

What Is A Messianic Synagogue? How Is It Different?

By Rabbi Jonathan Dees

WHAT IS CONGREGATION BARUCH HASHEM?

Baruch HaShem is Hebrew and literally means “Blessed Be the Name”. It is the Jewish way of acknowledging the Divine presence of God. In other words it a way to say “Blessed be the Lord.”

WHAT IS A MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE?

Imagine a Synagogue where the Rabbi, Elders and members all practice the teachings of the Tanahk “Older Testament” and the B’rit Chadashah “Renewed Testament”. This is a true Messianic Synagogue.

WHAT IS MESSIANIC JUDAISM?

Messianic Judaism is not a new movement, but the resurgence of a very old movement. Messianic Judaism was the movement of the Schle’him “Apostles” and the community of Jewish and non-Jewish believers “followers of the Messiah “ in the first three centuries of Church history.

Messianic Judaism is regarded by its followers as the latest stage in the development of authentic biblical Judaism. It is “the form of worship” followed by Moses, David and the prophets. It was brought to fulfillment through the coming of “Yeshua the Messiah”.

HOW IS MESSIANIC JUDAISM DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL JUDAISM?

Traditional Judaism teaches that the Tanahk and the Talmud are God’s Eternal Word, that the B’rit Chadashah lacks this authority and that Yeshua is not the Messiah of Israel.

Messianic Judaism teaches that the Tanahk and the B’rit Chadasha together are God’s Eternal Word, that the Talmud lacks this authority and that Yeshua is the Messiah of Israel and the world.

HOW IS MESSIANIC JUDAISM DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANITY?

Messianic Judaism teaches that Yeshua did not come to reestablish a new religion but to fulfill an ancient one (Matthew 5:17). It upholds the view that the B'rit Chadasha is a continuation of the Tanakh (2 Timothy 3:16), and it emphasizes God's love and faithfulness to the Jewish people (Romans 11), teaching that Gentiles share, NOT TAKE OVER, the blessings that God bestowed on Israel (Romans 15:27). Finally, that Jewish people who follow Yeshua do not convert to another religion, but remain Jews. (Colossians 4:11).

HOW DO MESSIANIC JEWISH SYNAGOGUES MEET THE NEEDS OF JEWISH PEOPLE?

The Jewish people are called by God to be a distinct and enduring people (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

It is important for Messianic Jews to maintain their Jewish identity and pass their heritage to the next generation.

WHY DO GENTILES JOIN MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUES?

A special characteristic of Messianic Synagogues through out the world is the significant number of members who are not Jews.

They share in all their Jewish brother's spiritual blessing (Romans 15:27) and are full participants in every aspect of Messianic life (Ephesians 2:19). By worshiping with Jews, non-Jews return to the historical and spiritual roots of their B'rit Chadasha faith.

Finally, by joining Messianic Synagogues, they are able to bless the people whom God used to bless them.

HOW DO MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUES ACCOMPLISH THIS?

- By providing leadership that imparts vision, knowledge, wisdom, discernment and counsel in regards to biblical faith and Jewish lifestyle.
- By following an annual cycle of events referred to in the Tanakh as "the appointed festivals of the Lord" (Leviticus 23).
- By encouraging members to keep biblically Kosher.
- By providing an environment where men can wear Kippa, tallit, tzitzit and tefillin.
- By providing life cycle services.

- By providing community context in which gentiles can be received into the congregation of Israel.

OUR INVITATION TO YOU

We invite you to share with us in worship, education, fellowship, and service as we seek to reclaim God's vision for His Messianic Community and for each of us.

For More Information Contact:

Congregation Baruch HaShem

(505) 892-3195

Or Visit Our Web Site:

<http://www.baruchhashem.org>