

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 Messianic Synagogue

In previous episodes, we talked about a Messianic congregation. For many, you have probably never visited one, or maybe have never even heard of one. So just what is a Messianic Synagogue?

In its simplest form, A Messianic Jewish Synagogue is a place of meeting, just like a traditional Jewish Synagogue whether orthodox, conservative or reform. It is a place where the Messianic community come together. Last time I stated that the Messianic community comprised both Jewish and non-Jewish people. The Synagogue is also identified as:

beit tefilah, a house of prayer

beit hallel, a house of praise

beit midrash, a house of study

As a congregation, we meet on Shabbat or Saturday, instead of Sunday, just as any other synagogue in any other part of the world would do. This is part of maintaining a Jewish identity.

As a congregation, we come together for prayer, to stand with each other in these very challenging times. This is beit tefilah – house of prayer

We include Hebrew liturgy, such as the recitation of the Sh'ma (which is Deuteronomy chapter 6 and verses 4 through 9) every Shabbat, just as any other synagogue would. We also include other selected pieces of liturgy, just as you would hear in any other synagogue. This is part of our praise directed towards Adonai through Yeshua. We also incorporate a Davidic form of worship that includes both song and dance. This is beit hallel – house of praise

Each Shabbat, we study the weekly parashah just as any other synagogue. The parashah is a specific portion of the Torah that is read that week. With that Torah portion is another portion of scripture, known as the haftarah and will be found in either the Neviim – the prophets or Kit'uvim – the writings. The idea behind the parashah is that where ever you are in the world, every Jewish person is studying the same scripture. This concept greatly expands the idea of community beyond the local nature we understand it to be. You don't have to be in the neighborhood to be part of the community.

What is different about our study is that we include scripture from the New Covenant writings, known as the Brith Hadoshah that relates to the Torah parashah. In this manner, we are connecting Torah with Yeshua. This is beit midrash – house of study.

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.