

Kehilah Portland



A Messianic Jewish Synagogue

Congregational Business Mailing Address:

12 Liberty Lane, Unit 68
South Portland, ME 04106
Website: www.shalommaine.com
Email: info@jewishheritagerevival.com

Congregation Meeting Address:

1338 Broadway Ave.
South Portland, ME 04106

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 – Shabbat Shuvah

Shabbat Shuvah literally means "Sabbath of Return," but it is also a play on the phrase "Shabbat Teshuvah" (Sabbath of Repentance). It is the Shabbat that occurs between [Rosh Hashanah](#) and [Yom Kippur](#) and during the 10 Days of Awe. It is a time for reflection leading up to the atonement of Yom Kippur. Shabbat Shuvah has two special [haftarah](#) readings, one dealing with the importance of heartfelt repentance (Hosea 14:2-10) and one praising the Creator's mercy (Micah 7:18-20).

From Hosea chapter 14 and verses 2 and 3:

Hos 14:1 (14:2) Return, Isra'el, to Adonai your God, for your guilt has made you stumble.

Hos 14:2 (14:3) Take words with you, and return to Adonai; say to him, "Forgive all guilt, and accept what is good; we will pay instead of bulls [*the offerings of*] our lips.

From Micah chapter 7 and verses 18 to 20:

Mic 7:18 Who is a God like you, pardoning the sin and overlooking the crimes of the remnant of his heritage? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in grace.

Mic 7:19 He will again have compassion on us, he will subdue our iniquities. You will throw all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Mic 7:20 You will show truth to Ya`akov and grace to Avraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors since days of long ago.

In order for one's sins to be forgiven, there must be two elements present.

- T'shuvah or repentance
- A blood sacrifice

The Jewish understanding of T'shuvah is that it requires two actions:

- Turn from your transgression
- Return to Adonai

This time during Rosh Hashanah also known as Yom T'ruah and Yom Kippur is this appointed time for the nation to seek Adonai.

During the Temple times, one could come to the Temple with a sin sacrifice known as the Chatat, found in Leviticus chapter 4 at any time during the year. This time was for the individual. In the case of Shabbat Shuvah, it is a collective time for the entire community to seek T'shuvah if there was any transgression that still remained prior to Yom Kippur and was not atoned for during the year.

There is a saying, one bad apple spoils the whole bunch. Even though this time is a focus on community, there is also the dynamic that an individual is part of the larger community and their transgression affects the entire community.

Consider Miryam's transgression in speaking against Moshe in Numbers 12. The entire community did not leave until Miryam's penalty was completed. The entire community did not move because of one person.

What can we learn from Shabbat Shuvah specifically and this season in general?

To use another saying...a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The larger community of Messiah does not emphasize such a time as this, focusing on our deeds, remembering our actions and seeking T'shuvah on a yearly basis.

What would Yeshua say?

This month, Messianic Perspectives is offering four articles on significance of the Fall Feasts for all believers whether Jewish or not. We are including an article that conveys evidence in scripture as to when Yeshua was born. Our offer is 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.