

Seminar III Rediscovering Yeshua – Jesus in His Jewish Context!

What if everything we thought we knew about our faith was actually just the tip of the iceberg? This exploration into the Messianic foundations of our faith invites us on a transformative journey back to the original context of Yeshua's life and ministry. We discover that Jesus was not just a universal savior disconnected from history, but Yeshua, the promised Messiah of Israel, whose entire life was deeply rooted in Jewish tradition, Torah observance, and the fulfillment of ancient Hebrew prophecies. The message challenges us to see that the early disciples never abandoned their Jewish identity after the resurrection. They continued observing the Sabbath, celebrating the biblical feasts like Pentecost and Passover, and teaching in the temple. Even Paul, often misunderstood as rejecting the Torah, actually used it to prove Yeshua was the Messiah. This isn't about adding religious customs or becoming Jewish as Gentiles. Rather, it's about rediscovering the fuller identity of our Messiah and understanding why Israel matters so profoundly to our faith, to prophecy, and to Yeshua's return. When we reconnect with these Hebraic foundations, we're not joining something new but returning to something ancient and true. We're invited to walk in the same pattern the first disciples walked, not through legalism but through grace-empowered obedience that flows from genuine transformation. This journey bridges the great divide between Jew and Gentile and reveals the unity Yeshua came to establish.

Title: Rediscovering the Messianic Faith: Living as Yeshua Lived

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the Messianic faith as the original faith of Yeshua (Jesus) and His disciples, demonstrating that it was thoroughly Jewish in practice and rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures. The message emphasizes that Yeshua did not come to start a new religion but to fulfill God's promises to Israel and call His people back to the heart of the Torah. The sermon traces how the early disciples continued their Jewish practices after Yeshua's resurrection, keeping the Sabbath, observing the feasts, and worshiping at the temple while proclaiming Yeshua as the promised Messiah. For modern believers, this teaching invites a return to understanding Yeshua in His proper Jewish context, recognizing Israel's central role in God's redemptive plan, and embracing the Hebraic foundations of faith. This is not about becoming Jewish or following trends, but about knowing Yeshua more deeply and participating in the healing of the divide between Jew and Gentile that He came to restore.

Key Points:

- The term "Messianic" comes from "Messiah" (Hebrew: Moshiach), meaning "anointed one," and refers to faith centered on Yeshua as Israel's promised Messiah
- Yeshua was born through Israel's lineage (descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David) and lived as a faithful first-century Jew
- Yeshua observed the Torah, including keeping the Sabbath (Shabbat) and celebrating God's appointed feasts like Passover and Sukkot
- Yeshua taught from the Hebrew Scriptures (Torah, Prophets, Writings) and declared they all pointed to Him
- Yeshua's primary mission was first to Israel, as stated in Matthew 15:24: "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"
- After Yeshua's resurrection, His disciples continued their Jewish practices while proclaiming Him as Messiah
- The disciples were first called "Nazarenes" and "followers of the Way," not initially "Christians"
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost occurred during the Jewish feast of Shavuot

- Paul continued to observe the feasts, visit the temple, and use the Torah to prove Yeshua was the Messiah
- The Messianic faith is not a new religion but a return to the original faith that embraces both Jewish and Gentile believers as one family in Messiah

Scripture References:

- Matthew 1 (genealogy of Yeshua)
- Matthew 5:17 (Yeshua came to fulfill, not destroy the law)
- Matthew 15:24 (sent to the lost sheep of Israel)
- Matthew 16 (Peter's confession of Yeshua as Messiah)
- Matthew 21:12-13 (cleansing the temple)
- Matthew 26:17 (observing Passover)
- Luke 4:16 (Yeshua's custom of attending synagogue on Sabbath)
- Luke 24:27, 46-49 (Yeshua explaining Himself in all the Scriptures)
- John 5:46 (Moses wrote about Yeshua)
- John 7:2, 10 (observing Feast of Tabernacles)
- John 8 (Abraham rejoiced to see Yeshua's day)
- John 10:22-23 (Yeshua at Hanukkah)
- Acts 2:1-4 (Holy Spirit at Pentecost/Shavuot)
- Acts 3:1-26 (Peter and John at the temple)
- Acts 20:16 (Paul hurrying to Jerusalem for Pentecost)
- Acts 24 (Paul as follower of "the Way")
- Acts 28:23 (Paul teaching from Torah and Prophets)
- Romans 9 (Yeshua came through Israel)
- Romans 11 (all Israel will be saved)
- Romans 15:8 (Christ became a servant to Israel to confirm promises to the fathers)
- Ephesians 2:12-13 (Gentiles brought near through Christ)

- Isaiah 53 (Messiah's appearance)
- Isaiah 56 (house of prayer for all nations)
- Leviticus 23 (the feasts of the Lord)
- Deuteronomy 8:3 (man lives by every word of God)
- Genesis 2 (Sabbath created for mankind)
- Exodus 19 (covenant at Mount Sinai)
- Mark 1:21-22 (teaching in synagogue with authority)
- Mark 2:27-28 (Lord of the Sabbath)

Stories:

- The account of 12-year-old Yeshua in the temple speaking with Torah teachers during Passover (Luke 1-2)
- Yeshua cleansing the temple by overturning the money changers' tables, declaring it a house of prayer
- Yeshua's temptation in the wilderness, overcoming Satan by quoting from Deuteronomy
- Yeshua walking on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection, explaining how all Scripture pointed to Him
- Peter and John healing the lame man at the temple gate and preaching the gospel there (Acts 3)
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost while disciples were observing Shavuot (Acts 2)
- Cornelius and his household receiving the Holy Spirit, showing Gentiles being welcomed into the faith (Acts 10)
- Paul under house arrest in Rome, teaching about Yeshua from the Torah and Prophets (Acts 28)
- The historical celebration of Hanukkah, commemorating God's deliverance of the Jewish people from Greek annihilation

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References

Old Testament

1. **Genesis 2** - God creating the Sabbath
2. **Deuteronomy 8:3** - "Man shall not live by bread alone"
3. **Isaiah 53** - Description of the Messiah's appearance
4. **Isaiah 56** - God's house as a house of prayer; salvation for the nations
5. **Leviticus 23** - The seven feasts of the Lord

New Testament

6. **Matthew 1** - Genealogy of Jesus Christ
7. **Matthew 4:1-4** - Jesus tempted in the wilderness
8. **Matthew 5:17** - Jesus came to fulfill the law and prophets
9. **Matthew 10:5-7** - Jesus sends disciples to the lost sheep of Israel
10. **Matthew 15:24** - Jesus sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
11. **Matthew 16** - Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ
12. **Matthew 21:12-13** - Jesus cleanses the temple
13. **Matthew 26:17** - Preparation for Passover
14. **Matthew 28** - Great Commission (go to Judea, Samaria, Jerusalem, and ends of the earth)
15. **Mark 1:21-22** - Jesus teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum
16. **Mark 2:27-28** - The Sabbath was made for man; Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath
17. **Luke 2** (chapters 1-2) - Young Jesus at the temple
18. **Luke 4:16** - Jesus' custom to attend synagogue on the Sabbath
19. **Luke 24:27** - Jesus explaining scriptures on the road to Emmaus

20. **Luke 24:46-49** - Jesus explaining necessity of Messiah's suffering
21. **John 5:46** - Moses wrote about Jesus
22. **John 7:2, 10** - Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles
23. **John 8** - Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus' day
24. **John 10:22-23** - Jesus at the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)
25. **Acts 1** - Disciples ask about restoring the kingdom to Israel
26. **Acts 2:1-4** - Day of Pentecost/Shavuot
27. **Acts 3:1-26** - Peter and John heal lame man at the temple
28. **Acts 8:12** - Philip preaches kingdom of God and name of Jesus Christ
29. **Acts 10** - Cornelius receives the Holy Spirit
30. **Acts 15** - Jerusalem Council regarding Gentile believers
31. **Acts 20:16** - Paul hurrying to Jerusalem for Pentecost
32. **Acts 24** - Paul's defense before Felix; followers of "the Way"
33. **Acts 24** (second reference) - Paul accused as ringleader of the Nazarenes
34. **Acts 28:23** - Paul testifying from Law and Prophets in Rome
35. **Romans 9** - Jesus came through Israel
36. **Romans 11** - Blindness lifted from Israel; all Israel will be saved
37. **Romans 15:8** - Jesus became servant to the circumcision
38. **Ephesians 2:12-13** - Gentiles brought near through Christ's blood

Additional Relevant Scriptures for Main Themes

Jewish Roots of Faith

- **Romans 11:17-24** - Olive tree metaphor (Gentiles grafted in)
- **Galatians 3:29** - If you belong to Christ, you are Abraham's seed
- **John 4:22** - "Salvation is from the Jews"

Yeshua as Jewish Messiah

- **Luke 2:25-32** - Simeon recognizes Jesus as Messiah
- **Luke 24:44** - All written about Jesus in Law, Prophets, and Psalms
- **Acts 2:36** - God made Jesus both Lord and Christ

Torah and Commandments

- **Psalm 119** - Various verses praising God's law
- **Romans 3:31** - Faith upholds the law
- **1 John 2

Discipleship

How does understanding Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah rather than just a universal savior change or deepen your personal relationship with Him?

In what ways have modern Christian traditions disconnected Jesus from His Jewish roots, and what might we be missing as a result?

Why do you think God specifically chose Israel as the pathway for the Messiah rather than revealing salvation through another means?

How does recognizing that the early disciples continued observing Torah, Sabbath, and feasts after the resurrection challenge common assumptions about the New Testament era?

What is the difference between legalism as religious oppression and God's desire for His people to walk in obedience empowered by the Holy Spirit?

How does Paul's statement that Christ came first to Israel to confirm the promises made to the fathers impact our understanding of God's faithfulness?

In what ways can Gentile believers embrace the Hebraic foundations of faith without appropriating Jewish identity or separating from other Christians?

What does it mean practically for us today to live as New Covenant believers who honor Torah in light of Yeshua's death and resurrection?

How does rediscovering the biblical feasts and their prophetic significance enhance our understanding of God's redemptive timeline and Yeshua's ministry?

What role does the restoration of unity between Jewish and Gentile believers play in the fulfillment of God's purposes for the end times?

Small Group Guide: Session 3 - Rediscovering the Messianic Faith as the Faith of Yeshua

Opening Prayer & Welcome (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for gathering your group together and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and deepen your understanding of Yeshua's Jewish identity and the Hebraic foundations of faith.

Icebreaker Question (10 minutes)

****What is one thing you learned about Jesus growing up that you later discovered was incomplete or needed fuller context?****

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Understanding Messianic Faith**

- Messianic comes from "Messiah" (Hebrew: Moshiach), meaning "anointed one"
- Christ = Messiah (not Jesus' last name, but His title)
- Messianic faith centers on Yeshua as Israel's promised Messiah AND the Savior of the world

2. **Yeshua's Jewish Identity**

- Yeshua lived as a faithful first-century Jew
- He observed Torah, kept the Sabbath, celebrated the feasts, attended synagogue and temple
- He did not come to start a new religion but to fulfill Israel's promises

3. **The Early Disciples Remained Jewish**

- After the resurrection, disciples continued Jewish practices
- They received the Holy Spirit on Shavuot (Pentecost), a Jewish feast

- Paul planned his ministry around the feasts and used Torah to prove Yeshua was Messiah

4. **Israel's Centrality**

- Yeshua came first to Israel, then to the nations
- The faith is rooted in God's covenants with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David
- Israel remains essential to prophecy and Yeshua's return

Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Messianic Faith (15 minutes)

****Q1:**** Before this teaching, how did you understand the term "Christ"? How does knowing it means "Messiah" or "Anointed One" change your perspective on Jesus' identity?

****Q2:**** Why do you think it matters that we understand Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah and not just a universal savior disconnected from Israel?

****Q3:**** The sermon stated that the Messianic faith "places Yeshua in his true Jewish context." What are some ways the modern Western church has removed Jesus from this context?

Section 2: Yeshua's Jewish Life and Practice (20 minutes)

****Q4:**** The sermon showed that Yeshua regularly observed the Sabbath, feasts, and attended the temple. Why do you think these practices were important to Him? What can we learn from His faithfulness to them?

****Q5:**** Read Matthew 5:17 together: "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." What does it mean that Yeshua came to "fulfill" rather than abolish the Torah?

****Q6:**** In Mark 2:27-28, Yeshua says "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." How does this correct both legalistic approaches AND complete dismissal of the Sabbath?

****Q7:**** The sermon mentioned that Yeshua grounded all His teachings in the Torah, Prophets, and Writings (the Hebrew Scriptures). How often do we study the Old Testament to understand Jesus better? What might we be missing?

Section 3: The Disciples After the Resurrection (15 minutes)

****Q8:**** Acts 2 shows the disciples celebrating Shavuot (Pentecost) when the Holy Spirit fell. Acts 20 shows Paul hurrying to Jerusalem for the feast. What does this tell us about whether the early church abandoned Jewish practices?

****Q9:**** Read Acts 28:23 together. Paul used "both the law of Moses and the prophets" to persuade people about Yeshua. How does this challenge the idea that the Old Testament is no longer relevant for New Covenant believers?

****Q10:**** The sermon stated that Gentile believers were "not forced to become Jewish converts, but neither were they left to continue in pagan lifestyles." What does this middle ground look like for us today?

Section 4: Application for Today (20 minutes)

****Q11:**** The sermon said embracing Messianic faith is "not about joining a popular movement, but about returning to the original faith of Yeshua." How does this distinction affect your motivation for learning about the Hebraic foundations of faith?

****Q12:**** What is one specific way you can begin to explore the Jewish context of your faith this week? (Examples: studying a feast, reading about the Sabbath, researching Jewish customs mentioned in the Gospels)

****Q13:**** The sermon mentioned that this journey is about "participating in the healing process of the great divide between Jew and Gentile." How can our small group contribute to this healing?

****Q14:**** How might understanding Yeshua's Jewish identity and practices deepen your personal relationship with Him?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

*****Option 1: Scripture Study*****

- Read through one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) and note every reference to Jewish practices, feasts, or the temple. Journal what you discover about Yeshua's Jewish life.

*****Option 2: Sabbath Exploration*****

- Research the biblical Sabbath (Shabbat). Consider how you might incorporate a day of rest and worship into your weekly rhythm, even in a small way.

*****Option 3: Feast Learning*****

- Choose one of the biblical feasts mentioned in Leviticus 23 (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot, etc.) and study its meaning, how Yeshua observed it, and how it points to Him.

*****Option 4: Old Testament Connection*****

- Pick one teaching or parable of Yeshua and trace its roots back to the Hebrew Scriptures. Share your findings with the group next week.

*****Option 5: Prayer for Israel*****

- Commit to praying for Israel and the Jewish people daily this week, asking God to reveal His heart for them and their role in His redemptive plan.

Key Verses to Memorize

*****Matthew 5:17***** - "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."

*****Luke 24:27***** - "And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

*****Romans 15:8***** - "Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers."

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

*****Final Thought:***** The Messianic faith is not about adding religious practices or becoming Jewish. It is about knowing Yeshua more fully in His true identity as Israel's Messiah and the Savior of the world. It is about understanding that our faith has deep roots in the Hebrew Scriptures, God's covenants with Israel, and the Jewish people through whom salvation came.

****Closing Question:**** How has today's discussion changed or deepened your understanding of who Yeshua is?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for:

- Revealing Yeshua as the Jewish Messiah
- The Hebrew Scriptures that point to Him
- The invitation for Gentiles to be grafted into Israel's story
- The opportunity to know Yeshua more fully in His true context

Ask God to:

- Give your group wisdom and discernment as you explore these truths
- Heal the divide between Jew and Gentile in the body of Messiah
- Help you walk in obedience empowered by the Holy Spirit, not legalism
- Prepare hearts for Yeshua's return to Jerusalem

For Next Week

- Complete your chosen practical application
- Come prepared to share one insight you gained from your personal study
- Bring questions that arose during your exploration of this topic

Additional Resources for Group Leaders

****Suggested Follow-up Topics:****

- The Biblical Feasts and their prophetic significance
- Understanding the Torah in light of the New Covenant
- Israel's role in end-times prophecy
- The relationship between Jews and Gentiles in Messiah (Ephesians 2-3, Romans 9-11)

****Handling Sensitive Questions:****

- Emphasize that this teaching is about addition, not subtraction—gaining fuller understanding
- Stress unity with all believers in Yeshua, regardless

5-Day Devotional: Rediscovering the Messianic Faith

Day 1: The Jewish Roots of Our Faith

****Reading:**** Matthew 1:1-17; Romans 9:4-5

****Devotional:****

When we open the genealogy of Yeshua, we're not reading a random list of names—we're tracing God's faithfulness through Israel's story. Yeshua didn't arrive disconnected from history; He came as the fulfillment of promises made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. Paul reminds us that to Israel belong "the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises." Our Savior is deeply, intentionally Jewish. Today, ask yourself: Have I disconnected Jesus from His Jewish identity? Understanding Yeshua's roots enriches our faith and helps us see the Bible as one continuous story of God's redemption. Let this reality deepen your appreciation for how God works through history to bring salvation to all nations.

Day 2: Yeshua and the Sabbath

****Reading:**** Mark 2:23-28; Genesis 2:1-3

****Devotional:****

Yeshua declared Himself "Lord of the Sabbath," not to abolish it but to reveal its true purpose. The Sabbath wasn't created as a burden but as a divine gift—a weekly rhythm of rest, restoration, and communion with God. Before there was a Jew, there was Sabbath, given to all humanity as a blessing. Yeshua observed Shabbat regularly, teaching in synagogues and honoring this holy day. In our fast-paced world, we desperately need this gift of rest. The Sabbath invites us to cease striving, to trust God's provision, and to remember that we are human beings, not human doings. Consider how you might embrace a rhythm of rest that draws you closer to God's presence and restores your soul weekly.

Day 3: The Feasts Point to Messiah

****Reading:**** Acts 2:1-4; Leviticus 23:15-21

****Devotional:****

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit didn't happen on a random day—it occurred during Shavuot (Pentecost), one of God's appointed feasts. The disciples were faithfully observing this biblical celebration when heaven invaded earth. God's feasts aren't merely historical commemorations; they're prophetic appointments that reveal His redemptive plan. They reminded Israel of God's past faithfulness, His present provision, and His future promises. Paul continued planning his ministry around these feasts years after Yeshua's resurrection. These celebrations aren't outdated traditions but living testimonies pointing to Messiah. As you reflect today, consider how God's appointed times might deepen your understanding of His character and His timeline. What might you discover by exploring the biblical feasts?

#Day 4: One Family in Messiah

****Reading:**** Ephesians 2:11-19; Acts 10:34-48

****Devotional:****

The gospel breaks down walls. Gentiles were once "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise," but through Yeshua's blood, we've been brought near. We haven't replaced Israel; we've been grafted in. When the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his household, it demonstrated that God's salvation extends to all nations—not by erasing Jewish identity but by welcoming Gentiles into the family. This isn't about Gentiles becoming Jewish or Jews becoming Gentile; it's about both becoming one in Messiah. Today, thank God for the privilege of being welcomed into His covenant family. Pray for the healing of the historic divide between Jewish and Gentile believers, and ask how you might be part of that restoration.

Day 5: Living a Messianic Faith Today

****Reading:**** Matthew 5:17-20; Acts 28:23-31

****Devotional:****

Yeshua didn't come to abolish the Torah but to fulfill it—to reveal its fullest meaning. Paul, even at the end of his life under house arrest, persuaded people about Yeshua using "both the law of Moses and the prophets from morning until evening." The Messianic faith isn't about legalism or earning salvation through works; it's about grace that transforms us into people who desire to walk in God's ways. Our obedience flows from love, empowered by the Holy Spirit. As New Covenant believers, we honor God's Word not out of obligation but out of relationship. Today, examine your heart: Is your faith producing the fruit of transformed living? Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to walk in both grace and truth, reflecting Yeshua's character to a watching world.

****Closing Reflection:****

As you complete this devotional journey, remember that rediscovering the Messianic faith isn't about joining a new movement—it's about returning to the original faith of Yeshua and His disciples. It's about seeing Jesus not as disconnected from Israel, but as the Jewish Messiah who fulfills God's promises and extends salvation to all nations. May your faith be enriched, your understanding deepened, and your walk with Yeshua transformed as you embrace the fullness of who He is.