

## What is Messianic Judaism?

Messianic Judaism is a movement of Jewish and Gentile people from all walks of life, who believe that Yeshua (Jesus in Hebrew) is the promised Jewish Messiah and Savior for Israel and the world. Messianic Jews have not stopped being Jewish or “converted to Christianity”. On the contrary, they have continued to remain strongly Jewish in their identity, lifestyle and belief that Yeshua is the Jewish Messiah and the fulfillment of true *Biblical or some may say Apostolic Judaism*.

## What is the difference between Messianic Judaism and Rabbinic Judaism?

Rabbinic Judaism is a Judaism centered around the teachings and writings of Rabbis. Its formation began over 1,900 years ago when the second temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. Before then, “Judaism,” or the faith of the Jewish people, was centered around the Temple, Sacrificial System and Priesthood according to the Torah (the Law or the five books of Moses). After the destruction of the temple the Rabbis reorganized Judaism, adding many new laws, rules and traditions. Today, their writings and commentaries (the Talmud, etc) form the foundation of Rabbinic Judaism.

Rabbinic Judaism consists of several branches: Orthodox (very traditional), Chasidic (Ultra-Orthodox), Reform (liberal) Conservative, and Reconstructionist. Some within Rabbinic Judaism are still looking for the Messiah, but they are the exceptions.

Messianic Judaism differs in that true believers rely on the Scriptures ... The Written Torah. The faith is the Judaism of the Bible ... of the Apostles and first century disciples (talmidim) and is centered around Messiah Yeshua and

the worldwide salvation He brings. We in Messianic Judaism believe that Yeshua is the promised Messiah and that we don't have to go through a formal chain comprised of Sages or the Rabbis to know G\_D. We have access to G\_D because of the great atoning work of the Messiah Yeshua, who has fulfilled the Torah and us as believers and therefore has fulfilled our Judaism.

Naturally as was the case with Biblical or Apostolic Judaism however ... the Messianic movement does indeed have Rabbis/Teachers/Shepherds who, in the Spirit of the "Great Commission" live and foster a life that is Torah centric ... to groom disciples for the purposes of reconciling people and all of creation back to G\_D through Mashiach Yeshua.

### When did Messianic Judaism begin?

Messianic Judaism is actually 2,000 years old, dating back to the time of the Messiah Yeshua. Historically, Yeshua was Jewish. He was raised in a Jewish home and ministered to Jewish people in a Jewish land (Eretz Yisrael). His disciples were Jewish. The apostles were Jewish. The writers of the Brit Chadashah (New Covenant or New Testament) were Jewish, and for a time, the faith was strictly Jewish. Even the "Great Commission" ordained to the Apostles was done so within the auspices of the Everlasting Covenant and a traditional Jewish Rabbinical framework. "Go and make disciples/talmidim of the Nations" declared Yeshua. The entire spread of Gospel itself was predicated upon the traditional Jewish evangelical model.

Some historians conjecture that more than one million Jewish people in the first century A.D. believed that Yeshua was the Messiah of Israel.

If Messianic Judaism was strictly Jewish at first how did Gentiles come into the faith?

It was always G\_D's will for the Gentile nations to also receive His Salvation. G\_D told Abraham, that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. At first, the early Messianic Jews did not understand that this was G\_D's will and proclaimed the Good News of the Messiah only to Jewish People. Ironically, the big controversy in the first century was not if it was Jewish to believe in Yeshua (naturally it was) but whether Gentiles could come in without having to "become Jewish!"

When Messianic Jews finally recognized that G\_D's Salvation was also for the Gentiles, they began to share the Messiah with non-Jews as well as with Jews. As a result, many Gentiles throughout the Roman Empire began to come into this Messianic faith.

How was first century Messianic Judaism "transformed" into Gentile Christianity?

When the early Messianic Jews took the Good News of the Messiah to the Gentiles, a great number were brought into the Messianic faith. By the end of the first century CE., the number of Gentile believers even outnumbered the Jewish believers by a ratio of two to one! This occurred primarily because there were (and still are) more Gentiles in the world than Jewish people.

Beginning in the middle of the second century there began movements from various Gentile contingents that sought to move away from traditional Judaism for a variety of reasons.

Many Gentiles did not like the idea that the mainstream Jews continued to “reject Yeshua as Messiah”. (Resentment)

Many Gentiles did not like the idea that the early faith in Messiah was “Jewish centric” and therefore alien to their Gentile ways. (Foreign)

Many Gentiles did not like the idea that the traditional Jewish believers were the leaders in most communities due to their Hebraic roots and knowledge of Holy Scripture. (Envy)

On top of these issues the early faith was consistently under pressure from Roman and even Persian persecutions. These persecutions resulted in most of the movement's Jewish and learned Gentile leadership being martyred. Through the years, as the number of Gentile believers increased, they ultimately began to dominate this Messianic faith. Some Gentile believers, not understanding the Jewish roots of their faith and G\_D's eternal covenant with Israel, wanted to split off and form a separate religion divorced from their Jewish roots. This historically documented “de-Judaizing process” continued until Gentile Christianity emerged as the dominant representative faith in the Messiah. Christianity was essentially assimilated into the Roman Empire as its official religion and by the fourth century had replaced formal “Paganism”!

In one of the greatest paradoxes in history, it became alien for a Jew to believe in Yeshua as his Messiah! This separation was taking place between 100 CE and 300 CE and finally concluded when Emperor Constantine essentially mandated the removal of Jewish religious aspects from the faith in the first quarter of the 4th century.

## What is the difference between Messianic Judaism and Gentile Christianity?

Christianity in general is the faith in Yeshua (Jesus) as expressed by Gentile followers of Him. Gentile Christianity today numbers over two billion people in the world, with innumerable denominations and doctrines (35,000 and growing), all centered to some extent around Jesus (Yeshua) as Savior.

So while we feel we are one in the Spirit and share some core theology with those true born again Gentile believers, Messianic Judaism has its own expression of faith in Yeshua the Messiah. Messianic Judaism holds that it is most assuredly Jewish to believe in Yeshua and is a return to the Biblical roots of the faith. We uphold the eternal Torah and live a Torah centric lifestyle. We observe the Biblical feasts and holidays, We observe a Biblical ordained diet ... while at the same time maintaining that the only way to be saved and truly born again of G\_D's Spirit is through the great atoning work (grace) of the Messiah Yeshua.

Perhaps of greater distinction however is the Messianic Jewish world-view which is thoroughly distinct from Christianity. Messianic Judaism has a unified and holistic world-view and does not hold to the traditional Greek/Hellenistic view which is essentially a dualist perspective. In plain terms the unified holistic view does not rationalize the creation, faith or practical living in terms of opposing Earthly vs. Heavenly or Physical vs. Spiritual constructs as does the Greek mindset ... and Christian movement. Ultimately then the Messianic perspective views all things in the here and now ... all things as one in Mashiach ... and we don't look forward to Heaven because the Kingdom is here now ... and it will be here now even fuller when Yeshua returns.

So ... it would appear that Messianic Judaism, aside from acknowledging Yeshua as Mashíach of Israel and all humanity ... and as Son of G\_D, shares very little in common with Christianity.

### When did the early Messianic Jews disappear and why?

Surprisingly, Messianic Judaism continued to flourish well into the seventh century CE, in spite of the many pressures on the Jews to give up their Messianic faith. First of all, the mainstream Jewish Rabbis pressured Messianic Jews to relinquish their faith in Yeshua as the Messiah. In addition, Gentile Christianity wanted Messianic Jews to abandon their Jewishness/Hebraic roots. Finally, in the seventh century A.D. the rise of Islam caused great pressure for Messianic Jews as well.

Despite all this, the real reason for the disappearance of early Messianic Judaism was simply that Messianic Jews lost their "vision." They no longer saw that it was important to remain Jewish after accepting Yeshua. This was because the majority of believers in Yeshua were now members of Gentile Christianity. Consequently, Messianic Jews assimilated into the Gentile Christian Church. And for those that would not assimilate? There is a long history of Jewish persecution by the church and of course this would have only fostered even more separation and resentment.

### When did the modern movement of Messianic Judaism begin?

Even though Messianic Judaism, as a distinct movement, faded from the ancient scene in the seventh century CE, there have always been Jewish believers in the Messiah Yeshua. However, beginning in the early 1800's, ever-increasing numbers of Jewish people began to believe in Yeshua as the

Messiah. The modern movement came to fruition after 1967, when tens of thousands of Jewish people suddenly accepted Yeshua.

Why 1967? Because that is when Jerusalem came back into Jewish hands in fulfillment of a prophecy given by Yeshua in the Brit Chadashah. This prophecy indicated that when Jerusalem was restored to the Jewish people G\_D would turn once again to His Jewish people in national salvation. Messianic Judaism is a prophetic movement and a direct result of the outpouring of G\_D's Holy Spirit upon His Chosen People as promised.

**How many Jewish believers in Yeshua are there in the United States?**

While there are no concrete figures, it has been estimated by many of those involved in the movement (and even by those outside the movement), that there are at least 250,000 – 300,000 Jewish believers in the Messiah Yeshua in the United States alone, and this number is growing all the time. Along side these Messianic Jews are a few million Gentiles who have been grafted into Israel and together they constitute the “mixed multitude” ... just like the group that was freed from bondage in Egypt and entered into the land of promise.

**Is the movement of Messianic Judaism just in America?**

Today the movement of Messianic Judaism is in many other countries throughout the world including Israel, England, France, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Canada and other countries. This is truly an international movement! We believe that Messianic Judaism will eventually spring up wherever there are communities of Jewish people or faithful Gentiles throughout the world.

## Why do we use the name “Yeshua” rather than “Jesus?”

Because Yeshua is His given Hebrew/Aramaic name! “Jesus” is the Hellenized-Anglicized form of “Yeshua”, which means “Salvation.” Yeshua never heard the name “Jesus” in His lifetime. He was always called “Yeshua”, which is similar to but not the same as “Yehoshua”, a common Hebrew name at that time. Good examples of this name, in reference to the Messiah, are in Isaiah 62:11 in the Old Covenant and also in Matthew 1:21 in the New Covenant.

## What does “Christ” Mean

Some believe that “Christ” is Yeshua’s second name or surname in the same way that we have a second or family name. Actually, “Christ” is a title in much the same way as “President” or “King.” This title is taken from the Hebrew word “Mashiach” or “Anointed One,” which was translated into the Greek “Christos” and later Anglicized to “Christ.” Hence the Hebraic Name “Yeshua HaMashiach”!

The actual English translation of “Mashiach” or “Anointed One” is “Messiah.” Once again, using “Messiah” rather than “Christ,” is more accurate. (Examples of this title in the Old Covenant are Daniel 9:25, Psalm 2:2). Also, Yeshua claimed this title of Messiah in the New Covenant (Mark 14:61-62).

## Why don’t Messianic Jews simply call themselves “Christians?”

The term “Christian” originally meant “follower of the Christ” or “follower of the Messiah.” In its earliest uses it was actually a “slur” against believers! In and

of itself, it is not today a bad term. Unfortunately, over time, the term “Christian” came to mean more than simply “follower of the Jewish Messiah.”

Many people today have this dichotomy in their minds that on the one hand there are Jews and Judaism, and on the other there are Christians and Christianity. You are either one or the other. Accordingly, [they think] when a Jew accepts Yeshua he “switches over” from the Jew/Judaism side to the Christian/Christianity side, and is no longer a Jew but a Christian. For all intents and purposes, the term “Christian” has become synonymous with “non-Jew” or “Gentile.”

**Why do Messianic Jews say that they are “completed Jews?”**

Because we believe that Yeshua is the fulfillment or completion of Biblical Judaism. As Jews, we have completed or fulfilled what G\_D wants us to do as Jewish people, that is, accept the Messiah Yeshua as our atonement for sin and come into a personal relationship with G\_D. A relationship thoroughly aligned with the Everlasting Covenant, Torah and the Great Commission to all the nations.

Yeshua never intended to start a new religion: He came to fill up in the fullest the Law and the Prophets. Therefore, how could we, as Jewish people, by accepting the Jewish Messiah become non-Jews? On the contrary, we believe that Yeshua has completed our Jewish heritage and faith. We have not converted to another faith, but rather we have been completed because we have found true Biblical Judaism through the Messiah Yeshua

## What is the importance of Messianic Synagogues to this movement?

Messianic Synagogues are the heart of the Messianic Movement, Messianic communities, and the center of Messianic life. A Messianic synagogue is where we can collectively believe in Yeshua, live a Jewish lifestyle, raise our children to be Jewish, and worship the G\_D of Israel in a Jewish manner with Jewish believers.

Interestingly enough, just as Messianic Judaism is not new, Messianic synagogues are not new either. Actually, we find they have existed for two thousand years! From Biblical historical records, we know that there were Messianic synagogues throughout the Roman Empire and beyond, as early as 50 CE!

## How many Messianic synagogues are there?

There are hundreds of Messianic synagogues and congregations throughout the United States. There are also many in Israel and other parts of the world. Messianic synagogues range in size anywhere from 10 to more than two hundred people. Many have their own synagogue buildings, Messianic day schools, and Messianic communities.

## Do Messianic Jews celebrate all the Jewish festivals and if so, why?

Believing Messianic Jews celebrate the Biblical festivals, i.e. Shabbat, Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks), Rosh Hashanah (the traditional Jewish New Year, the Feast of Trumpets), Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) and Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles).

We celebrate all of the feasts because it is instructed by G\_D in the Torah for all Israel to observe these festivals forever. The Messiah Yeshua observed these festivals as did the early Messianic Jews and apostles such as Rabbi Shaul or Paul. We also believe that when the Messiah Yeshua returns to this earth these festivals will be re-established worldwide as depicted within the Torah.

When we, as Messianic Jews, celebrate the festivals, we do so in a Messianic way, with the view that Yeshua is the fulfillment of all of these Holy Days (i.e. He is our Passover Lamb, our Atonement on Yom Kippur, etc.)

### Do Messianic Jews celebrate Christmas and Easter?

Generally speaking, Messianic Jews do not celebrate Christmas and Easter. There is no place in the Scriptures that command anyone to celebrate the things of G\_D ... of the Messiah on man-made appointed days. Apparently, none of the early believers, Jewish or Gentile, celebrated these two days, as there is no mention of it in the Brit Chadashah (New Covenant). Furthermore we know from the historical writings that great discord within the early movement centered upon the “powers that be” desire to move away from the Biblical Jewish Festivals. Ultimately the 325 CE council of Nicaea completed this replacement of Festival days by outlawing the observance of the Nisan 14 Passover and unifying in Easter celebration in alignment with the Roman Spring Equinox ... in alignment with the Roman Pagan Fertility Holiday!

The Christian “appointed times” are essentially replacements of the Biblical Festivals ordained in the Bible which were developed after the separation of the church from its Hebraic roots.

## What is “Davidic” Worship and Praise?

General worship and praise is the overall action of man coming to G\_D to exalt Him, to pay respect to Him and to esteem Him. “Davidic” Worship and Praise goes back to the style, principles, guidelines, and pattern that King David was shown by the Lord and that he established in the Temple nearly 3,000 years ago.

As King David taught from the Scriptures, this type of praise and worship involves numerous musical instruments, singing, Hebraic music, psalms, lifting up of hands, chanting, clapping of hands, processions, and is also characterized by great joy. Probably, the most unusual characteristic of “Davidic” Worship and Praise is dancing to the Lord. This is not dancing in a secular sense. While Messianic dancing uses a strong Israeli-Hebraic style, it is dancing unto the Lord in praise and worship as King David did and taught.

## Do Messianic believers keep the Law of Moses?

Yes and No! The Torah (or Law of Moses) is composed of the 613 + Mitzvot, or commandments, in the Tanakh (Old Covenant or Testament) that G\_D gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. These commandments pertain to the festivals, sacrifices, kashrut (kosher laws), and essentially all aspects of life. Generally speaking, Gentile Christianity today maintains that the Law is completely abrogated/dead now that Yeshua has come and that believers should have nothing to do with it.

We, as Messianic believers, recognize that one cannot be saved through the Law, because the only way to be saved through the Law is to keep all of the commandments perfectly. This is impossible! At the same time, while the Law

cannot save, it is far from being dead. The principles and precepts of the commandments are carried into the New Covenant. The Festivals are for eternity. Shabbat (or the Sabbath) on the seventh day was instituted before the Law was even given, as was tithing, which most believers practice today. So we keep the law not for salvation but because of salvation and of course because Yeshua tells us to do so.

Rabbi Shaul (Apostle Paul) in the New Covenant makes it very clear that all believers have liberty in the Messiah Yeshua, which means freedom from the death or curse of the Law as well as freedom to keep the Law as we are led by Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). Rabbi Shaul kept the Law as much as he could, as did the other early Messianic Jews, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So yes we try to submit to and observe Torah as best we can ... knowing that in many instances certain commandments physically cannot presently be kept. We realize that Torah is essentially the manifestation of G\_D's holy character. The entire plan of G\_D in and through Mashiach is to transform people so that we can serve him while providing stewardship over His creation in His image and likeness. We without shame and complete liberty do joyfully observe Torah ... by the Spirit so that can become more like our Mashiach Yeshua.

### **Are Messianic Jews Zionists?**

Most Messianic Jews support Israel unequivocally and unconditionally. We support Israel not only because we believe our Jewish people need a national homeland, but also because we believe that the re-establishment of the State of Israel is a direct fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. We believe that G\_D has done this supernaturally as predicted from Scriptures centuries ago.

We know that Israel is not a perfect nation by any means, but believe that G\_D's hand is behind Israel, and that our people will never be driven out of their land again! While G\_D loves the Arab nations, Eretz Yisrael (land of Israel), is the land that G\_D gave to His Jewish people. We also believe that all believers and nations should support Israel because G\_D promised to Abraham: "[I will bless them that bless you, and curse them that curse you.]"

### So ...Who is a Jew?

Obviously, this is a question that has been debated for centuries. One cannot be considered Jewish strictly on the basis of religion, because most Jewish people today are not religious. The same applies to any definition of a Jew based on culture, as well. According to Rabbinic Judaism, to be considered a Jew, one must have Jewish parents (in particular a Jewish mother).

This rabbinic definition is not Biblically correct however. The Scriptural definition of a Jew is three-fold. First of all, we're a nation and a people. To be considered Jewish one must be a physical descendant of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. Secondly, the Biblical lineage is patrilineal (i.e., carried through the father) not matrilineal or carried through the mother. For example, Moses had a Gentile wife and King David's great grandmother was Ruth, the Moabitess, yet their children were all considered Jewish.

Finally, the Scriptures indicate that if either parent is Jewish or if a grandparent is Jewish one can identify himself or herself as being Jewish and can claim himself as part of G\_D's Chosen people.

## What is the relationship of Jewish believers to Gentile believers?

In Temple days a “middle wall of partition” existed in the Temple that physically separated Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles could not enter past that point and were delegated to what was sometimes called the “Court of the Gentiles.”

According to the New Covenant Scriptures, this “middle wall of partition,” spiritually speaking, has been broken down. We are all one in Yeshua. In fact, according to Rabbi Shaul, Gentile believers have entered a Jewish faith and have become spiritually circumcised and spiritually Jewish as they have accepted the Jewish Messiah. Gentiles don’t become ethnic Jews by faith but they surely become Israelites!

Gentile believers are one with us because the spirit of G\_D dwelling within a Jewish believer is the same Spirit within a Gentile believer. Our ethnicity, heritage and background may be different, but G\_D has made us one in the Spirit and we all belong to G\_D’s Kingdom Israel!

## Can Gentile believers be members of a Messianic synagogue?

Yes ... and nearly all Messianic congregations do have non-Jewish members. In fact in many communities the number of Gentiles exceeds that of the Jewish members. To be a member of a Messianic congregation as a Gentile believer, one must of course abide within communal standards that call for a covenantal relationship ... have a burden and love for Israel ... and understand what G\_D is doing among the Jewish people and the Nations ... essentially the same requirements that exist for Jewish members. Praise G\_D for the many wonderful Gentile believers who have such a love for Israel!

## Should all Jewish believers join a Messianic synagogue?

Generally speaking, Jewish believers in the Messiah Yeshua should be members of a Messianic synagogue. The reason? Because we have an eternal covenant with G\_D that goes back to Abraham. Our history is unique in that we were not just chosen out of many nations, but were formed by G\_D through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be a special blessing to this world. G\_D has a purpose and calling for the nation of Israel and this covenant relationship is eternal.

If G\_D has made an eternal covenant with us as Jewish people, then it is incumbent upon us to keep our covenant relationship with Him. It is G\_D's desire for Jewish people not to assimilate but to continue to be Jewish. That desire and our eternal relationship with G\_D is evidenced by the preservation of the Jewish people for the past 2,000 years, and the fact that G\_D has supernaturally restored the State of Israel today.

The primary way a Jewish believer can continue to live a life as a Jew and not assimilate away from his Jewish people is to be a member of a Messianic synagogue. In a Messianic synagogue, a Jewish believer can continue to worship the Lord in a Jewish way, celebrate the Jewish festivals, raise his children as Jews and be a testimony to his family and his people.

## MESSIANIC TERMINOLOGY

Words are powerful. The terms, expressions, titles and labels that we use in every day life are crucial in expressing ourselves to one another. For instance, in the realm of politics terms such as hawk, dove, liberal, conservative, left-wing,

right-wing, Republican and Democrat all help to identify concepts and positions.

In Messianic Judaism, terminology is also important. The last two thousand years of history have seemingly boxed us into an undesirable dichotomy that exists in the minds of people. This thinking purports that one is either Jewish or a member of Christianity. We as Messianic Jews say that this is not true. We believe that it is Jewish to believe in the Messiah Yeshua and that He is the fulfillment of Biblical Judaism.

Consequently, we have dusted off the key terms of the original language to more effectively express our faith. By using Messianic terminology, we accomplish a number of things. First of all, we put Yeshua back within the proper Biblical and historical Jewish context from which he was uprooted. Secondly, we are educating many people today to the Jewish roots of this faith in Messiah Yeshua. Finally, this Messianic language simply is oftentimes more accurate historically and Biblically (e.g. the name of Yeshua) and ultimately much richer than other languages within the context of the personal and intimate relationship between Israel and G\_D!

Here are some of the most important terms to used:

**ELOHIM:** G\_D almighty the great "I AM" or YHVH. Abba or Father of all things. The unified eternal (Father, Son and Spirit)

**ADONAI:** The Hebrew term for "Lord"

**HaSHEM:** The NAME ... a traditional Jewish replacement for the vocalization of “YHVH” or what some pronounce “Yahweh”. The replacement has been made so that G\_D’s NAME is not profanely mispronounced.

**RUACH HaKODESH:** Holy Spirit of ELOHIM

**YESHUA:** the actual Hebrew name for “Jesus,” meaning “salvation;” “Jesus” is the Hellenized- Anglicized form of “Yeshua.” The only direct issue of ELOHIM; the divine Son of ELOHIM)

**MASHIACH:** “the Anointed One;” a title like president or king; in the Greek it was translated to “Christos” and then anglicized to “Christ.”

**YESHUA HaMASHIACH:** Yeshua The Messiah ... (Jesus Christ to the Christian Church)

**KADOSH:** Holy ... Sanctified ... Separated unto G\_D ... a covenantal way.

**TORAH:** G\_D’s revelation to humanity ... G\_D’s Word ... The Law ... Instruction.

**MITZVOT:** Commandments ... the laws ... singular = Mitzvah

**MOADIM:** Plural of Feasts (Appointed Times) ... singular = Mo’ed

**BRIT CHADASHA:** the New Covenant or New Testament; inspired writings in the first century by Jewish believers of Mashiach Yeshua.

**TANAKH:** Traditional Jewish Bible ... known also as the Christian Old Testament. Inspired Jewish works of Moses, The Prophets and The Writings.

**MIKVEH** or Immersion: Mikveh is the actual pool of water and immersion is the Jewish ceremony of being “immersed” in water for purification as commanded in the Tanakh. In the B’rit Chadasha, the Immersion also symbolizes purification when believers in Yeshua publicly confess their faith in the Messiah Yeshua. (Christians use the term “Baptism” for this Jewish ceremony).

**TALMIDIM:** followers or disciples whose relationship with the Rabbi results in emulation of the Rabbi’s Torah centric behavior/lifestyle.

**Messianic Judaism:** the movement of Jewish people and grafted in Gentiles who have come to believe that Yeshua is the promised Messiah of Israel. This movement is worldwide and is the fulfillment of prophecy ... (synonymous with “true Biblical Judaism.”)

**Messianic Synagogue** or **Shul:** a congregation where Messianic believers can worship and exercise their Jewish faith in the Messiah Yeshua.

**How do we know that Yeshua is truly the Promised Messiah?**

While many of us have had a dynamic personal experience with the Lord that has helped convince us that Yeshua is the Messiah, the primary evidence that Yeshua is truly the Jewish Messiah of Israel is found within the Hebrew Scriptures themselves.

In the Tenach, there are prophecies or predictions about the “Anointed One.” Over 25 prophets, covering a period of 1,500 years, gave predictions about the Coming One. The only way to know if Yeshua is the Messiah is to go back to the Scriptures and study these prophecies and then determine if these prophecies have been recorded as fulfilled within the B’rit Chadasha!

**If Yeshua was the Messiah, why is there no peace in the world today?**

This issue concerning Yeshua not having brought worldwide peace is a result of a misconception many have about the purpose of the Messiah. The Messiah was not just to come to bring peace to the whole world. More than half the prophecies about the Messiah speak of His coming and dying for the sins of the world. Many rabbis recognized that the Messiah had to suffer and die, and rabbinic literature at one time speaks of two Messianic comings: Messiah Ben-Joseph (the Suffering Messiah) and Messiah Ben-David (the Conquering Messiah).

In reality, there are not two Messiahs coming at one time, but one Messiah coming twice. The first time to suffer and die for the sins of the world ... and the second time to set up His Kingdom over the entire world. Prophetically, we are very near to the Second Coming of the Messiah Yeshua.

**Ok so what is the final deal?**

Ultimately Messianic believers (Jew and Gentile) represent the remnant that is returning to the ways of old or the original way. This Biblical path HaDerech or The Way, quite frankly is not represented by the Gentile church .... Certainly not as long as the churches’ practices conflict with the Biblical way handed down by the unchanging G\_D Eternal.

Just as well the way of the mainstream Jewish faiths is not in alignment with ADONAI's plan as long as they reject Yeshua and thereby negate their opportunity to be indwelt through His divine Spirit.

So the final deal is to make it real! How? Follow the playbook without calling audibles at the line of scrimmage. There is a playbook and it is contained in the Messianic Jewish Tradition handed down by the Apostles and first followers ... the disciples ... the talmidim!

Messianic Judaism is not something new ... it represents the original faith expressed by the first followers of Yeshua HaMashiach. The fact that the movement has once again emerged is simply a testimony to the faithfulness and power of G\_D Most High Who promised that there would always be a remnant!

Shalom Aleichem ... P.R. Otokletos