

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 – Torah and Sha'ul

A common mindset and teaching amongst believers is that Sha'ul, also known as Paul is anti-Torah. Ultimately that his letters are new instructions and doctrines. This is a misconception.

Sha'ul sat under some of the greatest minds of the time, including Rabbi Gameliel. It was ultimately his Damascus road encounter with Yeshua that would forever change His life. Although it would change his life and direction, there were somethings that didn't change.

He would spend time in Arabia and return back to Damascus as recorded in Galatians chapter 1 verses 15 through 18 doing what I believe to be revisiting Torah and the Prophets, but this time with the scales removed from his eyes. Seeing the very same things that Yeshua revealed to his talmadim in Luke chapter 24.

His challenge would be different than the others in that he would be presenting a Jewish concept, that of Messiah to the nations who followed and worshiped many gods. Even with this transition in his life, Sha'ul was still a rabbi of the Torah, which is known in Jewish culture as the written law. He understood the traps of the oral law, which is also known as “the Traditions of the Elders” and is viewed equally with the written law, but is comprised of additional laws created by man, and not Adonai.

All of his letters either directly quote a passage from Torah or provide insight to specific situations that are influenced by the teachings of Torah. Sha'ul writes in Romans chapter 7 and verse 7

Rom 7:7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, the function of the Torah was that without it, I would not have known what sin is. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, "Thou shalt not covet."

and verse 12

Rom 7:12 So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good.

Torah identifies what sin is. Without it, how will you know if what you are doing is contrary to what Adonai has written?

Sha'ul certainly continued using and applying Torah in his letters, whether a direct quote, indirect reference or concept found in Torah. Sha'ul's letters are saturated with Torah.

During the month of June, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message "Covenant Confusion" 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

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.