



Messiah Moments 1

December 23, 2020

Welcome to Messiah Moments, a program presented by Beit Shalom Messianic Synagogue. This is a program of information about us and also about the faith which we share with hundreds of thousands of Jews and millions of Christians around the world. Messiah is not a word which you often hear around Thomasville. But, you do very often hear its counterpart, Christ. Both Christ and Messiah identify the very same individual and both mean the same thing, “Anointed One.” Who is The Anointed One? He is Jesus, the Christ, whom we also know as Yeshua the Messiah. Anointed one refers to the ceremonial anointing of certain individuals chosen by G-d to serve Him. Kings and prophets were anointed ones, but “The Anointed One” is only one individual, the Son of G-d who came to earth, was born of a virgin, died on the cross for the sins of mankind, rose from the dead on the third day and now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven interceding, praying, for us.

How is it that those of us in the Messianic Jewish Movement use a different name and title for the Son of G-d? It’s because these titles and names in the English language are transliterated from two different languages, Christ from Greek and Messiah from Hebrew. Christ is the transliteration of the Greek *Christos* into English and Messiah is the transliteration of the Hebrew *Mashiach* into English. *Yeshua HaMashiach* means Jesus the Messiah or Jesus, the Anointed One, the One anointed by G-d.

In our faith, Messianic Judaism, we have a Hebraic approach to Scripture understanding and worship. Our movement was begun over fifty years ago by young Jewish men and women who had encounters with Jesus. As their numbers grew, they wished to worship “The Anointed One” in the manner of their fathers, through Judaism, and a recreation of the 1<sup>st</sup> century faith of Peter, John, Paul and others. Only now, it is Messianic Judaism, a Judaism of people, both Jews and Gentiles, who worship “The Messiah.”

You might wonder about the name Yeshua. What does it mean? It means “to deliver, to rescue, essentially, salvation.” There is evidence outside of the Bible that the most Jewish of the Gospels, Matthew, was originally written in Hebrew, but the translation was lost. The Greek text from which our Bibles are translated, lends evidence to that because of the many Hebrew idioms and Hebrew ways of thinking found within it. What’s in a name? Consider this verse from the New American Standard Bible. The angel Gabriel is speaking to Joseph about his betrothed, Mary, whom we also know by her Hebrew name, *Miryam*: 21 “*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*” (Matthew 1:21 NASB). “Call His name Jesus” and “He will save” are connected by the conjunction “for.” That means that there is a relationship between these two groups of words, but in the English we can’t see it. Consider this same verse from the Tree of Life Version: 21 “*She will give birth to a son; and you shall call His name Yeshua, for He will save His people from their sins*” (Matthew 1:21 TLV). Essentially, it’s the same, except for Messiah’s Hebrew name, Yeshua. But, now insert the Hebrew word for “save” in its place and the Hebraism becomes visible. It says: “call His name Yeshua for He will *yoshia* (ישי) His people.” Yeshua, salvation, will save His people. The relationship of the words is clearly shown and the message to Joseph is clear: Yeshua will be the Savior of His people Israel.

Until next time: *Shalom aleichem*, may G-d's peace be upon you!