

WHAT ARE HEBREW ROOTS, MESSIANIC BELIEVERS AND MESSIANIC JUDAISM?

The A to Z on Hebraics !



WE INFORM – YOU CHOOSE

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Preface

YHWH "God" has called us to do two things. First, we are to never give up studying and seeking the correct interpretation of any given Bible passage. Second, such opportunities are golden moments for us to learn to show grace and love to others whose understanding of a given passage may differ from ours.

Throughout the HRTI's teachings, we use a slightly different vocabulary to that which some might be accustomed. We have chosen to use what many refer to as a Messianic vocabulary. The reasons being: firstly, using Hebraic-sounding words is another way to help you associate with the Hebraic Roots of your faith. Secondly, these words are not merely an outward show for us, they are truly an expression of who we are as Messianic Jews and Gentiles who have "taken hold" of our inheritance with Israel.

Instead of saying "Jesus", we call our Saviour "Y'shua" – the way His parents would have addressed Him in Hebrew. In addition, rather than referring to Y'shua as "Christ", we use the word "Messiah" – which is an Anglicized version of the Hebrew word, Moshiah.

"YaHoWaH" is the name of God in Hebrew, where it is written as four consonants (YHWH or YHVH, as the W and V is derived from the same Hebrew letter 'Vaw'). These four letters are called the Tetragrammaton (Greek for "[a word] having four letters"). Jews ceased to use the name in the Greco-Roman period, replacing it with the common noun Elohim ("God") to demonstrate the universal sovereignty of Israel's God over all others. At the same time, the divine name was increasingly regarded as too sacred to be uttered and was replaced in spoken ritual by the word Adonai ("My Lord"). From about the 6th to the 10th century the Masoretes (Jewish scholars who were the first to add vowels to the text of the Hebrew Bible) used the vowel signs of the Hebrew words Adonai or Elohim as the vowels for YHWH; and later on the artificial name *Jehovah* was produced. Christian scholars and translators after the Renaissance and Reformation periods replaced the sacred name YHWH with GOD and LORD (all in capital letters in the Bible); which was a strategic move of Satan for not using the Name. The Sacred Name occurs 6,828 times in the Hebrew text of the Bible, proving YHWH wants us to use it.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, biblical scholars again began to use the form Yahweh and it is now the conventional usage in biblical scholarship; but leading Hebrew Scholars suggest YHWH should be pronounced as Yah-oo-VaH (Y'shua is derived from YaH-shuvah which means YaH saves. Yah (יָהּ) is an abbreviation of God's name, YHWH, as seen in Psalm 68:4. The Name is also found in the word hallelu-YaH, which means "you praise the LORD").

Torah-observant Messianism—what on earth is that?

Introduction

In Islam you only have two denominations, Shiite and Sunni; but in Christianity there were reported to be approximately 38,000 denominations in 2010,¹ and many more which could not be verified due to their insignificance. By the time you read this booklet, there will be lots of new ones. Any idea why it is like that?

The only logical reason I can think of is because people do not take the Word of YHWH as literally as they should. Scripture after Scripture is being spiritualized, and teachings based on the doctrines and traditions of *men* are being accepted above YHWH's original and literal teachings.

To us at the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute, the literal sense of Scripture alone is the whole essence of faith. We believe all heresies and errors have originated, not from the simple words of Scripture, but from neglecting the simple words of Scripture and from the habit of purely making assumptions — that is, by spiritualizing Scriptures.

Globally, many people have reached the point where they do not attend church services anymore. They want to embark on the incredible journey of discovery on the Ancient Paths for the "original meanings". Believers are not ignorant, pew-sitting church goers where the "Reverend" talks and they listen and accept everything. No, they have become intelligent researchers of the Word as the Bereans did,² and they tap into resources most "Old Reverends" do not even know exist—i.e., the Internet.

Many Believers around the globe, as of late, desire to seek out their *God-given roots*, the *Hebraic Roots* of their faith. Y'shua was a Hebrew,³ a Jew from the Tribe of Judah,⁴ and Believers want to prepare themselves as a *Hebrew Bride* for the return of their *Hebrew Messiah*.

As Last-day Believers in Messiah, people want to know the absolute truth about YHWH from His Word. To a large degree, there is much from His Word about which we can be completely confident. These are the things for which we should be willing to suffer rather than deny. However,

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations

² Acts 17:10-12

³ John 4:9

⁴ Isaiah 11 and Jer 23:5

because of our human frailties, none of us will ever know and perfectly understand all the truths in Scripture.⁵ We will never be completely able to elucidate and interpret all of Scripture correctly. Moreover, apart from our human imperfections, there are many passages in the Bible which are extremely difficult to accurately interpret.

YHWH has called us, and many like-minded Believers like us, to do two things. First, we are to never give up studying and seeking the correct interpretation of any given Bible passage. Second, such opportunities are golden moments for us to learn to *show grace and love to others* whose understanding of a given passage *may differ from ours*.

Our Hebrew-rooted Believers use a slightly different vocabulary to that which Christians might be accustomed to. We have chosen to use what many refer to as a Messianic⁶ vocabulary. The reasons being: Firstly, using Hebraic-sounding words is another way to *help you associate* with the Hebraic Roots of our faith. Secondly, these words are not merely an outward show for us, they are *truly an expression of who we are* as Messianics who have "taken hold" of our *Inheritance with Israel*. Instead of saying "Jesus", we call our Saviour "Y'shua", the way His parents would have addressed Him. In addition, rather than referring to Y'shua as "Christ", we use the word "Messiah", an Anglicized version of the Hebrew "Moshiach".

Judaism is the belief in the *literal interpretation of the Old Covenant Scriptures*, known as the Hebrew Bible. That would make Messianic Judaism, then, a belief in the *literal interpretation of both the Old and the New Covenant Scriptures*—because Messianics firmly believe that Y'shua is the Messiah Redeemer and Son of YHWH (God).

No matter from what background the Believer originally comes, we believe that all who explore our teachings will be blessed. It is our prayer that all will truly come to realize that *the truth* in the Scripture is more precious than gold, and we do that by "believing the Scriptures like a child".⁷ May the Father continue to lift the veil from our eyes and mould us into a generation that will be pleasing to Him. Let us all pray as the Psalmist in Psalm 119:18—"*Open my eyes so that I may behold the wonderful things from Your Torah* (Teachings)."

⁵ Isaiah 64:6

⁶ Messianics or Messianism is the belief in the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world—in Hebrew transliteration as Y'shua HaMoshiach—known by Christians as Jesus the Christ

⁷ Mark 10:15

Embark on your learning experience with us as we continue our journey into the Scriptures on the good old "**ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls**" (Jer 6:16).

Definitions and Terminology to understand Hebraics

Torah-observant Messianism is a faith of modern-day Believers *returning* to the *perspectives* and *beliefs* of first-century faith. The faith strongly emphasizes the completion of the unified "House of Israel" in Messiah Y'shua, made up of those that came into the Covenant. Followers believe that they have become a co-heirs and equal members of YHWH's chosen people through the blood of Y'shua the Messiah and that *returning to the mindset of the first century assembly will provide deeper and more authentic insights into Hebrew idioms and first century cultural understandings presented in Scripture*, for the main reason only: *to understand the Torah-truths and teachings of the Scripture better*. This belief system insists on the historical and literal interpretation of Scripture. HRTI's adherents adopted this belief system.

Messianism is the belief in the Messiah, the Saviour or Redeemer of the world, which is Y'shua (Jesus); who is also the Son of YHWH (God). Messianics are the adherents of this Messianic faith, also called the Hebrew Roots faith. Not all of these believers are Torah-observant.

Messianic Judaism is a religious faith that differs from mainstream *Christianity* and from *Judaism* by combining elements of each into a *single faith*. Judaism is a world religion tracing its origin to the Hebrew people of the ancient Middle-East, as documented in their religious writings—the Hebrew Bible, contained in the Torah or Old Covenant. Judaists believe in *YHWH as the Father*. Messianic Judaism is derived from this belief; except that Messianic Judaism adherents also firmly believe in the fact *that the Messiah already came and will come again, which is Y'shua and who is also the Son of YHWH (God)*. Messianic Judaism believes in both the *Old and New Covenant*. Not all of these believers are Torah-observant.

Christianity is a belief system that is totally against the Law (Torah) of YHWH (or the Law of Moses) which Y'shua and the New Covenant writers came to interpret. Most of its adherents do not want anything to do with Jewish or a Jewish Messiah.

Christianity and Jewish Culture

If Y'shua returned to earth today, which church would He go to? A Catholic Church, of course, replies the Catholic. No, a Protestant Church, argues the Protestant. Both are wrong. He would begin as He did 2,000 years ago—in a Jewish synagogue⁸.

The long history of *Christian anti-Semitism*, in thought and deed, is perhaps the *worst scandal in all the church's history*. It is the Oedipus complex,⁹ for Old Covenant Judaism should be Christianity's father and that is a fact.

When a Jew becomes a Torah-observant Messianic Believer, he or she does not lose anything Jewish but completes his or her identity. When a Hindu or any other Gentile becomes a Torah-observant Messianic Believer, he/she is converted by accepting Y'shua as Moshiah and comes into Covenant with YHWH. Because these Believers love YHWH and Y'shua so much they willing do Torah and YHWH ensures a blessed life.

This is surely Y'shua's point of view, too; for He said He came **not** to destroy the Law¹⁰ and the Prophets¹¹ **but to fulfill them**, meaning He came to correctly interpret and explain that the Old Covenant is still relevant!

The Early Believers

The first Believers were all Jewish Believers in Messiah. The Pentateuch, the first Five Books in the Old Covenant written by Moshe (Moses)—also known as the Torah, was of great importance to them. These five Books contain all the Teachings and Instructions from YHWH on how to love YHWH, your fellow man, and how to live holy lives in front of YHWH. These early Jewish Believers kept YHWH's Torah (teachings and instructions), the Sabbath, and all the Festivals, while believing that Y'shua was the prophesied Messiah. Y'shua's teachings, if you interpret them correctly, were all Torah based; and in fact He explained, or expanded His Father's Instructions to His followers to fully understand them.

The term "Early Jewish Christians" is often used in discussing the Early History of Christianity. Y'shua, His Twelve Apostles, the Elders, His family, and essentially all of His early followers were Jewish or Jewish

⁸ Assembly

⁹ in Greek mythology, a son of Jocasta and Laius, king of Thebes, who unwittingly killed his father and married his mother

¹⁰ Torah – First 5 Books in the Old Covenant written by Moshe (Moses)

¹¹ Neviim – All Books written by the Prophet in the Old Covenant

Proselytes.¹² However, they were all known as a sect of Judaism, called the Sect of the Nazarines, or Nazarites (netzarim in Hebrew). Acts speaks about this sect, also called the "followers of the way" in a number of instances, and Shaul is identified as a ring leader of this sect¹³.

Following the death and resurrection of Y'shua, Mattityahu (Matthew) along with Miriam (Mary), Yacov (James) and other close followers of the Messiah withdrew to the Upper Chamber. At about this time Yacov (James) succeeded his brother Y'shua of Nazareth as the leader of this Jewish sect. They remained in and about Jerusalem and proclaimed that Y'shua, son of Joseph, was the promised Messiah. It is certain that Mattityahu (Matthew) belonged to this sect, as both the New Covenant and the early Talmud¹⁴ affirm this to be true. According to Eusebius, these Early Jewish Believers *used the Gospel according to the Hebrews* which Jerome said was written by Mattityahu (Matthew).

Hence, the 3,000 converts on the Jewish Festival Shavuot (Pentecost), described in Acts, *were all Jews and Proselytes*. Samaritans were not Jewish (Judean), but are still identified with the tribes of Israel and also numbered among the early followers, as is the Ethiopian eunuch. Traditionally, the Roman Centurion Cornelius is considered the first Gentile convert, as recorded in Acts 10; albeit, he, too, is a "God-fearing" proselyte who *participated in a Jewish synagogue*. The major division, prior to that time, was between Hellenistic¹⁵ and non-Hellenistic Jews, or Koine Greek and Hebrew/Aramaic speakers. The conversion and acceptance of the Gentile Cornelius can be described in terms of the Judaic teaching which describes strangers becoming part of the community. Acts does not use the term "Jewish Christians"; rather, those led by James the Just, Simon Peter, and John the Apostle—the "Pillars of the Church", were called followers of "The Way" (meaning followers of Y'shua in the Hebrew context).

Anti-Semitism in the Church to eliminate any form of Jewishness

¹² The Biblical term "**Proselyte**", derives from the Koine Greek *προσῆλυτος/proselytos*, as used in the Septuagint for "stranger", i.e. a "newcomer to Israel"; a "sojourner in the land", and in the New Covenant for a convert to Judaism from Paganism. It is a translation of the Biblical Hebrew word גֵר / *ger*

¹³ Acts 9:1-2; 19:9; 19:23-24; 14

¹⁴ The **Talmud** (Hebrew: תלמוד *talmūd* "instruction, learning", from a root *lmd* "teach, study") is a central text of mainstream Rabbinical Judaism, in the form of a record of rabbinic discussions pertaining to Jewish law, ethics, philosophy, customs and history

¹⁵ **Hellenization** (or **Hellenisation**) is a term used to describe the spread of ancient Greek culture or Greek way of thinking—in other words, a Western way of approaching Scripture and not the Hebrew way Y'shua and all the Apostles did

Christians who hate Jews are opposed to the use of the term Judaism. This hate-group believes the term Judaism is satanic. According to some who lead these with anti-Semitic attitudes, Sha'ul's rebuke of the Judaizers is sufficient reason to reject all forms of Judaism; ***even that which embraces all that the Apostles taught***. What this group is sadly *self-deceived* about, is that the Judaism Sha'ul was opposed to, is the same Y'shua was opposed to as they did not practice what they taught.

New Covenant Judaism (Torah-observant Messianism) is not a Judaizing movement trying to teach or impose the Law upon anyone for salvation. **The Torah was never designed to give you salvation. Torah can't give you salvation**, it is only there for **correction, protection, and direction!** This is why Rabbi Sha'ul said that "Torah is your schoolmaster"¹⁶ and "it identifies sin".¹⁷

Gentiles who became Believers were considered united with the Commonwealth of Israel (grafted-in).¹⁸ Gentile converts were members of a new Judaism, the New Covenant Body and *their faith was Torah-observant Messianism*. This is where the anti-Semitism becomes virulent and extremely hateful among "Christians". They are opposed to the New Covenant Church being called a Jewish Assembly (Church). They hate the name "Jew" or "Israel" with such animosity; they *refuse to accept* what Sha'ul wrote in Rom 2:28-29 about Gentiles who were now considered Spiritual Israel.

In spite of this hatred along with Catholic and Protestant anti-Semitism against the use of the term Judaism, it is valid to use this term to describe the Jewish religion Y'shua reinforced on the Jewish Festive day Shavuot (Pentecost). The true Body of Believers is followers of a Jewish culture and its doctrines are embedded in Torah-observant Messianism.

The religion Y'shua reinforced was Jewish; a new Torah-observant Messianism, a Judaism that accepts only Y'shua as Messiah but submerge their lifestyle in Torah.

There are scholars that recognize the connection of Christianity to Judaism. They do not deny the Judeo-Christian identity. They recognize that Christianity has its roots in the Judaism of the "Old Testament". Torah-observant Messianism is the *"lost sheep of the House of Israel"* (see

¹⁶ Gal 3:24

¹⁷ Rom 3:20

¹⁸ Romans chapter 11

Christian Foundational Teachings No. 2), originated from within the Jewish religion, and then was "fulfilled" by Y'shua's death and resurrection. "Torah-observant Messianism" is therefore a believe system reinforced by Y'shua, better known as the lost sheep Israel that returned to the Covenant.

The Phases for Restoring YHWH's Faith

The time has arrived for the testing of the Believer to recognize and identify him/herself with him/her forsaken Biblical Hebraic Roots. The roots of the Believers of Acts, were Messianic in each and every single way as already discussed. Believe it or not, each and every thing the Jews do and hold dear is Y'shua-centered.

YHWH, through the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), is preparing to restore His Church to the *biblical principles* found in the *Hebraic contours* of its formative years. The way it will happen is not by an "outpouring" of the Spirit alone, but through a Word of YHWH revival. Here is the promise of YHWH: "*My doctrine* (Instructions) *shall drop as the rain, my speech* (Teachings) *shall distill as the dew* (gentle and soft), *as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass* (all over)."¹⁹ The latter rain will be a rain of truth, and what the Church needs today is the following: "... *the washing of water by the word.*"²⁰ What this really means is that truth of the Word will be taught sporadically around the globe, not by "a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit"²¹ as the Charismatic movement teaches—there is not a single Scripture in the Bible teaching it—but by the literal interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures in context.

Let me give you an illustration of the significance of understanding your "Hebraic Roots" by asking this question: What did Y'shua mean when He spoke of an "evil eye" (some translations say "bad eyes") in Matt 6:23? Someone not knowing the Jewish background might suppose He was talking about casting spells. In Hebrew, having an "evil eye" means being stingy; while having a "good eye" means being generous. Our Messiah is

¹⁹ Deut 32:2

²⁰ Eph 5:25-26

²¹ Acts chapter 2 is taken out of context to promote "revival" in the last days, but on careful study of the passage you can clearly see it refers to the Jews (Israel) and not the church. Peter is speaking to the Jews that the Spirit will also be poured out on them – during the Tribulation period – in the same sense as it has been poured out on the birthing of the church. Peter actually quotes from the prophet Joel (2:28:31), and both places (Joel and Acts) give reference to Tribulation signs such as blood fire and vapour. How church Leaders and Prophets quote this out of context to promote revival is mind-boggling! The Bible is teaching the complete opposite by stating perilous times will come, etc.

warning against the lack of generosity and nothing else. Moreover, this fits the context perfectly: "*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also... You cannot serve both YHWH and money*".

Consider the following verses on why we follow our Hebraic Roots: "*You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for **salvation is of the Jews***" (John 4:22, NKJ).

"*What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because **to them** (Jews) were committed the oracles of God*" (Rom 3:1-2 NKJ).

YHWH's Grand Strategy: Going Back to our Hebrew Roots in three stages:

What does YHWH's Grand Strategy consist of? YHWH wants the restoration of the Renewed Messianic Congregation's position and culture of the Good News of the Jewish Messiah *within a Messianic Renewed identity*. His second purpose is the complete and full restoration of our *worship and enjoyment* of all three aspects of Elohim's Inner Nature, Father, Son and Spirit. The Church has lost that enjoyment in the wake of satan's counter-strategy.

His third purpose is the restoration of our *benefitting from the "Old" Covenant*, the Hebrew Scriptures. His *fourth purpose is the restoration of Y'shua, the true Messiah of Israel*, in our understanding; replacing all non-Jewish misunderstandings of Him. YHWH is carrying out these purposes through three reformation/restoration movements.

a) Protestantism: The First Reformation:

Protestantism, the first Reformation that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church begun in 1517 by Martin Luther, was the restoration of the position of Y'shua to His appropriate place. This Reformation was, in hindsight, not thorough enough, since it left *enough theological, spiritual, and identity-related links behind* for the counterfeit movement to stage a successful comeback. So Protestantism was not yet the full restoration of our understanding of the true identity of Rabbi Y'shua, the Jewish Messiah. That is, Y'shua was back in His place—but as a Romanized, Gentile God only—not as the real, original Jewish Rabbi Y'shua of Nazareth as the Jews knew Him 2,000 years ago.

b) Pentecostalism: The Second Reformation:

Pentecostalism, the second Reformation—which began in 1740, 1790, 1831, and the one on Azusa Street in 1906 which still going on today—has brought about the restoration of the position and identity of another part of God's Inner Nature, *His Spirit*, to His proper place in our lives and in Y'shua's Congregation; a.k.a., the Church. But again, it was still not the full picture.

c) Return to the Ancient Paths: The Third Reformation:

Returning to the ancient paths, the third Reformation—is the revived first century faith since 1970—which is beginning to restore us to seeing *both the identity and the rightful position of bringing the Hebrew Scriptures back to their proper position in our hearts and lives; teaching us the identity and teachings of Y'shua, the King of Israel*. It is restoring the Jews to the original culture of the Renewed Covenant with the Jewish culture taking its proper position as their own; and restoring the body of Israel—ie., the Land and the National identity of Israel to the soul of Israel—the scattered "lost sheep" worldwide.

The cultural restoration of the Renewed Covenant is currently being carried out by erasing the *linguistic,²² theological, cultural and religious expressions* of the old-time anti-Semitism, which *displaced and disfigured the assembly's identity, position and culture*. Simultaneously, it is restoring the Jewishness of our Hebraic Roots in each of these areas.

Picture, as an instance of this cultural anti-Semitism, the Hasidic Rabbi Sha'ul (Paul), a protégé of the famous Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), wearing a tallit (prayer shawl with tzitziyot (fringes)), peyos (sidecurls) and tefilin (leather boxes placed on one's arm and head) just like any other Orthodox Jew—since that was what he was. At the same time, contrast that picture of him with the common one: "the Apostle Paul" with a Mithraistic (sun-god worship) "Christian" halo around his head and being called "Saint" Paul by most Christian writers, and you will catch the inconsistency of the cultural anti-Semitism all at once! There are many examples of linguistic, cultural, and theological anti-Semitism in the Church today, and quite frankly we do not believe that YHWH is impressed with it.

Reviving the Roots today:

²² Relating to language or languages

Before the light of truth has been entirely extinguished; however, the ever-searching YHWH has always identified men and women whom He could call to renewal and restoration. Such is the case in the world today.

After centuries of Hellenisation and Latinisation that *replaced the gold and jewels of divine truth*, on which the Church was founded with the ornament and costume jewelery of human or even pagan tradition, *Believers by the millions today are demanding the restoration of the Hebraic foundations* of faith, practice, and discipline through which Y'shua and the apostles expressed their devotion to YHWH.

A profound movement of renewal is restoring to YHWH's people a passion for His Spirit and His truth. An over-Hellenised, over-Latinised Christianity is experiencing a re-Judaising process that is reattaching Christian faith to its Jewish and Hebraic Roots—this is a fact.

Our Calling is to Prepare a Hebrew Bride for the Hebrew Messiah

Believers are no longer content to follow blindly in the traditions of blind leaders of the past, and are consequently finding themselves in ditches of despair and confusion. They are searching the Scriptures for themselves like the noble Berean Jews.

How can we possibly worship YHWH Almighty in truth if we do not understand the Hebrew Roots? Worship is commonly defined as *"the act or feeling of adoration or homage; the paying of religious reverence as in prayer, praise, and so forth"*. It is derived from the Old English *worship*, the act of ascribing *"worth"* to someone or to some thing.

When we analyse the Hebrew and Greek words for worship however, we gain a somewhat deeper meaning of the act of worship. The Hebrew word for worship is *segad*, and it means to bow oneself down, to fall down flat, to reverence, or to do obeisance. It has the connotation of total submission to a superior (e.g., the king). The Greek translation of this word is *proskunéo*, and it means to prostrate oneself in homage or more graphically, to "kiss as a dog would lick its master's hand".

This is exactly what happened during worship ceremonies in the Temple area in biblical times. Men would lay flat on their faces before the Creator of the universe. Likewise today, YHWH is revealing His Word in a clarity not witnessed since the first century as Believers are recovering the faith of Y'shua and learning to be true worshippers by worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth, or in spiritual truth.

The more Christians discover the true Hebrew nature of their faith, the more they will be challenged to live according to the Scriptures.

It seems unbelievable that multitudes follow and serve "a God whom they do not know"—**not** by Name, **neither** by His True Will or Purpose! Therefore, Torah-observant Messianism is a "must" for every professing Believer on earth.

This emphasis on "Hebrew Roots" has, or should have, one glorious goal. That goal is to help the Body of Messiah attain a fuller understanding and appreciation of the Scriptures in depth, and to come to know our Messiah and Saviour intimately—as there is a Jewish wedding approaching. What higher goal can any of us have? Make sure you are part of it!

We Encourage fellow Believers to Wrestling with the Word

The medieval Jewish commentator, Rashi, wrote that the Hebrew word for wrestle (avek) implies that Jacob was "tied"; for the same word is used to describe knotted fringes (tzitzityot) in a Jewish prayer-shawl. Rashi says, *"thus is the manner of two [people] who struggle to overthrow each other, that one embraces [the other] and knots him with his arms."*

Our intellectual wrestling had been replaced by a different kind of struggle: "Wrestling with God." It is an intimate act, symbolizing a relationship in which God and I are bound together. My wrestling is a struggle to discover what God expects of me, and I am "tied" to the One who assists me in that struggle.

Israel means "Champion of God"; or rather "Wrestler of God".

Torah-observant Messianic Believers are encouraged to constantly challenge, question, argue rationally against, as well as examine alternative views and explanations of the Word. In other words, to "wrestle with the Word" to get to the truth.

Jews worldwide believe that you need to wrestle with the Word and constantly challenge dogma, theology, and views—or else you will never get to the truth. Jews' logic is based on the idea that when we sit around a table and look at a Coke bottle, not everybody sees the same detail on the bottle—yet it is the same bottle. Each person's view will differ and **must differ** to add to the full picture of the bottle. If we all have the same views

and opinions, then we become full of wisdom and knowledge, making us equal to YHWH—which we will never be!

We will always differ, and it is very healthy to reason with the Word—not with the person. This means, "help me to see what is on the other side of the Coke bottle".

This concept is vividly practiced amongst Jewish Scholars as well as Messianics and is demonstrated many times by Y'shua in the Bible. This is a thinking approach that is totally against the "one way traffic" of the Western Church—"The pastor talks and everyone listens" attitude. This is the very main reason why there are so many splits in the churches—there is no room for reasoning or to differ at all.

Our Language is the Messianic Vocabulary

Messianic terminology is used to express the biblical faith in the Messiah because such terminology was how the New Covenant faith was expressed in *its earliest stages*. Messianic Believers like talking about their faith in the Messiah in a manner *consistent with Jewish heritage and culture*. Belief in the Messiah is *consistent with being Jewish*. He is the fulfillment of YHWH's promises to Israel.

Using Messianic terminology imparts faith in Messiah to children, friends and family in a manner *consistent with Jewish heritage*. Messianic terms communicate biblical truth *without the negative baggage* of historical anti-Semitism. Terms we use:

Y'shua: *Y'shua* is the Messiah's name. *Y'shua* is a Hebrew word which has the root meaning *salvation*. "You shall call His name **Y'shua** [salvation]," a heavenly messenger said to Joseph, "because **He shall save His people from their sins**." Transliterated into Greek as *Iesous*, (Ιησους) this word was spelled *Jesus* when it was imported into English. Messianic Jews use *Y'shua* instead of *Jesus* because *Y'shua* is the name He likely would've been called when He walked the earth.

Through the centuries, Jewish people have suffered persecution "in the name of Jesus." Consequently, using the name "Jesus" brings to their minds hatred and anti-Semitism. On the other hand, the name *Y'shua* proclaims Messiah as a Jewish option for Jewish people, as well as for non-Jews. There are, however, different opinions as to how pronounce our Messiah's name, i.e. *Y'shua*, *Yeshua*, *Yashua*, *Yahshua*, *Yahshuah*, *Yehoshua*, and many more. We do not make a doctrine of how to

pronounce His name for one single reason: and that is, there are no vowels in Hebrew as it is a phonetic²³ language. Vowels were later put in to help us to pronounce the words. Y'shua's name is written only with four Hebrew letters: **ישוע** a Yod, Shin, Vaw, and Ayin. That is why we transliterate it to as close as possible to the original four letters as Y'-sh-u-a (Y'shua) and we leave it solely to the Believers as to how to pronounce it. Most Messianics pronounce it as Yeshua or Yahshua which we fully agree to.

Messiah: *Messiah* is used instead of *Christ*. *Messiah* is derived from the Hebrew word *Mashiach* (which means "anointed one"). *Christ* is the English equivalent of the Greek word *christos*, (which means "anointed one"). Jumping back over the Greek word to the use of the original Hebrew term is a way of emphasizing that the Messiah is for Jewish people and not exclusively for Gentiles. A second reason for using this term is that, as with the name Jesus, thousands and thousands (perhaps millions) of Jewish people have been persecuted and killed by those claiming to act on behalf of Christ – the Roman Catholics under the banner of Christianity. To Jewish people, the word Christ is not simply a non-Jewish word out of the Greek language. "Christ" is a word that carries anti-Jewish connotations.

Believer: Instead of the term "Christian," Messianic Believers use "Believer." To Jewish people, Christians are the people who have hated and persecuted Jews for two millennia. While it can be argued that the word Christian is a biblical one, it is used only three times in the New Covenant Scriptures (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16). An earlier term used for Y'shua's followers is "Believer." Believer can be used for those in Messianic circles as well as for those in traditional churches who truly believe in Y'shua and seek to follow Him. By using the term "Believer", focus is placed on a person's commitment to follow Elohim and away from the excess baggage of those who have called themselves Christians but who did not walk as He walked.

Messianic: Messianic refers to Jewish or Gentile Believers involved in Messianic congregations. Messianic Jews are those in Messianic congregations who are of Jewish descent. Messianic refers to that expression of the biblical faith which articulates itself in a Jewish manner.

Congregation/Assembly: Messianic congregations are not called churches. Jewish people often associate churches with anti-Semitism. In the past, and in some places today, anti-Semitism has come from those

²³ Meaning belonging to or associated with the sounds of human speech

who profess to be Believers, both from clergy and laity. *Ecclesia* refers to "people" and **not** to buildings. The term "congregation" has the same reference point. A synonym in the New Covenant for *ecclesia* is "synagogue" as it is used in James 2:1-6. There, it points to a *meeting of Believers*. For this reason, the term congregation, or even synagogue, is the most appropriate one to describe organized gatherings of Messianic Believers.

Covenant: This is a reference to testament in the sense of agreement or contract. Instead of saying Old Testament and New Testament, Messianic Believers refer to the two halves of the Bible as Older Covenant, or *TeNaCh* (its Hebrew name) and Newer Covenant, or *Brit Chadasha* (Hebrew for New Covenant).

Tradition: Jewish cultural and religious practices, whether in their original forms or adapted to reflect Messianic beliefs.

Liturgy: Jewish liturgical elements in both Hebrew and/or English which may be part of a Messianic worship service.

YHWH: The Tetragrammaton (four letters) is Elohim's name and is mentioned nearly 7,000 times in the Bible. It is seen translated as GOD or LORD all in capital letters in English Bibles. Pronounced by some as YaHWeH or YaHVeH as the third letter Vaw in the name can either represent a "V" or "W" phoenetic sound. Most top Jewish Scholars say it should accurately be pronounced as "YaHooVaH"—again, we do not make a doctrine about it. Some Messianic Believers substitute "-" for "o" in God and Lord, writing them as G-d and L-rd, or simply HaShem (The Name). They claim it is a sign of respect in Jewish culture, just as many Gentile Believers capitalize "G" in G-d and "L" in L-rd, even though there are no such capitalizations in the original texts of the Old and New Covenants. We, however, feel that YHWH's name must be used as He clearly instructs us so from a literal context: ***"I am YHWH: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."*** (Isaiah 42:8) ***and "The name of YHWH is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*** (Prov 18:10) ***and " And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, YHWH the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac, and the Elohim of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."*** (Exod 3:15).

The Prophets *had to swear* (speak truly, prophesy) in the name of YHWH continually, and the Bible is full of examples. The New Covenant also

instructs us not to swear "falsely" in YHWH's name that leads to a misunderstanding and distortion of Scripture.

The following terms evoke historic anti-Semitic images rather than reflecting a Jewish cultural expression. Therefore, most Messianic Believers do not use them.

Christian: *Christian* was first used to describe non-Jewish Believers in Antioch (as recorded to the book of Acts). Although the word *Christian* is used only three times in the New Covenant, it eventually wound up being the commonly used title for Gentile Believers. After the disappearance of ancient Messianic Judaism, *Christian* emerged as the primary title for members of believing congregations. Over the centuries, the term also became associated with those *who hate Jewish people* and *who have rejected everything Jewish*. Since *Christian* was (1) never directly used of Jewish Believers in Scripture, and (2) carries a negative historical reminder of anti-Semitism, the term *Messianic* or just *Believers* is used instead. This word identifies Jewish Believers as well as Gentile Believers as followers of the Messiah without the negative overtones which "Christian" has accumulated.

Conversion: To most Jewish people, *conversion* means turning away from being Jewish in order to become a Gentile (see above). Biblically, of course, conversion refers to repentance (i.e., turning to God). To communicate this same idea, in Messianic circles a person is said to have become a Believer, or has become Messianic.

Baptism: Messianic Jews and Gentiles speak of Believer's immersion. That's because *baptism* evokes memories of the forced conversions and baptisms perpetrated against Jewish people by anti-Semites. Horrible things, including forced baptisms, were done in the name of Jesus. Baptism is a symbol of joining a Christian or non-Jewish church. So, when Messianic Believers talk about the immersion of Believers, they call it Messianic Mikvah, an act with origins in ancient Jewish practice. Calling it *Mikvah* keeps the ritual from being linked to acts of anti-Semitism or other negative issues associated with the Christian Church. Saying *Mikvah* rather than *baptism* emphasizes the true Jewish roots of the faith and keeps this sacred act from being identified with people who have profaned the name of the Messiah by deeds contrary to His teaching.

Cross: To Jewish people, a cross calls up memories of persecution inflicted on them by people invoking Jesus' name and brandishing crosses. Messianic Believers prefer to focus on the real meaning of the Cross.

Thus, they call the place where the Messiah was sacrificed as the altar or execution stake. There are also pagan roots to the cross, which many messianic believers try to avoid by using the word "stake" instead.

Years as A.D. and B.C.: Dates are cited with the initials C.E. for "Common Era" or B.C.E. for "Before the Common Era." Jewish people prefer these neutral phrases instead of B.C. and A.D. initial meaning "Before Christ" and "In the year of our Lord."

Our approach to Scriptural Interpretation is Hebraic

With regard to the proper understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures in their proper context, including the "New Covenant" books, there are in fact "*levels*" of interpretation that *must be taken into consideration* which is beyond that of the Western way of thinking. This was the method used **to write and interpret Scripture** by the *authors themselves* as well as the *audience of their time and culture*. This was called PaRDeS interpretation.

PaRDeS is seen as peeling an onion with four layers, as seen in the "rules of PaRDeS interpretation". The four levels of interpretation are called: *P'shat* (Parshat), *Remez*, *D'rash* (Derash) & *Sud*. The first letter of each word P-R-D-S is taken and vowels are added for pronunciation, giving the word PaRDeS. PaRDeS means "*garden*" or "*orchard*", and therefore the Word of YHWH is seen as a "garden" with much fruit in it. Each layer of interpretation is deeper and more intense than the last, like the layers of an onion.

Level 1 - P'shat (*pronounced peh-shaht' - meaning "simple"*)

The p'shat is the plain, simple meaning of the text. The understanding of Scripture in its natural, normal sense using the customary meanings of the word's being used: *literary style, historical and cultural setting and context*. The p'shat is the *keystone* of Scripture understanding. If we discard the p'shat, we lose any real chance of an accurate understanding and we are no longer objectively deriving meaning from the Scriptures (exegesis²⁴), but subjectively reading meaning into the Scriptures (isogesis²⁵).

The Talmud²⁶ states that no passage loses its p'shat: "Rabbi Kahana objected to Mar son of Rabbi Huna: But does this refer to the words of the Torah? *A verse cannot depart from its plain meaning, he replied*"²⁷.

²⁴ Taking out of Scripture what YHWH intended meaning is

²⁵ Applying an outside meaning into the Scripture

²⁶ Jewish liturgy to explain the written Torah

²⁷ Talmud Shabbat 63a

Note that within the p'shat you can find several kinds of language; including figurative, symbolic and allegorical. The following generic guidelines can be used to determine if a passage is figurative and therefore figurative even in its p'shat: When an *inanimate object* is used to describe a *living being*, the statement is figurative. Example—Isaiah 5:7: "**For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant; and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.**"

When *life and action are attributed to an inanimate object*, the statement is figurative. Example—Zech 5:1-3: "**Then I turned, and lifted up my eyes, and looked, and behold a flying scroll. And he said to me, What do you see? And I answered, I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits. And he said to me, This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth; for everyone who steals shall be cut off henceforth, according to it; and everyone who swears falsely shall be cut off henceforth, according to it.**"

When an *expression is out of character with the thing described*, the statement is figurative. Example: Psalm 17:8: "**Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings...**" With this interpretation, we have looked at the top layer of the onion.

Level 2 - Remez (pronounced *reh-mez'* - meaning "hint")

This is where *another (implied) meaning is alluded to* in the text, usually revealing a *deeper meaning*. There may still be a p'shat meaning as well as another meaning, as any verse can have multiple levels of meaning. An example of implied "Remez" is Prov 20:10: "**Different weights, and different measures, both of them are alike an abomination to the Lord.** The p'shat would be concerned with a merchant using the same scale to weigh goods for all of his customers. The remez implies that this goes beyond this into *aspects of fairness and honesty in anyone's life*. With this, we have now peeled the onion and seen the second layer.

Level 3 - D'rash (pronounced *deh-rahsh'* also called "Midrash," meaning "concept")

This is a *teaching or exposition or application* of the P'shat and/or Remez. (In some cases, this could be considered comparable to a "sermon.") For instance, Biblical writers may *take two or more unrelated verses and combine them to create a verse(s) with a third meaning*. There are three rules to consider when utilizing the d'rash interpretation of a text:

A d'rash understanding *can not be used to strip a passage of its p'shat meaning* (1), nor *may any such understanding contradict the p'shat meaning of any other Scripture passage* (2). As the Talmud states, *"No passage loses its p'shat."* Let *Scripture interpret Scripture* (3). Look for the Scriptures themselves to define the components of an allegory. The primary components of an allegory represent specific realities. We should limit ourselves to these primary components when understanding the text. We have now peeled the onion to the third layer.

Level 4 - Sud (*pronounced either sawd, or sood [like "wood"] - meaning "hidden"*)

This understanding is the *hidden, secret or mystic meaning of a text*. An example most people are familiar with is Rev 13:18, regarding the "beast" and the number "666." With this we have reach the core of the onion, as there are no more layers after this.

Examples of PaRDeS from Matthew:

Examples of the Remez, D'rash and Sud, can be found in Matthew as follows: (Of course, the p'shat is throughout the text; and therefore we do not give examples here.) *Without knowledge and application of the rules of PaRDeS*, these verses would either not make sense or indicate an error on the part of the author:

Remez: Matt 2:15: *"Out of Egypt I called my son."* This is a quote from Hosea 11:1 that Matthew is applying to Y'shua. If we stuck to a literal exegesis only and researched the quote, we would have to accuse Matthew of improperly using Scripture—as Hosea is clearly speaking of the nation of Israel *and not the Messiah*. Matthew, however, is hinting (*a remez*) at the *relationship between Israel and the Messiah* in this and other verses he uses.

D'rash: Matt 18:18: *"..Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"* This is a verse that has been interpreted in numerous (incorrect) ways due to a lack of understanding that this is a *d'rash* concerning decisions (i.e., unforgiveness) one makes in their personal "walk with Elohim". This is called your *"halakha"* in Hebrew/Judaism.

Sud: Matt 26:28: *"Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, Drink from it all of you, This is my blood..."* Taken literally, this verse would not only be a violation of the Torah commandment against consuming blood, but along with other verses about eating Y'shua's flesh

(John 6:51-56), could be grounds for accusations of cannibalism. There is a far deeper, more mystical meaning here, *the sud*. No one of those who heard Him understood (John 6:52). Meaning the wine and bread are "emblems" of Y'shua's body and blood to be used as a remembrance of His atonement work He has done for us.

The Messianic Emblem and what it Represents (see front page)

Background:

This emblem has become known as the "Messianic Seal" and was used by Believers in Moshiach Y'shua in the first century Jerusalem. It was used in the Messianic Synagogue that was led by Ya'akov ben Yosef, the half-brother of Y'shua. The Seal was discovered on artifacts that were secretly excavated from what is known today as Mt. Zion prior to the 1967 six-day war, by a Greek Orthodox monk who was living as a solitary person in the Old City.

The Jewish artifacts were discovered in a cave near the Tomb of David in the Old City, which was apparently used by the Believers of Acts, the first "Church" at Yerushalayim. These artifacts were used for their mikvah (purification bath) and as a place for anointing with oil for healing. It is also speculated that new Believers were anointed with oil as part of their mikvah to symbolize the immersion of the Believer by the Ruach HaKodesh into the Body of Moshiach.

Layout:

The Seal consists of a Menorah (seven-branch lampstand) whose base is intertwined with the tail of a Fish, creating a Magen David, or Shield (Star) of David.

The Menorah reminds us of the Holy Temple (Exod 25:31-37) and conveys the message of hope and salvation associated with it. Seven is the number of perfection. Its seven-branched shape symbolizes the Tree of Life that stood in the middle of the Garden of Eden, and which will stand again in the New Yerushalayim, and carries the promise of eternal life. Its seven lamps which give the light in its fullest intensity symbolizes the light of YHWH. Assurance of YHWH's enlightening presence is in the middle of the New Yerushalayim (Zech 4:1-6; Rev 22:1-5). The Menorah also speaks to us of the light of Torah and the Righteousness of YHWH (Prov 6:23; 13:9; Psalm 36:9-10; 37:6; 119:105, 130; Job 29:3; Isaiah 2:1-5). It also reminds us that Yisra'el is called by YHWH to be a light to the Goyim (Gentiles/Nations) (Isaiah 42:6-7; 49:6; 6:1-5). The Gentiles must therefore also follow the Ancient Path and be grafted into the Olive Tree Israel (Rom

11), to benefit from the nutrition of the Roots. The menorah has been used as a symbol for Torah (Instructions or Teachings of the Law) from ancient times.

The Fish has been a symbol of Messianic Believers identity for nearly 2,000 years. Our Messiah first spoke to a small group of fishermen with the words: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt 4:18). The new disciples were quick to drop their nets to go and gather men for the Holy One of Israel because of the Hebrew Scripture: "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them..." (Jer. 16:16). The Fish has been a meaningful symbol of the followers of Y'shua who have been commissioned by YHWH to reveal His Grace.

The Star of David. For the past 2,000 years the Menorah has stood alone to represent the Torah and the Fish has been swimming on its own to represent Grace. In these last miraculous days, YHWH is restoring His truth to His people and we are seeing the two become one in Moshiach. We are to become one people, one body, and one faith. The Two Sticks of Ezekiel (chapter 37) are to become one in the hand of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. When Torah and Grace are in perfect balance (joined together), *only then* can they reveal the Star of David—the Son of David who is our Messiah and King. Did you know that the Star of David has been found as early as in the days of Moshe; in fact, it is dynamically found in the Tabernacle of Moshe. It is YHWH's signature in the Tabernacle—that is why Satan has tried to corrupt it via the Masons and the Occult (please see the Pictorial Powerpoint CD for this detailed teaching at the Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute's Online Shop). The Scripture, therefore, is clear: when Torah and Grace are in perfect harmony, only then are we doing what YHWH instructed. Y'shua is therefore the Link, the Bridge, the Star, which is the Door to this eternal truth. There shall come a *Star* out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel (Num 24:17). Y'shua said of Himself: I am the root and the offspring of David, the *bright and morning star* (Rev 22:16).

The Heart of YHWH:

The Messianic Seal and its recent discovery is revealing the original intent of YHWH for His People. Jews and Gentiles are to find their identity together as one people belonging to Moschiach. Y'shua is the Living Torah (in Hebrew, *devar*—the Word) made flesh who came to explain the Written Torah. And when He is lifted up, many Gentiles will come to the brightness of His rising and be captivated by the Grace and Mercy of the Holy One of Israel. The Gentile Fish is not to continue swimming on its own, but is to be caught for Moshiach.

In discovering the Hebraic roots of the faith, many Gentiles are finding themselves joined to the Chosen People—the Israel of YHWH. *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, "That at that time ye were without Messiah, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without YHWH in the world: But now in Messiah Y'shua ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Messiah" (Eph 2:11-13).*

The Fulfillment by Y'shua:

The Messianic Seal reveals YHWH's original intention for His people and what Messiah has accomplished for us: *"For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Eph. 14). Y'shua's death on the cross/tree "abolished in his flesh the enmity [the opposing of YHWH and one another], even the law of commandments contained in ordinances [dogma]; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto YHWH in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off [Gentiles/LoAmmi Israel], and to them that were nigh [Jews/Torah faithful Israel]. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers [without knowledge] and foreigners [of YHWH's Kingdom], but fellow citizens [same citizenship of the people consecrated unto YHWH—the chosen people] with the saints [Hebrews], and of the household [related by blood, kindred] of YHWH" (Eph 2:15-18).*

Y'shua did not abolish the Torah of YHWH. We need to heed His instructions and renew our minds to: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets" (Matt 5:17). Y'shua came to fulfill Torah by correctly interpreting it. The Torah represented by the Menorah will continue until as Y'shua says: "For verily [truthfully] I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law [Torah], till all be fulfilled [come to pass]". Many of the Torah's prophecies about Messiah, Israel and the Gentiles have not come to pass even today.*

Y'shua came to abolish only the *enmity* caused by man's sin and the wrong interpretations of Torah that opposed YHWH. The sin had separated man from YHWH. The wrong interpretations of Torah created isolationism instead of evangelism and withheld the goodness of YHWH's Word from others. It has always been the Father's intention for His Torah to be given to the nations/Gentiles as well as to Israel. Israel is to be a light (Menorah) to the nations. *"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory*

of YHWH is risen upon thee ... YHWH shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light" (Isaiah 60:1-3). (Please get the booklets Christian Foundational Teachings No. 4 Law and Grace and No. 6 How to apply the Torah.)

It is through the Torah that Y'shua is revealed. In Messiah's own words, He upholds Torah: *"For had ye believed Moses [Torah], ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings [Torah], how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:46).*

Conclusion:

The Menorah is a symbol for the Tree of Life. The pattern given to Moshe describes the Menorah as being fashioned of gold with almond buds upon its branches (Exod 25:33). At its roots we see the symbol for Moshiach in the Star of David "... *there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10).*

The Star of David is only displayed in the Messianic Seal when the Menorah and Fish come together. It does not and can not exist independently of the Torah and Grace symbols. The Star of David has six points to it representing the six days of creation. At the center of the perfectly balanced star, we find the Sabbath rest given to us as a free gift in Messiah. And His rest (Sabbath) is glorious.

The Fish, symbolizing Grace, needs to be caught on the Hebraic Roots of the faith. The swimming fish displayed by Christians is separated from the Jewishness of its Messiah. Fishers of men need to go forth and preach the gospel that will be received by the Jew first and then to the Gentile. Those who have been given the understanding of the Messianic Seal need to preach the good news of the Torah-Grace of YHWH available to whosoever will receive it. *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Messiah: for it is the power of Elohim unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [Gentile]" (Rom.1:16).*

The Menorah is steadfast and firm. Its symbolism is of eternal value, because it was created from the pattern of the heavenly. The Fish has mobility as long as it is swimming and on its own. When captured by Y'shua's fisherman, the Fish will lose its life in Messiah. *"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Matt 8:35).*

The Fish needs to come to the Menorah—the only way, the Ancient Path. In Ezekiel's Two Sticks, Ephraim (from the Church) is brought to Judah (from the Synagogue). *"Thus saith the Lord G-d; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand"* (Ezek 37:19). YHWH is doing this work of grafting all Believers in Y'shua into the same Olive Tree of Israel.

When the Star of David is in perfect balance between Torah and Grace, we see the truth of who Messiah is.

Should we Evangelize the Jews? (Not referring to "Israel" – the Northern Ten Tribes. See the booklet CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS No 2 Your Identity, a must to read)

We believe that it is **not** our responsibility to evangelize the Jews. YHWH has a dispensational plan with them which He confirmed in the *Torah* (First Five Books written by Moshe), the *Neviim* (Prophets), the *Chetuvim* (Writings) and *Brit Chadasha* (New Covenant):

Torah: Deut 29:4: *"Yet YHWH hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."*

Neviim: Isaiah 6:10: *"Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."* Isaiah 29:10: *"For YHWH hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."* Jer 5:21: *"Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:"*

Chetuvim: Psalm 69:23: *"Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake."*

Brit Chadasha: Rom 11:8, 10: *"(According as it is written, YHWH hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day ... Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."*

YHWH blinded them according to the Word and He will open their eyes Himself at the appropriate time. We cannot go against YHWH's plan and try to make His work undone. He has kept a remnant's eyes open in every generation: Rom 11:2-5: *"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh*

intercession to YHWH against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of YHWH unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." What we need to do is to pray for them: Psalm 122:6: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."

The Punchline:

Torah without Messiah, as taught in Rabbinic Judaism, does not reveal Y'shua to the world. Messiah's Grace without Torah as taught in Christendom does not reflect the reality of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

It is time the two voices for the Holy One of Israel unite as one. When they do, the beauty of Messiah will be revealed to both Houses of Israel (Judah and Ephraim) and to the Gentiles. The Messianic Seal reveals this message in its rich Biblical symbolism. Please proclaim the truth by wearing this emblem.

Status of Messianic Judaism

As of 2003, there were at least 150 Messianic congregations in the U.S. and over 400 worldwide. By 2008, the number of Messianics in the United States was around a quarter of a million. The number of Messianic Jews in Israel is reported to be anywhere between 6,000 and 15,000 members, including the mainly Messianic Jewish village of Yad HaShmona, near Jerusalem. There are 200 Messianic groups in Israel. By the time you have read this Booklet, these numbers will have increased significantly.

Why we Believe the Bible is the Inspired Word of YHWH

Logical reasoning:

- 1) The Word of YHWH, as given to us in the Bible, is a product of two free agents—human and divine.
- 2) Through (fallible) human authors, YHWH manifested the infallible and *errorless* writings, which convey His messages.
- 3) Why did YHWH choose to have humans write the Bible? Although YHWH is sovereign and can do anything by Himself, He chooses to have humans interact in His plan. This is one of the biggest differences between our religion and other religions; with YHWH reaching down to man, instead of man reaching up to Him.

- 4) The Bible was written by 40 men from geographically different areas over a period of 1,600 years; yet prophecies agree 100%.
- 5) Archaeological findings support the accuracy of the Bible—from ancient ruins to cities mentioned in Scripture. Thus, the Bible cannot be a "book of stories" or fables, as nobody can reason the archaeological findings away.

Scriptural proof:

- 1) The entire Bible is inspired by YHWH, not just partially. 2 Tim 3:16.
- 2) Since YHWH is truth (John 3:33, Rom 3:4), then what is breathed out by YHWH must also be true and infallible (John 17:17).
- 3) The process of inspiration is described in 2 Peter 1:21: *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of YHWH spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*
- 4) Examples of proof for the inspiration of the Bible is the fulfillment of the prophecies, particularly those relating to Y'shua: His birth—Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2; His crucifixion—Psalm 22:16-17, Isaiah 53:12; and His resurrection—Psalm 16:10, 22:22.
- 5) The Apostles also attested to the inspiration of the Scripture, in both the Old Covenant (Rom 3:2) and the New Covenant (2 Peter 3:15, 16). Moreover, they proclaimed their own writings as YHWH's words (1 Cor 14:37), and their messages also as YHWH's words (Gal 1:12; 1 Thes 2:13).
- 6) Y'shua never used Old Covenant events as if they were myths, legends or stories. On the contrary, their authenticity was essential to the point He was making. If Adam didn't really exist, then Y'shua's teaching on marriage falls to the ground (Matt 19:4-6). If David didn't really eat the showbread, then Y'shua's defense of His own similar action is left limping (Matt 12:1-4). If Jonah didn't really preach and Ninevah really repented, then Y'shua looks like a fool using this as an illustration of His own coming (Matt 12:41). Those who have a low view of the Old and the New Covenant will then make the Bible and our Lord appear naive.
- 7) This means that Y'shua's strongest statement about the complete trustworthiness of the Bible is then in John 10:35. In a discussion over His divinity, He cited Psalm 82:6 and then appended the fateful words, *"The Scripture cannot be broken."* Since Scripture cannot be broken, an appeal to all Scripture is final—it cannot be challenged or disproved or denied.

Undeniable facts:

- 1) There are 324 Messianic Prophecies (about Messiah Y'shua) in the Old Covenant: 65 on Y'shua's First Coming (His birth, life, death, and resurrection), and 259 on His Second Coming.
- 2) The First Coming of Y'shua already happened and all 65 Prophecies were fulfilled with unprecedented accuracy—the rest on His Second Coming will also be literally fulfilled.
- 3) No other religion in the world can claim this factual record of accurately fulfilled Prophecies.
- 4) The Bible, then, is our authority; precisely because it is not the word of man but of YHWH—the completely dependable Word of YHWH—the Word of Truth (John 17:17). Anyone who says "Y'shua is Lord", and yet belittles the Word of YHWH, is inconsistent and hypocritical. We demonstrate our submission to Y'shua's Lordship only by our absolute, unconditional surrender to the teachings of His Word.

Our Statement of Faith

- 1) We believe in the Bible, both the TaNaCh (Old Covenant) and the Brit Hadasha (New Covenant) is the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of YHWH (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- 2) We believe in one God, as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures. "*Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is **One**.*" (Deut 6:4 and John 10:30). We believe that the intended meaning of this word "one" as found in the Hebrew *echad*, means a "composite unity."
- 3) We believe that Y'shua is the Son of YHWH, the Messiah, the Eternal One in Whom all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and who is the Word who became flesh and dwelt amongst us, and whose glory we beheld, the glory of the uniquely begotten Son of YHWH, full of grace and mercy (John 1:1-14, Col 2:9).
- 4) We believe that the Spirit of YHWH comforts, teaches, leads, indwells and empowers all whom He regenerates (John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7-11, 13; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20, 12:13; Psalm 143:10; and many more).
- 5) We believe that all have sinned and have fallen short of the Glory of YHWH (Rom 3:23).
- 6) We believe that Y'shua's death and resurrection accomplished the atonement for all who would place their faith in Him. Whoever trusts in YHWH, in His work alone, is made a new creation in Messiah, indwelt

by the Spirit of YHWH, and is transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His own Son (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 5, 6).

- 7) We believe salvation is by faith through the grace of YHWH alone, and not by human efforts. One may not earn, merit, or keep this eternal salvation by his own efforts. A new creation is the work of YHWH alone (Eph 2:8-10; Rom 8:29-36).
- 8) We believe in the spiritual unity and equality of all Believers in Messiah Y'shua (Eph 2:11-22).
- 9) We believe in the continuity of YHWH's covenants with the physical people of Israel according to Jer 31:35-36 and parallel passages. Part of the fulfilment of these covenants is the physical return of the people of Israel to their Promised Land (Deut chap. 30).
- 10) We believe that all non-Jewish people who trust in Y'shua are grafted into Israel; and while this does not make them Jewish, they are granted the privilege of following the Torah (YHWH's Teachings and Instructions), having had it written upon their hearts as participants of the New Covenant (Rom 11:11-24; Jer 31:33).
- 11) We believe that the Torah (first five books of the Bible) is a revelation of the righteousness of YHWH and the description (along with the rest of the Scripture) of the lifestyle of the redeemed community (Matt 5:17-19; 2 Tim 3:16-17). We also believe that the Torah *can't* give you salvation. It was not designed for salvation but to point you to Messiah's atonement work on the crucifixion stake. In other words, it was designed by YHWH for *Correction, Protection, and Direction ONLY*.
- 12) We believe in the resurrection of both the wicked and the righteous. Those who have trusted in Y'shua will be resurrected unto life and those who died without having believed in Y'shua will experience eternal wrath of YHWH (Rom 1:18ff; 1 Cor 15; Rev 20-21).
- 13) We believe in a literal, physical return of Messiah Y'shua to rule and reign upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. (Zech 14; Rev 19-20, Lev chap. 23; Lev 8:33).

Who are we?

The Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute is a ground-breaking institution which challenge and provoke students to look at the 'roots' of their faith from a Hebraic perspective.

Our core value is to glorify Messiah Y'shua in every teaching that the student partakes of. In other words, the Old Covenant is used to explain the difficult Scriptures in the New Covenant. Hebraic Roots (Messianic Studies) is the means in which the Almighty is restoring the accurate interpretation of Scripture in these last days. The HRTI is a Mentoring Institution for Students who partake of informal studies, or who enrolled for formal studies.

The specialized programmes provided are of the most dynamic biblical truth teachings available globally and is aimed at exposing false doctrines. As a student, you can be part of this rapidly growing Institution.

Additional Vital Information to be Read

- 1) CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS (the full series, they are mind blowing!)
- 2) The Names of God
- 3) Pre-Tribulation Rapture or not? Etc.

Our Contact Details:

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Facebook Page: "Hebraic Roots Teaching Institute"

*Something mind-boggling is happening right now before our eyes!
What can only be seen as a sovereign work of the Ruach HaKodesh is breaking forth as Christians around the world are working to **return** to their **historical Hebrew foundation**. After being **stained** for more than eighteen centuries by Judaeophobia, anti-Judaism, and anti-Semitism, many Christians are being impacted by an unprecedented revolution of restoration. Scholars, clergy, and laity from virtually every nationality, ethnicity, and denomination are reconnecting their faith in Messiah Y'shua with its historical Hebraic Roots in the **Torah**. **HalleluYAH***

We inform – You choose²⁸

Never be guilty of: *"By your traditions you make the Word of God of non effect"*²⁹

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. Prov 25:25
Thank you that we may minister to you from the Southern point of Africa – population ratio-wise the largest group of Messianic Judaism followers in the world.

Contact us for **Distance Learning** in your **Own Time** from your **Own House**. You do it by submitting your **Assignments Electronically** to us in either one of the field of:

Hebraic Roots (Y'shua centered Messianic Studies),
Messianic Judaism (Y'shua centered Typology Studies),
Midrashic Eschatology (Jewish approach to End-Time Events),
Torah-Based Healing (Body, Spirit and Soul Counseling and Healing)
or various **other fields** from **Certificate to Doctorate**,
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That 'narrow way' is the path of Torah,
which is the mission of the Believer...
to continuously direct you to the Crucifixion Stake.

*"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things,
you develop the habit in little matters of Torah.*

***Excellence is not an exception,
it is a prevailing attitude."***

¹³ The truth of the Torah makes you see the mistranslations in the New Covenant. It's amazing how you can look at the epistles of Rabbi Paul one way and it looks like he's leading the body of Messiah away from Torah; when in reality, he's leading them **to** Torah. A paradox of vantage point. Let us remember, the intent of the law maker constitutes the law. We need to walk a mile or two in our Hebrew Messiah's shoes

²⁹ **Matt 15:3** *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?* **Matt 15:6** *And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.* **Mark 7:9** *And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition*

PLEASE BE SO KIND TO DISTRIBUTE A COUPLE OF THESE BOOKS
AS PART OF YOUR TITHING