

OTTAWA MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF FAITH

Revision 4.3 December 19, 2022

Statement of Faith

In the following information concerning our beliefs and faith, we have not, nor could we ever, address every possible question. We fully believe that every believer must seek God, "... with all their heart, soul and might ..." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and allow the Holy Spirit of God to teach them "... in all truth ..." (Jeremiah 31:31; John 16:13).

Hebrew Scriptures:

We believe that the Scriptures, both the Tanach ("Old Testament") and the Brit Chadasha (New Covenant or New Testament), are fully inspired and are God's complete revelation to man until the Messiah returns. The 66 books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation are the authoritative Word of God in every category of knowledge to which they speak, including faith, practice, science and history. Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 40:7-8; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21.

The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit:

We believe in the unity of God as reflected in the Shemah "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One" (Deuteronomy 6:4).

We believe that no man or woman can ever fully understand the fullness of God, the Son and the Holy Spirit, until we are in their presence. We must each search the Scriptures with all our hearts and renew our minds through the diligent study of the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit in order to come to an understanding in which God will reveal Himself to us to the degree we seek Him. (Jeremiah 29:13-14, 31:32 & John 14:21).

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We believe that God is a Spirit. God continues to reveal Himself to mankind through Yeshua HaMashiach, (Jesus), and by His Holy Spirit.

Scripture References:

The Father: Deuteronomy 32:6; Psalm 68:5; Malachi 2:10; Matthew 6:9; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:6.

The Son: Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 49:5; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:1; John 8:58; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 5:12; John 10:30.

The Holy Spirit: Genesis 1:2; Exodus 31:3; Psalm 139:7; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28; Nehemiah 9:20; John 15:26; Acts 2:17; 1st Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:30.

The Nature of Man:

We believe that man was created in the image of God. Adam sinned and consequently experienced separation from God. Death is a consequence of sin (Romans 6:23) which affected the entire human race. As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature in thought, word and deed, and require salvation in order to restore relationship with God.

Genesis 1:26-27, 2:17, 6:5-6 & 11-12; Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:20-23; John 8:24; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3.

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Salvation:

We believe that “if you confess with your mouth that Yeshua is Messiah (the Lord Jesus is our Saviour) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved,” (Romans 10:9). It is only by the grace (unmerited favour) of God that this is possible.

Genesis 15:6; Habakkuk 2:4; John 1:12; Romans 3:28; Ephesians 1:7; Titus 3:5.

Truly repentant believers obtain and maintain salvation by the grace and mercy of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Messiah Yeshua, the proof being fruit in their lives.

Isaiah 11:1-2, 11:10; Zechariah 6:12-13; John 10:26-30, 14:16-17; Romans 8:29-39; Ephesians 2:10, 4:30; I Peter 1:23; I John 2:1.

Every believer has a responsibility and is accountable to work through their salvation with fear and trembling, not necessarily because they might lose it but because if one is genuinely born again, their desire will be to live as Yeshua did. (Ephesians 6:5)

Love and the Believer:

We believe that there is nothing more important to God than love. Love is the reason Yeshua came to redeem us. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. God shows us His love through His mercy and grace. Believers are expected to do as Yeshua did and all He did reflected the love of God.

Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Psalm 36:5-6; Song of Songs 2:4; Hosea 11:4; John 3:16; John 15:12-14; Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; 1 John 4:7-12.

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The Kehila (Assembly) of Messiah:

We believe that members in the Kehila of Messiah Yeshua are composed of both Jews and Gentiles, given into the hand of Yeshua by the Father, in unity. This unity was made possible by Messiah's death, resurrection and the anointing given by Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit) at Shavuot (Pentecost).

1st Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 2:11-15; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:42 and 47; Hebrews 10:24-25.

Israel:

The Scriptures say that God chose Israel (the people, the nation, the land) to be a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, and a light to the nations for the purpose of bringing the knowledge of Himself to all mankind. The election of Israel is irrevocable and unconditional. God will ultimately fulfil every aspect of the Covenant with His people, both physically and spiritually.

As a loving and caring community, we demonstrate our love for Israel through prayer for salvation and for the peace of Jerusalem.

Genesis 13:14; Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6; Isaiah 42:6; Ezekiel 36:24; 13:8-9; Zechariah 2:8; Romans 3:1-4; Romans 9:4; Romans 11:9-10; Psalm 122:6.

The Torah (Instructions given by God):

The word "Torah" is often **mistakenly** synonymous with "law". The word "Torah" actually means "instruction" or "teaching". The instruction of God does not expire. There are many places in the Torah where God says that His Law is FOREVER. The Ten Commandments are ten words (devarim) that contain the instruction, or Torah, of God.

The First Covenant, (Old Testament), often referred to as the "Tanach" consists of: the 5 Books of Moses (Torah), the Prophets (Nevi'im) and the Writings (Ketuvim).

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We believe Yeshua fulfilled (meaning “followed”) all laws given by God. He did not annul any of God’s instruction but actually lived by them all His life.

As followers of Yeshua, we believe that we are to strive to live as He lived.

Matthew 5:17 is often read out of context. The text in which Yeshua was referring to preceded His statement which referred to the law and the prophecies about Himself. His statement simply means that His coming fulfilled the prophecies that spoke of His coming. He, in fact, said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” Matthew 5:17.

Genesis 2:2-3; Deuteronomy 4:38-40; Exodus 23:22; Joshua 1:8; Judges 2:1; Proverbs 10:8; Matthew 5:17; 1 John 2:4-5; 1 John 2:17; 1 John 3:4; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Revelation 1:3.

The Second Coming of Yeshua:

The subject of “end times” can cause much division. Unity and love have always been an important focus throughout the scriptures; therefore we believe that it is not necessary to take a position on this issue. The Lord will do what He may. Yeshua said that no one knows the time not even He. However, we believe that God speaks to those who listen and this we know: Yeshua is the Son of God, He came, He died, He rose and He will come again to establish His Kingdom.

Genesis 49:10; 1 Chronicles 16:33-34; Zechariah 14:4; Isaiah 9:7, 24:21-23; Matthew 23:39; John 14:18; Acts 1:11; Acts 3:20-21.

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OTTAWA MESSIANIC FELLOWSHIP – OBSERVANCES:

Ottawa Messianic Fellowship was founded upon a call given by God to return to and promote Biblical practices. These Biblical practices express the roots of the Hebrew heritage and belief in Messiah Yeshua. Thus, the purpose of these observances is to preserve the congregation's distinctive Messianic vision and Israelite identity and practices which also characterized Yeshua Himself.

Jewish believers have freedom in Messiah to maintain their Jewish cultural identity and Gentile believers their Jewish roots. This includes, but is not limited to: observing the Feasts of God, dietary laws, and other instructions of the Torah. These observances serve to magnify Yeshua. We choose to follow them as He did. By no means do these observances justify, sanctify, save, or grant eternal life; we do this to please our Father in Heaven through faith alone.

While the following observances bring blessings to the congregation and individuals, they are not a condition to fellowship.

OBSERVANCES:

- We observe **Shabbat** (the Sabbath), on the seventh day of the week, (commencing on Friday evening until Saturday evening), in accordance with the teachings of the Torah and Yeshua's observances and the New Covenant understanding.

Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus: 31:12-13; Leviticus 23:3; Mark 2:27; Hebrews 4:9; Luke 4:16; Luke 23:56; Acts 17:2.

- We observe the **Biblical Feasts** of the Lord in a Messiah-centred manner.

Leviticus 23:4-44; Zechariah 8:19; Matthew 26:17; Mark 2:18-20; John 2:13; John 7:1-2; John 7:8-11; Acts 2:1; Acts 27:9; 1st Corinthians 5:6-8;

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- We observe the practice of Mikvah (**Baptism by immersion**) upon profession of faith in Yeshua. This is a symbol of repentance, obedience to Messiah, newness of life and identification with Him.

Ezekiel 36:25; Matthew 3:13-16, 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; Colossians 2:12-13.

- We observe Se'udat Adon (The Lord's Supper/Communion), as a symbolic "meal" instituted by Yeshua, to be partaken "often" to remember Yeshua's life, death, future return and the atonement of our sins by Him. It is the congregation's practice to use unleavened bread (Matza) in recognition of its institution at Yeshua's last supper at Passover Seder, and in recognition of its symbolism.

Exodus 12:1-28; Luke 22:7-20; 1st Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-28.