

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 – The Born Again Experience

Last time we left off where Yeshua had asked Nakdimon, translated as Nicodemus: John chapter 3 and verse 10

Joh 3:10 Yeshua answered him, "You hold the office of teacher in Isra'el, and you don't know this?"

The question is about being born again.

As a person who holds the office of teacher of Israel...a rabbi, Yeshua in essence is stating you should know this because you experience this change of state in life all the time.

Being born again is a Jewish concept that occurs when something significant changes in one's life. Being born again or born anew is a transformation from a previous state into a new state.

When someone converts to Judaism, they have gone through a born again experience. In Judaism, you have been transformed from a goy or gentile and into a person of the covenant of Adonai. This transformation for men would include physical circumcision.

Likewise, coming to faith and trust in Yeshua as Messiah, requires a circumcision of the heart, performed by the one who created us. John chapter 3 and verse 5:

Joh 3:5 Yeshua answered, "Yes, indeed, I tell you that unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Both Jewish conversion and accepting Yeshua as Messiah are born again experiences, whereby you are turning away from your past sinful nature and being made new. Both transformations include going through Mikveh, which we spoke about in previous segments. This is the water that Yeshua spoke about. The Spirit is the heart circumcision that I spoke of previously.

Did you know that within Jewish understanding there are other born again experiences besides conversion?

Getting married is a born again experience.

Your previous state was as one of being an individual. When you get married, you are no longer seen as single but your life has been transformed and you are now part of something new.

When you have a child, this is viewed as a born again experience. You have gone from being a couple to becoming a family.

When one goes through the steps of training and finally becomes a Rabbi, he has had a born again experience.

Although not called born again experiences in the Jewish culture today because it is associated with Christian proselytizing, it is a very Jewish idea that even Nakdimon, Nicodemus should have known and ultimately did know when Rabbi Yeshua did what He does best – teach.

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

Past segments of Messianic Perspectives are archived on our web site www.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.