

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

Over the past several segments we have been looking at Hebrew Idioms. The common theme throughout these segments is that you can't always take scripture literally.

To take literally what isn't meant to be taken literally ultimately changes the meaning of the scripture, ultimately changing the teaching that is to be conveyed.

A scripture that many people have trouble with is Numbers chapter 12 and verse 8:

Num 12:8 With him I speak **face to face** and clearly, not in riddles; he sees the image of Adonai. So why weren't you afraid to criticize my servant Moshe?"

In the literal sense this scripture indicates that Moshe spoke to Adonai as if one person was communicating with another person "face to face". Yet this would contradict what Adonai said previously:

Exo 33:19 He replied, "I will cause all my goodness to pass before you, and in your presence I will pronounce the name of Adonai. Moreover, I show favor to whomever I will, and I display mercy to whomever I will.

Exo 33:20 But my face," he continued, "you cannot see, because a human being cannot look at me and remain alive.

No one can see Adonai face to face and live, yet Moshe spoke to Adonai face to face. How can this be?

Only when you focus on the words literally and do not take into account the Jewish understanding, is there a problem. So, just what is the Jewish understanding behind this apparent contradiction.

In its simplest form, when one speaks face to face with someone, they are speaking directly to that person. When we look at Numbers chapter 12, the answer to this contradiction is already there...verse 6...

Num 12:6 He said, "Listen to what I say: when there is a prophet among you, I, Adonai, make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.

Num 12:7 But it isn't that way with my servant Moshe. He is the only one who is faithful in my entire household.

A vision or a dream...an indirect way of communication...not face to face, not directly

It is only complicated and confusing when we refuse to include the cultural context that the scriptures were written in. You don't have to be Jewish to think Jewish. But you do need an open mind and a teachable spirit to do so.

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 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.