

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 – Hebrew Idioms

As we continue our journey through some of the Hebrew idioms found in scripture, I want to spend this segment on the concept called Kal-ve-chomer.

Kal-ve-chomer is a Jewish teaching method used to show contrast. The literal meaning of Kal-ve-chomer is light and heavy.

The intent of Kal-ve-chomer is to show the contrast between action and outcome. Yeshua uses this method many times, with the intention of stopping sin before it even starts.

We can relate this practice to that of the Pharisees and Torah teachers that through oral traditions placed a hedge or fence around Torah with the intent to prevent the person from entering into sin without warning. Unfortunately, many of the Pharisees and Torah teachers place greater importance upon the hedge than the source itself. This is what I discussed previously as legalistic observance of Torah commands.

With regards to Kal-ve-chomer and Yeshua's use of this tool, here is an example of the light and heavy aspect. Matthew chapter 5 and verses 27 and 28:

Mat 5:27 "You have heard that our fathers were told, 'Do not commit adultery.'

Mat 5:28 But I tell you that a man who even looks at a woman with the purpose of lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Yeshua is conveying Kal-ve-chomer here in the sense that if you have thought about committing adultery then you have already done it. Meaning, that in order to transgress, it must first become a thought. It is when that thought is acted upon

that it is too late. So, Yeshua is warning against the sin before it actually becomes sin. The light aspect is the thought, while the “heavy” aspect is the action.

During the month of July, Messianic Perspectives is offering the message “Whatever Happened to the Sabbath” 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 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 Kehillah 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.