

# What Is A Messianic Congregation?

By James King

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The word "Messianic" means "of or relating to the *Messiah*," which is a title that means "the anointed one." The Messiah is the prophesied deliverer of Israel, Yahshua (the actual, original name of Jesus—more on that later). Even though "Messiah" has essentially the same meaning as "Christ," we prefer to use "Messiah" because it is the English form of the older Hebrew word "mashiyach," while "Christ" is derived from the Greek word "Christos," which came into use centuries later when Scripture was translated from the original Hebrew into Greek. Using the term "Messianic" instead of "Christian" emphasizes the Hebrew roots of our faith.

**A Messianic congregation recognizes that religion which is based on faith and belief in the Creator of the universe as described in the Bible and in His Son is now and always was Hebraic (of the Hebrews), and should still be based on study and personal application of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) as well as the New Testament.** Contrary to popular belief, the New Testament did not replace the older Scriptures but is actually a continuation, built on its foundation, the historical account of Israel told by Moshe (Moses) and the writings of the Hebrew prophets. Again, there will be more on this later. The first believers were Hebrew-speaking Jewish people who accepted Yahshua as their prophesied Messiah. Their religion was not considered a new one, but rather a development within the religion of the Israelites (Judaism), and eventually came to be called Messianic Judaism. Today Messianic congregations may include both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews).

## The Real Names of Our Creator and the Messiah

Before explaining Messianic beliefs let us consider what names we use for our Creator and His Son. The Bible asks us if we know their names:

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

**What is his name, and the name of his son?**

Tell me if you know! (Proverbs 30:4, NIV).

Our Father in heaven has a name that He chose for Himself, and according to the original Hebrew Scriptures His name is not "the LORD" or "God." We must remember that the Scriptures were written in Hebrew, not in English. The English equivalent of His actual name in the original Hebrew language is YHWH or YHVH (ancient Hebrew writing did not use vowels the way English does). This name appears in the original Hebrew Scriptures over 6500 times! Numerous scholars, both religious and secular, and most encyclopedias confirm that YHWH is His original Hebrew name. Filling in the missing vowels for easier reading and pronunciation results in "Yahweh," usually pronounced *yah-way*. Most scholars agree on this pronunciation.

Why do English language Bibles say "the LORD" or "God" instead of "Yahweh"? In the third of the Ten Commandments, our Creator forbids misusing His name (taking His name "in vain" in the King James Version). Long ago, back in Bible times, some devout Hebrews had a great fear of violating this command and became afraid to even attempt to pronounce it in fear of mispronouncing the name, so when reading the Scriptures aloud if they came to the name YHWH they would substitute the word "Adonai," a Hebrew word that means "my sovereign master." They simply wanted to avoid the possibility of violating the sacredness of His name by mispronouncing it. They came to regard the name Yahweh as being too sacred to pronounce, so to be safe, they substituted other names such as "Adonai." (This reasoning is curious--how is it possible to '*call upon the name of Yahweh*' as advised in numerous passages of Scripture if one isn't allowed to even speak His name?) This practice eventually became a tradition that is still followed today. The King James Version of the Bible (the first major English version) in the year 1611 incorrectly translated YHWH to "the LORD" or "God" and in a few instances "Jehovah" (a mistranslation of "Yahweh"). Most modern English Bible versions and translations still follow the tradition of using "the LORD" or "God" in place of "Yahweh."

What is wrong with this tradition? **It is improper and inappropriate to translate a personal name into another language**, especially the sacred name of our Creator. For example, even though the Italian name "Guiseppe"

corresponds to "Joseph" and "verde" is the Italian word for "green," an American named Joseph Green visiting Italy would not be called "Guisepe Verde." Ariel Sharon is still Ariel Sharon in any country or language. Your name would be the same no matter what part of the world you visit. If you were discussed on television or radio in a foreign country your name would be pronounced as it is at home. If you were written about in newspapers or magazines in another language your name would stay the same. **Personal names of specific individuals should be transliterated, not translated.** In other words, personal names should still retain the original pronunciation as much as possible while using the alphabet characters of the second language. Biblical scholars began again to use the original name "Yahweh" in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and in recent years new Bible versions have begun to be printed that restore the original sacred names.

In Scripture our heavenly Father Yahweh also sometimes refers to Himself by another word: "Elohim," sometimes abbreviated to "El." (Technically, "Elohim" is the plural form of "El" but is frequently used in a singular sense.) "Elohim" is not a name, but rather a title. The most common meanings are "mighty one" and "ruler." Sometimes His sacred name and this title are used together, as in "Yahweh your Elohim," commonly but incorrectly translated in most Bibles as "the LORD, your God." At other times He uses the word "Elohim" alone. Generally, whenever our Father's name is used, it should be "Yahweh," but when we speak of "my god," "our god," "the god" or "your god" then the original Hebrew word "Elohim" is preferred instead of "god." After this point in this article "Yahweh" will be used for our Father's name. Because it is familiar to most readers, the New International Version of the Bible is used for Scripture quotations except where noted, and these quotations are edited to use His original sacred Hebrew name "Yahweh" instead of the "the LORD" or "God" when used as a name, "Elohim" instead of "God" when used as a title, "Yahshua" instead of "Jesus," and "Master" instead of "Lord." Also, in New Testament quotations, "Christ" is rendered as "Messiah."

*Note: in Scripture quotations the words of Yahweh and Yahshua will appear in italics.*

The Bible tells us His name, considers it sacred and says we should use it and we should call on His name:

*"I am Yahweh; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols" (Isaiah 42:8).*

*"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says Yahweh, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me" (Malachi 2:2).*

In that day you will say: "Give thanks to Yahweh, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted" (Isaiah 12:4).

*"They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'Yahweh is our Elohim'" (Zechariah 13:9).*

Let them know that you, whose name is Yahweh — that you alone are the Most High over all the earth (Psalms 83:18).

*"Therefore I will teach them — this time I will teach them my power and might. Then they will know that my name is Yahweh" (Jeremiah 16:21).*

I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word (Psalms 138:2).

Perhaps you have read or recited "The Lord's Prayer" at some time in your life. Yahshua was teaching his followers how to pray and used it as an example. It begins with these words:

*"Pray then in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name'" (Matthew 6:9, NAS).*

Do you know what "hallowed be Thy name" means? It means "may your name be honored and kept holy." How could we possibly honor His name and keep it holy without using the sacred name that He calls Himself?

The third of the Ten Commandments tells us to not misuse His name:

*"You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your Elohim, for Yahweh will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" (Exodus 20:7).*

This commandment is repeated in Leviticus 22:32:

*"Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am Yahweh..." (Leviticus 22:32).*

We should use His real name, and we should use it with reverence. Accepting and using a substitute for His sacred name is not using His name as He intended; it is changing His name from what He calls Himself in Scripture. Yahweh considered His name important enough to include it in the Ten Commandments and He considered it important enough to include a warning that we will not be held "guiltless" if we break it. We have no authority to rename our Heavenly Father; it is simply wrong to try to do this. And just in case you think that these verses apply only to Hebrews, see what the Bible says about our Creator's name and Gentiles (anyone who is not an Israelite):

*"For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations." says Yahweh of hosts (Malachi 1:11, NKJV).*

(Yahweh speaking to Ananias about the Apostle Paul) *"Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15).*

What about the name of His son, the Messiah? The actual, original name of the Messiah is "Yahshua" (sometimes spelled Yeshua). The first three letters of His name ("Yah") frequently appears in Scripture as a shortened form of "Yahweh"; the name "Yahshua" literally means "Yahweh is salvation." The Bible declares that both the name of Yahweh and the Son's name are above all names (see Philippians 2:9, Nehemiah 9:5); the name "**Yahshua**" complies with both verses. "Jesus" is an incorrect translation of His name resulting from being translated from Hebrew to Greek ("Iesous"), then to Latin ("Iesus") and then to English. Remember, **names of specific individuals should not change from one language to another**. He was Jewish and His name is Hebrew, and it should be used in its original form.

### **All Believers Become Part of Israel**

The first believers were Jewish, and the Bible was written mostly by and for Hebrews. Therefore, understanding Jewish things helps us to better understand the Bible. History and Scripture show that early non-Jewish believers ("Gentiles") worshipped in Jewish ways along with Jews in Jewish synagogues and led a lifestyle of obedience to the commands of the Hebrew Scriptures. According to the New Testament, **Gentile believers enter into a covenant relationship with Yahshua and become part of Israel:**

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth... remember that at that time you were separate from Messiah, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without Yahweh in the world. But now in Messiah Yahshua you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Messiah. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with Yahweh's people and members of Yahweh's household... (Ephesians 2:1-13, 19).

If you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).

The New Testament also teaches in the book of Romans that **Gentile believers become part of Israel** by being "grafted in" to the "cultivated olive tree" which symbolizes the nation of Israel. Israelites who did not accept the Messiah were "cut off"; the Apostle Paul hoped they would become envious of the Gentile believers and then

accept the Messiah. At the same time, he warned the Gentiles that Yahweh would cut them off if they did not continue in their faith:

I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them...If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if Yahweh did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of Yahweh: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for Yahweh is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! (Romans 11:13-14, 17-24).

### **All Believers Enter Into a Covenant with Yahweh**

Eternal life is given to us when we repent of sin and accept Yahshua as the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh, who paid the sin-debt (death) for those who repent and believe in Him. **Understanding that repentant Gentile believers actually become part of Israel should help us to properly understand our relationship with Yahweh; when we attach ourselves to the Hebrew Messiah, we enter into the covenant (agreement, contract) between Yahweh and His people, Israel. Our obedience to His eternal commandments is part of that covenant.**

### **Messianic Believers Study both the Torah (Old Testament) and the B'rit Hadash (New Testament)**

Although the entire Bible is studied and taught in Messianic congregations, there is a special focus on the "Torah," the first five books of the Bible. The Torah is Yahweh's teaching and instruction for His people and it teaches us how to live long, healthy, productive lives that honor Him through obedience to His commandments. The Torah, along with the Writings and the Prophets make up the "Tanach" (the Old Testament), and this is the Bible that Yahshua believed and taught. Many people call it "the Law," which unfortunately suggests a negative connotation that was not intended or understood by the Hebrews. The Apostle Paul in the New Testament wrote the following about the Bible (keep in mind that at the time he wrote this the Old Testament is the only Bible that existed):

All Scripture is breathed by Elohim and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for setting straight, for instruction in righteousness... (2 Timothy 3:16, The Scriptures).

The greatest command to us in Scripture is stated in both the Torah and in the New Testament:

Love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:5).

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Yahshua replied: "*Love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*" (Matthew 22:36-37).

So how should we show our love for Yahweh? Yahshua repeatedly taught (in the New Testament, of course), as did the Apostle John, that we should show our love for Him **by obeying His commandments**:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15, NKJV).

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (John 14:21).

Yahshua replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23).

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love" (John 15:10).

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

This is love for Yahweh: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome... (1 John 5:3-4).

Scripture clearly states that the greatest commandment is to love Yahweh with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, which we obey by observing ALL His commandments. **Scripture says repeatedly that we if we love Yahweh we will obey His commandments and receive favor and blessings from Him through this obedience:**

Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land Yahweh your Elohim gives you for all time (Deuteronomy 4:40).

If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then Yahweh your Elohim will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers. He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land — your grain, new wine and oil — the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give you. You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be childless, nor any of your livestock without young. Yahweh will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you (Deuteronomy 7:12-15).

If you fully obey Yahweh your Elohim and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, Yahweh your Elohim will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey Yahweh your Elohim... (Deuteronomy 28:1-2).

Blessed are all who fear Yahweh, who walk in his ways (Psalms 128:1).

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble (Psalms 119:165).

**If we genuinely love Yahweh, we will want to please Him by doing what He instructs us to do in His word.** We need to study and learn which commandments we are able to comply with (some could only be obeyed in the temple in Jerusalem and cannot be obeyed at this time). If we refuse to be obedient to His teaching, we have not truly submitted to Him and we put our eternal destiny in jeopardy:

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, Yahweh's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Yahshua did (1 John 2:3-6).

(Yahshua speaking): "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Master, Master,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:21-23, NKJV).

You may have heard that the commandments have been abolished; here is what Yahshua himself says about it:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill\* them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19).

\*"Fulfill" here means: to "make full" the meaning, to bring a fuller understanding, to rightly interpret, to make clear, to reveal the full depth of meaning that was intended. Please notice that only three words earlier Yahshua said He did NOT come to abolish the Law, referring to the Torah. Contrary to what you may have been taught, the Torah has NOT "passed away" or been abolished; heaven and earth have not disappeared. Yahshua's fulfilling of the Torah does not do away with our need to obey it. The Apostle Sha'ul (Paul) confirmed this in several passages in the New Testament book of Romans:

Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith (Romans 1:5).

Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law (Romans 3:31).

So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good (Romans 7:12).

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in Elohim's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous (Romans 2:13-14).

### **Messianic Believers Worship on the Sabbath (Seventh Day)**

Messianic believers worship on the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week, not the first) as instructed in the fourth of the Ten Commandments:

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yahweh your Elohim. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11).

Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of Yahweh, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies. There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to Yahweh'" (Leviticus 23:1-3).

**Scripture plainly states that the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. This is the same day that Yahshua and the apostles observed and taught others to observe, as shown by the following verses:**

Yahshua left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed (Mark 6:1-2).

He (Yahshua) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read (Luke 4:16).

Then he (Yahshua) went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people (Luke 4:31).

On a Sabbath Yahshua was teaching in one of the synagogues... (Luke 13:10).

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and

sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak" (Acts 13:13-15).

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath (Acts 13:42).

As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures... (Acts 17:2).

Every Sabbath he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks (Gentiles) (Acts 18:4).

So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of Yahweh. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as Yahweh did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that none will fall... (Hebrews 4:9-11, NASU).

**The day of worship was never changed to Sunday in Scripture.** Believers began observing Sunday in the second century to disassociate themselves from the Sabbath-keeping Jews. Roman Emperor Constantine made it "legal" to worship on Sunday in the year 321 CE, declaring it the official day of rest in the Roman Empire. Many believe that the change was made to further differentiate Gentile Christians from the Jews who were hated by that time, and to make it easier for pagans and cult members who worshipped the sun on Sun-day to convert to Christianity without having to change their day of worship. In the article "Sunday," The Encyclopaedia Britannica, seventh edition, 1842, it says: "It was Constantine who first made a law of the proper observance of Sunday; and who, according to Eusebius, appointed that it should be regularly celebrated throughout the Roman Empire." From *Forerunner Commentary*: "In 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea, the Roman Emperor Constantine changed the official day of worship of the Roman Empire from the Sabbath, which was kept by the New Testament church, to Sunday, in order to appease the sun-worshipping pagans...This was done with the acceptance of the Church, but it was the Roman emperor who made it into law, and thousands of people were put to death for observing the Sabbath instead of Sunday." This change was formalized and made official by the Catholic Church Council of Laodicea in 364 A.D. The Roman Catholic Church fully admits that the establishment of Sunday as a "Holy Day" is completely their act. This change was accepted by most Protestant groups and denominations. However, we should follow the Bible's commands and examples rather than the changes made by men. Note also that, according to the Hebrew calendar (and Scripture), the Sabbath begins at sundown Friday and ends at sundown Saturday. Some Messianic groups assemble on Friday night instead of Saturday morning. Either way, they are meeting on the Sabbath.

### **Messianic Believers Use the Original Hebrew Names of People and Bible Books**

In a Messianic assembly often the original Hebrew names of people in the Bible and the original Hebrew names of Bible books are used instead of the English names. Usually a Jewish version of Scripture (such as the Complete Jewish Bible) is used for Scripture. The main difference is that most of the proper names of our Creator, the Messiah, people and places appear in the Hebrew form rather than the English translations that appear in the Bibles used in most Catholic and Protestant churches. For example, "Moshe" is used instead of "Moses."

### **Messianic Believers Worship in Jewish Ways**

Messianic congregations typically embrace many Jewish elements in worship such as Jewish songs, dancing during the praise and worship music, Jewish articles of clothing such as a kippah (Jewish hat), tzitzit (tassels), or tallits (prayer shawls), and Jewish rites such as the "blessing of the children" and the "blowing of the shofar" (an ancient musical instrument made from the horn of a ram). Also included are things that are familiar to most believers like popular praise and worship music, prayer requests, praise reports, and a sermon based on that week's Bible reading. In a Messianic assembly you may see both Jews and non-Jews worshipping together as one people; all who have repented of sin and profess faith in Yahshua are welcome to come together as one to learn about the things of Yahweh and what He wants for us, His people of Israel, whether natural-born Jews or Gentiles who are grafted in.

### **Messianic Believers Observe Yahweh's Holy Days**

Yahweh's annual Holy Days (holidays, or festivals) are observed by Messianic believers. These include Pesach (Passover), Chag Hamotzi (Feast of Unleavened Bread) Bikkurim (Feast of Firstfruits), Shavu'ot (Pentecost or Feast of Weeks), Rosh Hashana (Feast of Trumpets), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths). These are His Holy Days that He appointed for His people to observe. They are all commanded and described in Leviticus 23.

In conclusion, here is a brief summary of the points of this article. Messianic believers will do the following:

- **Repent of sin and profess faith in Yahshua as Messiah, who shed His blood to redeem and save us**
- **Use the original Hebrew sacred names for our Creator (Yahweh) and the Messiah (Yahshua)**
- **Assemble for worship and teaching on the Sabbath as the Bible commands, not on Sunday**
- **Include Jewish elements of worship (music, blessing of the children, blowing of the shofar, clothing)**
- **Observe Yahweh's Holy Days (feasts, festivals) as commanded and described in Leviticus 23**
- **Study the Torah (the first five books of the Bible and the foundation of all Scripture), Yahweh's teaching and instruction for us, using a Jewish or "Sacred Names" version of Scripture**
- **Try to obey the commands in the Torah as well as the B'rit Hadasha (New Testament) to show our love for Yahweh and to receive His blessings**

*Worship with us at each Sabbath at 10:00 a.m.*

*Fellowship lunch followed by Bible study and discussion ("midrash") after the service  
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## Mayim Hayim Beit Midrash

(Living Water House of Study)

Rabbi Earl Walters, Pastor

## GLOSSARY of some common Messianic/Hebrew/Jewish terms

**Adonai**...master, not a proper name but a title indicating sovereign nature

**Baruch**...blessed

**B'rit Hadashah**...the writings of the apostles after Messiah came (commonly referred to as the "New Testament")

**Day of Atonement**...see Yom Kippur

**El**..."Mighty One." Not a proper name but a title indicating greatness, strength, or deity, frequently used to show the Creator's superiority. Usually refers to Yahweh, but sometimes to rulers, men.

**Elohim**...plural of **El**. Its use in Genesis 1:1 shows that Yahweh was not alone in creation, that Yahshua existed from the beginning (Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16) Also sometimes is used in the sense of *deities*, whether true or false.

**Feast of Unleavened Bread**...feast that follows Pesach (Passover)

**Feast of Firstfruits**...Pentecost, a time to remember our covenant with Yahweh.

**Feast of Tabernacles**...see Sukkot

**Feast of Trumpets**...this feast pictures the return of Yahshua "at the last trump" and the events surrounding His return. (Leviticus 23:24, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:52)

**Last Great Day**...immediately follows the Feast of Tabernacles and represents the great white throne judgment when Yahweh judges the people of the world according to their works (Leviticus 23:39, John 7:37-39, Revelation 20:11-13)

**Messiah** (from the Hebrew Moshiah (or Mashiach), meaning "the anointed one") is a human descendant of King David, who will rebuild the nation of Israel and restore the Davidic Kingdom; thus bringing world peace. Yahshua (Jesus) is the Messiah.

**Midrash**...discussion of Scripture

**Mitzvot** (plural)...Yahweh's commandments (or man's obedient deeds done in submission and willingness). General principles for living and good deeds. Singular form is **Mitzvah**.

**Moshe**...Moses

**Parashah/Parsha**...Torah portion. The Torah is divided into portions, one to be read and studied each week.

**Pesach**...the Passover, Yahweh's holy day that occurs once each spring in remembrance of the passing over of the angel of death in Egypt and also of Messiah's death. Immediately followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (Leviticus 23:5-6, Matthew 26:18, Acts 20:6)

**Passover**...see Pesach.

**Pentecost**...the third high or annual Sabbath 50 days after Pesach (Passover). A time to remember our covenant with Yahweh. Also known as the Feast of Firstfruits. (Leviticus 23:15-17, Acts 2:1, 20:16, 1 Corinthians 16:8)

**Ruach**...spirit

**Ruach HaKodesh**...Yahweh's spirit, the Holy Spirit

**Sabbath/Shabbat**...the seventh day of the week, the day Yahweh commanded us to remember and keep holy in the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment. (See Exodus 20:8-10, Leviticus 23:3, Hebrews 4:9-11)

**Sage**...a mentor in spiritual and philosophical topics who is renowned for profound wisdom

**Shabbat**...see Sabbath

**Shalom**...peace

**Sha'ul**...Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles

**Sukkot**... name of the festival that commemorates the Israelites' wanderings in the desert after leaving Egypt...The Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. (Leviticus 23:34, John 7, Acts 18:21)

**Tallit**...Prayer shawl with ceremonial fringes or tassels (tzitzit) on four corners

**Talmud**...an authoritative record of rabbinic discussions on Jewish law, ethics, customs, legends and stories. It is a fundamental source of legislation, customs, case histories and moral exhortations. The Talmud comprises two components, the Mishnah and the Gemara.

**Tanakh**...the Jewish bible, consisting of the Torah, Prophets and Writings (commonly referred to as "The Old Testament")

**Torah**...a Hebrew word meaning Yahweh's teaching and instruction. It primarily refers to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (the first section of the Tanakh).

**Tzitzit (plural tzitziyot)**...Ceremonially knotted fringes or tassels to be worn on all four-cornered garments

**Yahweh**...our heavenly Father's actual name. His name is not "God." His original Hebrew name is YHWH (or YHVH), usually written and pronounced "Yahweh." ("Jehovah" is a 17<sup>th</sup> century mistranslation of His name.)

**Yahshua**...the original Hebrew name of our Messiah. "Jesus" is the English form of the Greek "Iesous." The true and proper form is the original Hebrew name, Yahshua (sometimes spelled Yeshua).

**Yom Kippur**...this solemn observance reminds us of the covering of our sins by the blood of the Lamb. A special day in which we take in no food or drink for 24 hours. Also known as the Day of Atonement. (Leviticus 23:27, Acts 27:9)