

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" – Publisher
- Combat Anti-Semitism
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

Gentile believers are more holy, more full of grace and bearing more of the fruits of the Spirit.

When modern Messianic congregations began multiplying during the last 40 years, we didn't think Gentiles would want to attend. Were we ever surprised. It is no secret about two thirds of Messianic congregants are not Jewish.

A wonderful miracle has happened. Messianic congregations were expected to be small enclaves of Jewish believers. Christians said, "Can we come?" As a result, these small and weak groups have exploded into a movement of influence, even receiving a face-lift in the State of Israel.

Messianic Jews fully realize all Jews together won't work. We need the mitigating influence of Christians to mellow us out. Otherwise, we would have so much contentious pride, competition for reputation and lack of example, we would implode. It simply wouldn't be sustainable.

We are influenced by Christian believers, nurtured and supported financially. It is humbling for Jews to say we couldn't do it without the Gentiles. Nevertheless, it is true.

As a side note, I tell about my first congregation, which started with a handful of people. It grew and the time came to invite a full time leader. In our congregational meeting on this matter, the issue arose about what to call him. Reverend, Priest or Pastor didn't seem very Jewish. One man suggested a title of "Most Humble Servant". He was serious, but we all laughed. I think we made a mistake.

Yours in Messiah,

Paul Liberman
Executive Director

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Is the Church Israel?

Dear Friends in the Lord,

There are many Scriptural blessings for Israel. Everyone wants them. There are many adverse things also mentioned and no one wants those.

For example, Jews suffer doubly for iniquity. Anyone interested in receiving two penalties for each sin?

Nevertheless, down through the centuries, theologians have espoused doctrine that God is through with the Jews and the Church is, therefore, the new Israel. Thus, many have been convinced that Christianity is entitled to the blessings and the Jews the curses. How convenient for scholars, who want the good for themselves and the bad for those who do not agree with them.

This dichotomy has persisted. Jewish people adopt a literal interpretation and Christianity describes the Church as the new Israel by way of analogy. Now, along come the Messianic Jews who say why cannot both be true? After all, sheep, oil, water are all physical, but can have spiritual symbolism as well.

Assuming there is an exact parallel, doesn't it seem to be in every Christian's enlightened self interest to see that things go well for the physical Jewish People, because spiritual blessing will follow. Let's call it sowing and reaping. There are consequences to what we do. On the negative side, those persecuting physical Israel can expect some measure of spiritual oppression.

What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters used by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

Affiliated Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

The Church does not equate to Israel (except spiritually) for other reasons. They didn't begin at the same time and are therefore not the same entity. The nation began under Abraham and continued under Isaac and Jacob, because they were acting in faith towards a promise.

We must remember that "Israel" was Jacob's new name. His descendants and adherents grew and developed over a period of about 700 years. A law and Land solidified over this long period. The Church was not mentioned during this time because it hadn't been born yet. This awaited Pentecost (Shavuot) as recorded in Acts 2. Thus, the disparity of timing argues against the Church and Israel being the same.

Please note Yeshua (Jesus) says, "I will build my church" in the future (Matthew 16:18). If the Church were already in existence, the Messiah would have spoken in the past or present tense.

Even when telling how to proceed with personal grievances in Matthew 18, it comes sequentially after Yeshua predicts the establishment of His Church. Yeshua's Church is referred to as a Body. The Messiah couldn't be the head, until after He was crucified and shed His blood of atonement reconciling humans with our Creator.

Besides, entry into the Body only happens when the Holy Spirit indwells that individual by personal invitation. Yet the Comforter (Holy Spirit) wouldn't be available until the Father "will send" (John 15:26).

Rav Shaul (Apostle Paul) refers to the church as a mystery. In other words, its full meaning had not yet been revealed. It would take many decades for certain things to shed light on this new situation. Part of that hidden phenomenon was and is that Jews and Gentiles are destined to worship together, as equals in one Body. This wasn't perceived in the Old Testament. The Body was something new and different from the peoplehood of the Nation of Israel.

In order for "Replacement Theology" to be legitimate, we could expect to find some overt affirming statements to that effect. Yet, there are none. Instead, Paul describes "one new man" (Ephesians 2:15), even

though there are the permanent distinctions as male/female and Jew/Gentile. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that Israel has been set aside or excluded from the Biblical drama. In fact, Romans 9-11 deals directly with that and foretells of a wonderful restoration for the Jewish people.

When Rav Shaul refers to Israel, it is in the context of an ethnic identification; or as he says, his "kinsmen according to the flesh" (Romans 9:3). He does this nine times, but always in the context of a turning away from God, but with the promise of an eventual rejoining the Olive Tree. In fact, "all Israel shall be saved" (Romans 11:26) must have seemed to be an impossible eventuality until our modern age. We are privileged to see this. Isn't it thrilling to be a part of it? We get to have a scripted role in the drama of the ages.

Another distinction between the existence of physical and spiritual Israel is the latter requires being "born again". There is an absurd thing going on right now. Some born again members of Messiah's Body want to be both; i.e. Israelites physically and spiritually. They don't realize this role is highly inconvenient. This is telltale of envy, as these folks want to be something other than what God made them. It is unbecoming. Suppose I wanted to be a woman in contradiction to what God made me. I could dress the part, but most people would pity my gender confusion. The potter didn't make me tall. How laughable it would seem for me to be parading around in high-heeled shoes. It is short sighted to want to be other than what our potter made.

A person's social identity lasts only for this brief lifetime. Spiritual medals for Godly character are won forever. (II Corinthians 3 discusses the superiority of the New Covenant, as compared with the Old). The operation of the New Covenant is different but not inconsistent. It is broadened and expanded.

Of equal disdain as the Gentile trying to be Jewish, is the Jewish believer getting a sense of prestige from his badge of ethnic heritage. Here the Jewish believer is indulging in a shameful pride that says, "look at me as one of the special people".

Which is superior, a fish or a bird? The bird may want to swim and fish may want to fly, but by and large each does the thing it was designed to do. The real truth is that most Jewish believers think

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do.

Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

