

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

As we continue our journey into Messianic Perspectives and the subject of the Sabbath for believers in Yeshua, we last looked at Matthew 12:10 – 12 and His healing of a man on the Sabbath. I had conveyed that the value of someone being able to be made whole and partake in the Sabbath was far greater than doing nothing.

When we look at the instruction for the Sabbath in Torah, to paraphrase Exodus chapter 20 and verses 8 through 11, it basically says you have six days to do all your work and you are to rest on the seventh day. Last time I had mentioned that Torah is not always black and white with its instructions. One of those grey areas is defining work. No where in Torah is there a definition of what work is. Here in lies the problem that would be prevalent at the time of Yeshua.

In past segments I had mentioned terms oral law, Talmud and tradition of the elders...all are one in the same and bring us to the dilemma of the time. Yeshua's many teachings regarding the Sabbath are in response to these additional instructions that were intended to provide insight so that people would have better understanding on how they should do certain things, such as keeping the Sabbath.

Unfortunately, these good intentions led to the legalistic observance of Torah. As I mentioned earlier, Torah does not convey what work is, but the oral torah does. It defines 39 different actions that were determined to work. Actions such as Sowing, ploughing, reaping, binding into sheaves, threshing, writing two letters to name a few.

So when Yeshua responds to such leading questions as healing on the Sabbath, in Mark chapter 2 verse 23 and 24:

Mar 2:23 One Shabbat Yeshua was passing through some wheat fields; and as they went along, his talmidim began picking heads of grain.

Mar 2:24 The P'rushim said to him, "Look! Why are they violating Shabbat?"

What is the issue here?

The P'rushim are questioning Yeshua's talmadim's actions whereby they are violating one of the 39 actions that are construed as work, that being reaping. They were picking food from the field.

Yeshua's responds:

Mar 2:25 He said to them, "Haven't you ever read what David did when he and those with him were hungry and needed food?"

Basic needs such as eating do not violate the Sabbath, because Adonai didn't rest and suffer, but He rested in order to enjoy what He had created. The Sabbath is not meant to be a burden or a time of suffering, but a time of joy and a time when we are to gather together: Leviticus chapter 23 and verse 3:

Lev 23:3 " 'Work is to be done on six days; but the seventh day is a Shabbat of complete rest, a holy convocation; you are not to do any kind of work; it is a Shabbat for Adonai, even in your homes.

A holy convocation...a holy gathering.

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.