

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 – Sukkot Yeshua's Birth

In our last episode of Messianic Perspectives we began the journey that will answer the question – When was Yeshua Born?

Unlike other scenarios, we are using scripture and the Jewish culture for which Messiah Yeshua would enter the world through. This means, no christian theories or gnostic views. The evidence is before you if you understand scripture in the culture it was written.

The first piece of information centered around Z'kharyah a Levitical priest who is part of the Aviyah division found in Luke chapter 1 and verse 5.

What does this piece of information do for us?

The answer...it provides us with a starting point.

When you understand the division of the Levitical priesthood, this piece of information will make perfect sense. Found in 1 Chronicles chapter 24 are the 24 divisions of the priesthood. Each division would serve at the Temple twice a year, according to their division.

In addition to their division service, all priests were required to serve during the three pilgrimage feasts – Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

Therefore, a priest would serve in the Temple 5 weeks out of the year. The remainder of the time, they were the spiritual leaders and judges of the communities they resided in.

According to 1 Chronicles chapter 24 and verse 10 the Aviyah division for which Z'kharyah belonged was the 8th division, meaning that 7 other divisions of priests would serve before them.

With this additional information and the fact that the religious year began at Passover, we know that all the priests served in the Temple for one week. In addition to Passover, Shavuot would occur 7 weeks after Passover, thus meaning all the priests would be serving.

Therefore when you factor in these two feasts, Z'kharyah served in the Temple on the 10 week, from the start of Passover. This would have been during the Jewish month of Sivan, which relates to the May / June time frame on our calendars. This is when Z'kharyah was in the temple and the angel appeared to him.

It would have likely been shortly after his time in the Temple that Elisheva would have become pregnant...notice the future tense of the angel's words...Luke chapter 1 and verse 13:

But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Z'kharyah; because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elisheva will bear you a son, and you are to name him Yochanan.

More on this next time...

Feel free to visit our web site shalommaine.com. We have created articles on all the feasts including Sukkot, including "When Was Yeshua Born?" that will provide you with a wealth of information you may have never known before. You will gain a Jewish perspective on the Messiah of your faith and how it impacts your relationship.

If you have been blessed with this segment and would like to support our efforts with a tax deductible gift, you can send your offering to Jewish Heritage Revival – 12 Liberty Lane, Unit 68 South Portland, Maine 04106. In supporting this broadcast you are also supporting Maine's first and only Messianic Jewish Synagogue.

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.