

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 – Hanukkah

Whether you are Jewish or not, the majority of people have at least heard of Hanukkah.

Your thoughts of it will likely revolve around candles, dreidles, latkes, lasting 8 days. You may also know of the miracle of the 8 days of light when there was only one day of undefiled oil. This is what we understand of Hanukkah today. Many will be hard pressed to find it in scripture, however, the prophecy that leads up to Hanukkah and Yeshua's relationship to it are found in scripture.

In Daniel chapter 8 there is a prophecy about the Persian empire and the Mead empire. Out of this prophecy it talks about the division of this empire into four kingdoms. From one of those kingdoms will arise a ruler known as Antiochus Epiphanies who would lead to the defilement of the Temple. He is the one who sacrificed a pig on the altar to the god Zeus.

Outside of the canon of the Jewish bible there are historical books, one of which is the books of the Maccabees Mattathias, the original leader who would be succeeded by his 5 sons, with the most well known being Judas, who was also known as the hammer was one of the leaders who lead the revolt against the Syrians for over three years. They would hide in caves, planning strategic ambushes that would ultimately lead to victories at Beth-horon and Emmaus. This victory would lead to freeing the people from their oppressors and opening up Jerusalem.

Because of the defilement of the Temple, it would need to be completely cleansed. This is how the Rabbi's describe Hanukkah:

In the Talmud, tractate Shabbat 21b, the Rabbis answer the question, “What is 'Hanukah?”

The rabbis taught: "On the twenty-fifth day of Kislev 'Hanukah commences and lasts eight days, on which lamenting (in commemoration of the dead) and fasting are prohibited. When the Hellenist entered the sanctuary, they defiled all the oil that was found there. When the government of the House of Asmoneans prevailed and conquered them, oil was sought (to feed the holy lamp in the sanctuary) and only one vial was found with the seal

of the high priest intact. The vial contained sufficient oil for one day only, but a miracle occurred, and it fed the holy lamp eight days in succession. These eight days were the following year established as days of good cheer, on which psalms of praise and acknowledgment (of God's wonders) were to be recited.

This account was written long after and it is believed the focus shifted from the Maccabean triumph to the miracle of the oil due to the later corruption. So, the triumphant victory over the threat of extinction through assimilation was changed to become more about the miracle of the oil.

Next time we will look at Yeshua and Hanukkah.

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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.