

April 15, 2023

### Congregation Vision

Much has transpired over the last few months whereby seeds that have been planted since the day Jeri and I came to Maine, are starting to see sprouts.

From the moment we arrived and would establish this congregation we had a clear vision and purpose as revealed to us by Adonai. As such our mission was established.

**Pro 29:18** Without a prophetic vision, the people throw off all restraint; but he who keeps Torah is happy.

Some translations convey that the people will perish without prophetic vision. Had we not received clear and specific direction from Adonai we would likely have perished because Maine is one of the more challenging states to establish a congregation. There are very few Messianic Jewish Synagogues in New England and yet against all counsel we received, we could not ignore the prophetic vision Adonai had instilled upon our hearts to come here to this state 13 years ago.

Starting in our home on January 22<sup>nd</sup> after a Nor'easter had stormed up the coast just two days before, we had a resounding 2 people in our home that Shabbat morning.

Yet our unofficial start occurred on December 1<sup>st</sup> when we would have a Hanukkah dinner with our first congregants, both of whom contacted us before we even stepped foot in Maine as I had posted information about our coming to Maine to start a congregation.

During those first nine months in our home we experienced many ups and downs where we would have as many as 12 and sometime no one would show up. I will not lie in that there was discouragement during that time, though there were always moments that blessed us and further encouraged us.

We knew that in order for the congregation to grow we had to be out of our home and it would be nine months since our official date, on Rosh Hashanah that we had our first service in the school to a resounding 8 people. A once cavernous gym is now a space well utilized.

During those first nine months and the beginnings at the school we never lost sight of our purpose...

**Our purpose...**

- *Kehilah Portland is a Messianic Jewish Synagogue with the purpose to proclaim the redemptive power and purpose of God through His servant, our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). This proclamation is to all people, with the express desire to connect them with the God of Israel through prayer, worship and community.*
- *To equip people to serve, to grow to maturity and to inspire believers everywhere to recognize the irrevocable calling of God upon the Jewish people, encouraging the nations (Gentiles) to fulfill their biblical mandate to come alongside Israel as co-heirs to the covenants of promise.*

Some congregations and fellowships would meet once a month or every other week. From the very beginning we knew, regardless, we would meet every Shabbat. Our thought was Shabbat was every week, why would we not meet?

It is here in the second part of the purpose of our statement that we see something that is not elaborated on nearly enough...

*encouraging the nations (Gentiles) to fulfill their biblical mandate to come alongside Israel as co-heirs to the covenants of promise.*

“The nations, gentiles coming alongside Israel.”

The narrative we hear most frequently is that gentiles, the church are the ones who the covenant is made with and that Jewish people who come to Christ are to convert and become Christians.

Unfortunately, this premise does not align with Scripture nor the secret plan of Adonai that Sha'ul wrote about to believers in Ephesus...

**Eph 3:1** It is a consequence of this that I, Sha'ul, am a prisoner of the Messiah Yeshua on behalf of you Gentiles.

**Eph 3:2** I assume that you have heard of the work God in his grace has given me to do for your benefit,

**Eph 3:3** and that it was by a revelation that this secret plan was made known to me. I have already written about it briefly,

**Eph 3:4** and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.

**Eph 3:5** In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets,

**Eph 3:6** that in union with the Messiah and through the Good News the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.

**Eph 3:7** I became a servant of this Good News by God's gracious gift, which he gave me through the operation of his power.

**Eph 3:8** To me, the least important of all God's holy people, was given this privilege of announcing to the Gentiles the Good News of the Messiah's unfathomable riches,

**Eph 3:9** and of letting everyone see how this secret plan is going to work out. This plan, kept hidden for ages by God, the Creator of everything,

**Eph 3:10** is for the rulers and authorities in heaven to learn, through the existence of the Messianic Community, how many-sided God's wisdom is.

**Eph 3:11** This accords with God's age-old purpose, accomplished in the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

**Eph 3:12** In union with him, through his faithfulness, we have boldness and confidence when we approach God.

**Eph 3:13** So I ask you not to be discouraged by the troubles I endure on your behalf—it is all for your glory.

He alluded to the secret plan a few verses earlier when he talked about the former state of gentiles who have come to accept the Jewish Messiah Yeshua...

**Eph 2:11** Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth—called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised—

**Eph 2:12** at that time had no Messiah. You were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God.

**Eph 2:13** But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood.

**Eph 2:14** For he himself is our shalom—he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

**Eph 2:15** by destroying in his own body the enmity occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set forth in the form of ordinances. He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom,

**Eph 2:16** and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

The two becoming one and thus functioning as one, yet from a Torah based foundation.

It is believed that Sha'ul wrote Romans prior to his letter to believers in Ephesus. As such when he alluded to the secret plan

[Eph 3:4](#) and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.

I believe he is alluding to his letter to believers in Rome and more specifically the olive tree of Romans 11.

Is this not an image of the two becoming one?

**Rom 11:11** "In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?" Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to provoke them to jealousy.

[Rom 11:12](#) Moreover, if their stumbling is bringing riches to the world—that is, if Isra'el's being placed temporarily in a condition less favored than that of the Gentiles is bringing riches to the latter—how much greater riches will Isra'el in its fullness bring them!

[Rom 11:13](#) However, to those of you who are Gentiles I say this: since I myself am an emissary sent to the Gentiles, I make known the importance of my work

[Rom 11:14](#) in the hope that somehow I may provoke some of my own people to jealousy and save some of them!

[Rom 11:15](#) For if their casting Yeshua aside means reconciliation for the world, what will their accepting him mean? It will be life from the dead!

[Rom 11:16](#) Now if the hallah offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole loaf. And if the root is holy, so are the branches.

[Rom 11:17](#) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you—a wild olive—were grafted in among them and have become equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree,

[Rom 11:18](#) then don't boast as if you were better than the branches! However, if you do boast, remember that you are not supporting the root, the root is supporting you.

[Rom 11:19](#) So you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

[Rom 11:20](#) True, but so what? They were broken off because of their lack of trust. However, you keep your place only because of your trust. So don't be arrogant; on the contrary, be terrified!

[Rom 11:21](#) For if God did not spare the natural branches, he certainly won't spare you!

[Rom 11:22](#) So take a good look at God's kindness and his severity: on the one hand, severity toward those who fell off; but, on the other hand, God's kindness

toward you—provided you maintain yourself in that kindness! Otherwise, you too will be cut off!

**Rom 11:23** Moreover, the others, if they do not persist in their lack of trust, will be grafted in; because God is able to graft them back in.

**Rom 11:24** For if you were cut out of what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree!

Notice that Jews are not grafted into the church, yet Gentiles are grafted into the olive tree of Israel.

Hence in Sha'ul's letter to Rome, he emphasizes the Jewishness of His purpose while his direction is to the Gentiles. Sha'ul does not ignore this purpose for which he embraces wherever he goes. He does not just write about it but we see him doing it.

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the Good News, since it is God's powerful means of bringing salvation to everyone who keeps on trusting, to the Jew especially, but equally to the Gentile.

**Rom 1:17** For in it is revealed how God makes people righteous in his sight; and from beginning to end it is through trust—as the Tanakh puts it, "But the person who is righteous will live his life by trust."

What does he do?

On multiple occasions as recorded in the book of Acts we see Sha'ul go to the synagogue upon his arrival in each town he would travel to...

**Act 17:1** After passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Sha'ul and Sila came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue.

**Act 17:2** According to his usual practice, Sha'ul went in; and on three Shabbats he gave them drashes from the Tanakh,

**Act 17:3** explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and that "this Yeshua whom I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah."

**Act 17:4** Some of the Jews were persuaded and threw in their lot with Sha'ul and Sila, as did a great many of the Greek men who were "God-fearers," and not a few of the leading women.

Time and time again Sha'ul would follow this path...this prophetic path.

The Messianic synagogue has become that place today where those who have been challenged by what Scripture is saying and what the Ruach Ha Kodesh is

revealing in greater depth, the restoration of the original secret plan were gentiles are to come alongside the Messianic Jew is becoming more prominent.

Hence our vision is not one dimensional or monolithic but inclusive...

- *Kehilah Portland, (The Congregation at Portland) a Messianic Jewish Synagogue is a manifestation of God's present day regeneration and restoring work in the House of Israel.*
- *Kehilah Portland is a faith community where Jewish people can embrace their Jewish identity and heritage as believers in King Messiah, Yeshua.*
- *Kehilah Portland encourages non-Jewish believers in Messiah Yeshua, who desire to embrace the Jewish heritage of their faith and come along side Jewish believers to serve and express their faith in worshiping the God of Israel.*

Comments...regarding what has been transpiring...

Passover  
Goshen House

The rich inheritance where Gentiles are joint-heirs through the acceptance of Yeshua the Jewish Messiah, having brought those who were once far off, near...

**Rom 9:1** I am speaking the truth—as one who belongs to the Messiah, I do not lie; and also bearing witness is my conscience, governed by the Ruach HaKodesh:

**Rom 9:2** my grief is so great, the pain in my heart so constant,

**Rom 9:3** that I could wish myself actually under God's curse and separated from the Messiah, if it would help my brothers, my own flesh and blood,

**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.

**Zec 8:18** This word of Adonai-Tzva'ot came to me:

**Zec 8:19** "Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'The fast days of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months are to become times of joy, gladness and cheer for the house of Y'hudah. Therefore, love truth and peace.'

**Zec 8:20** "Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'In the future, peoples and inhabitants of many

cities will come;

**Zec 8:21** the inhabitants of one city will travel to another and say, "We must go to ask Adonai's favor and consult Adonai-Tzva'ot. I'll go too."

**Zec 8:22** Yes, many peoples and powerful nations will come to consult Adonai-Tzva'ot in Yerushalayim and to ask Adonai's favor.'

**Zec 8:23** **Adonai-Tzva'ot says, 'When that time comes, ten men will take hold—speaking all the languages of the nations—will grab hold of the cloak of a Jew and say, "We want to go with you, because we have heard that God is with you." ' "**

This is the Messianic Jew today.