

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 Sabbath

In the past few segments of Messianic Perspectives I have provided you with a brief history of how we ultimately got the Sunday. Now, getting back to the initial question

What apostolic writing causes you to think Christians in Bible times observed a sabbath day?

Moving on to Acts 20, this passage is often used to support the idea that believers met on Sundays (the first day of the week). Most bibles usually translate Acts 20:7 as follows:

Act 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. (KJV)

What is missing is the context behind the translation. First, have you ever found it amazing that on the first day of the week, beginning in the morning that before Paul's departure, he spoke until midnight...some 15 hours?

The context I speak of that is missing is the Jewish context. The writers are Jewish and would have wrote in a manner that took into account contextual influences. One such influence is how Jewish people understand the cycle of a day. Unlike the rest of the world, day begins at sundown. The span of a day goes from sundown to sundown. This understanding of the cycle of a day derives its origins from Genesis:

Gen 1:13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

You will find this consistency through out the recount of creation in Genesis.

So when we bring the context of this verse into our understanding, another translation states it this way...

Act 20:7 On Motza'ei-Shabbat, when we were gathered to break bread, Sha'ul addressed them. Since he was going to leave

the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (CJB)

Motza'ei Shabbat literally means "going out of Sabbath"

So, the first day of the week would have actually started on what we know as Saturday night.

So, if they continued to meet on Saturday evening, where would they have been during the day? The answer is the local synagogue as mentioned in Acts chapter 15 and verse 21.

The idea of Shabbat amongst believers, both Jewish and non-Jewish was understood because this is the origin of the faith you profess. It is amazing what gets lost over time.

This week, 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.