly cycle.

When we look at the actual instruction for Shabbat, found in Exodus chapter 20 and verses 8 through 11, it is the head of the household who is ultimately responsible for those under his authority to enter into the rest of Adonai which is the seventh day:

Exo 20:8 **7** "Remember the day, Shabbat, to set it apart for God.

Exo 20:9 You have six days to labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is a Shabbat for Adonai your God. On it, you are not to do any kind of work — not you, your son or your daughter, not your male or female slave, not your livestock, and not the foreigner staying with you inside the gates to your property.

Exo 20:11 For in six days, Adonai made heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested.

This is why Adonai blessed the day, Shabbat, and separated it for himself.

The instruction is simple, however it became more complicated because Torah is not always black and white, but offers areas of grey that require additional instruction. The Sabbath is one of those grey areas. As simple as it sounds, it would become more complicated. Next time we will look at the definition of work.

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 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.