

Are you new to the Messianic community? Do you have questions about what the Messianic movement, lifestyle, and theologies are all about? Do you need answers on a wide variety of issues with some detailed information? If these are the questions you have been asking, then *Introduction to Things Messianic* is a resource which will definitely benefit you.

Written to the new person investigating Messianic things, *Introduction to Things Messianic* is a compilation of articles which will inform the inquirer on a wide array of Messianic topics relevant to the current state and growth of our movement, including:

- Is “the Church” truly a new group of elect?
- Is the Torah or Law of Moses relevant for Believers today?
- Who were the ancient Pharisees and what did they believe?
- What are the ancient civilizations relevant to the Bible?
- Am I required to keep the Sabbath?
- What are the Biblical festivals?
- Am I required to eat kosher?
- Why do many Messianics use the proper name of God?
- What do Messianics think about the end-times?
- How do I properly grow in this new walk of faith?

These questions, and many more, are discussed and detailed in *Introduction to Things Messianic*. This book builds on the foundational material in *Messianic Beginnings: An Introductory Study* in a much more thorough way for those wanting an in-depth view of these basic issues. *Introduction to Things Messianic* can be used for a single person or a group Bible study, as study questions follow each chapter. This publication can also be used as an excellent primer to other publications available from Messianic Apologetics.

INTRODUCTION TO THINGS MESSIANIC

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**An Introduction for Newcomers
to the Messianic Movement**

J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Introduction to Things Messianic

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Abbreviation Chart and Special Terms

The following is a chart of abbreviations for reference works and special terms that are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

Special terms that may be used have been provided in this chart:

ABD: <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>	HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
AMG: <i>Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament</i>	Heb: Hebrew
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)	HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament	IDB: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
Ara: Aramaic	IDBSup: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement</i>
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)	ISBE: <i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i>
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)	IVPBBC: <i>IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)</i>
b. Babylonian Talmud (<i>Talmud Bavli</i>)	Jastrow: <i>Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature</i> (Marcus Jastrow)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.	JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
BDAG: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)	JETS: <i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
BDB: <i>Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>	KJV: King James Version
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.	Lattimore: <i>The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore</i> (1996)
CGEDNT: <i>Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Barclay M. Newman)	LITV: <i>Literal Translation of the Holy Bible</i> by Jay P. Green (1986)
CGL: <i>Cambridge Greek Lexicon</i> (2021)	LES: <i>Lexham English Septuagint</i> (2019)
CHALOT: <i>Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Holladay)	LS: <i>An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Liddell-Scott)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)	LSJM: <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)	LXE: <i>Septuagint with Apocrypha</i> by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition	LXX: Septuagint
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls	m. Mishnah
EDB: <i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>	MT: Masoretic Text
EJ: <i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>	NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)	NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
Ger: German	NBCR: <i>New Bible Commentary: Revised</i>
GNT: Greek New Testament	NEB: New English Bible (1970)
Grk: Greek	
HALOT: <i>Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Koehler and Baumgartner)	

Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: New International Version (1984)
NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
NT: New Testament
OT: Old Testament
REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament

Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)
TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition
v(s). verse(s)
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
Vul: Latin Vulgate
YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

Introduction

One of the most critical elements of our faith is the need to be growing and maturing and moving forward. Where we are today in our faith needs to be different from when we were first born again and received salvation. Our goal needs to be striving for full compliance with Holy Scripture, and we need to be willing to accept truth, regardless of what anyone says. We need to be open to the will of God in our lives, and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We need to follow the life example of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), who was the perfect embodiment of love and compassion, but at the same time kept His Father's commandments perfectly. While the Messiah is surely the Source of our righteousness (Philippians 3:9), He is also our example of obedience to emulate (John 14:15; 15:10).

Those of us who have entered into the Messianic movement and live a Messianic lifestyle, have had to keep these principles in mind as we have been seeking the Lord and His righteousness. The Messiah taught that "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (John 15:7, NASU). He also admonished His followers to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, NASU). If we truly wish to have the best possible relationship with God that is attainable, then we will love Him "with all [our] heart, with all [our] soul, and with all [our] resources" (Deuteronomy 6:5b, ATS). We will put the Lord first in our lives and have the assurance that He will direct our paths and show us what we are supposed to do.

Seeking God is not always an easy task. When a person enters into the Messianic movement from an evangelical Protestant background, one can quickly discover that a substantial amount of today's Christian thought is "incomplete" when it comes to the Messiah, His ministry on Earth, how He lived His life, and how His Disciples lived their lives. Yeshua the Messiah came to restore the Kingdom to Israel, He was a Torah observant Jewish Rabbi who followed the Law of Moses and who taught from it, and the First Century Jewish Believers likewise followed the Torah as their Instruction after His ascension into Heaven. The New Covenant is the promise of God writing His Law onto the hearts of His people by His

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Spirit (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27; cf. Romans 11:27; Hebrews 8:8-12; 10:16-17).

Much of this runs contrary to what many people in contemporary Christianity may teach or believe, as they instead often think that the Messiah abolished the Law. Many Christians believe that the only applicable or relevant Scriptures for God's people today are the "New Testament" or Apostolic Writings. Many, unfortunately, do not have a Torah foundation for their faith and do not realize that it is imperative to understand the Tanach or Old Testament, in order to understand the Messianic Scriptures.

But in our day and age as we may be approaching the return of the Messiah, many Believers have been led back to their faith heritage in the Scriptures of Israel, and to reevaluate some of the things they have been taught in the past. The Holy Spirit has convicted many people that the Torah is indeed for them, that they are a part of the Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:11-13), and that should more fully consider what it means to live as Yeshua lived. Many non-Jewish Believers, similar to the Apostle Paul in Romans chs. 9-11, have a burden for the salvation of the Jewish people, so they might know their Messiah, and we might all see the Millennial reign of the Messiah on Planet Earth begin.

Admittedly, those of us who have committed ourselves to this walk of faith must place ourselves completely in the hands of the Lord. However, it is safe to say that none of us suffer from having a *stagnant faith*—as we are being continually challenged to dig deeper into the pages of Scripture, pray and meditate on God's Word, and seek to know and experience God unlike we have ever known Him before! Hopefully, this is evidenced in our lives by a positive lifestyle change, which will impact others with the truth of the gospel via our good works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

This study, *Introduction to Things Messianic*, is a compilation of articles which is designed to complement our book *Messianic Beginnings: An Introductory Study*. This publication is geared to be an introduction to the Messianic movement, but is much more detailed and theological than that previous work. This resource is more technical in some places, yet is still broad-sweeping in the wide array of content it addresses. This publication can also be used as an excellent primer to other publications available from Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics.

My personal motivation for being in the Messianic movement is the fact that I want as much of God as I can get, and I want to be at the center of what He is doing in history. I will not settle for just doing what is "minimally required" for entry into the Kingdom, but I honestly want to

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please the Lord because I love Him. I want to emulate the Messiah as much as I can, and I genuinely want to be a positive impact on others. It is my sincere hope and prayer that this resource gives you a good, detailed introduction to the Messianic movement and what we are all about. I hope you have a heart-felt desire to seek more of God and to know Him and serve Him the best way that you can!

J.K. McKee
Editor, Messianic Apologetics

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The Messianic Lifestyle