

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 – Day of Awe

The ten days starting with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Yom Kippur are commonly known as the Days of Awe (Yamim Noraim) or the Days of Repentance. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur.

One of the ongoing themes of the Days of Awe is the concept that G-d has "books" that he writes our names in, writing down who will live and who will die, who will have a good life and who will have a bad life, for the next year. These books are written in on Rosh Hashanah, but our actions during the Days of Awe can alter G-d's decree. The actions that change the decree are "teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah," repentance, prayer, good deeds (usually, charity). These "books" are sealed on Yom Kippur. This concept of writing in books is the source of the common greeting during this time is "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."

One saying is – On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed.

The tradition holds that there are three books open on Rosh Hashanah:

- The book of the righteous
- The book of the unrighteous
- The book of the in-between

It is taught that Adonai opens his books on Rosh Hashanah and that one's fate for the upcoming year is sealed on Yom Kippur.

How can this time relate to us as believers, given that it is a Jewish tradition?

We can find throughout scripture that books are referenced.

Moshe references Adonai's book in Exodus chapter 32 and verses 32 and 33

Exo 32:32 Now, if you will just forgive their sin! But if you won't, then, I beg you, blot me out of your book which you have written!"

Exo 32:33 Adonai answered Moshe, "Those who have sinned against me are the ones I will blot out of my book.

And also in Revelation, speaking to the Messianic community at Sardis: Revelation chapter 3 and verse 5

Rev 3:5 He who wins the victory will, like them, be dressed in white clothing; and I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life; in fact, I will acknowledge him individually before my Father and before his angels.

And also chapter 20 and verse 12

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

The idea of Adonai's books is not a new concept but is also found in Torah. That they are opened on Rosh Hashanah and closed on Yom Kippur for the upcoming year is of Jewish tradition. However, the concept is valid based on what we have read in Revelation.

Imagine how much stronger believers would be if there was an appointed time to "clean house" so to speak. An appointed time to reflect upon our actions and seeking T'shuvah. We have open access to this through Yeshua, however when it is on the calendar, it conveys greater importance, making it significant from just any other day.

This month, Messianic Perspectives is offering four articles on significance of the Fall Feasts for all believers whether Jewish or not. We are including an article that conveys evidence in scripture as to when Yeshua was born. Our offer is 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.