

A Survey of the Tanach for the Practical Messianic takes you through the Old Testament from a distinct Messianic point of view. It presents a theologically conservative perspective of the books of the Tanach, but one which does not avoid some of the controversies present in Biblical Studies for over one hundred and fifty years. The student, in company with his or her study Bible, is asked to read through each text of the Tanach, keeping a journal or log of characters, place names, key ideas, and reflective questions. Each book of the Old Testament is then summarized for its compositional data, and asks you questions to get a good Messianic feel for the text. This resource can be used for both personal and group study, and will be a valuable aid for any Messianic Believer wanting to study the whole Bible on a consistent basis.

A Survey of the Apostolic Scriptures for the Practical Messianic takes you on a journey through the New Testament from a distinct Messianic point of view. The student, in company with his or her study Bible, is asked to read through each text of the Apostolic Scriptures, jotting down characters, place names, key ideas, and reflective questions. Each book of the New Testament is then summarized for its compositional data, and asks you questions to get a good Messianic feel for the text. This resource can be used for both personal and group study, and will be a valuable aid for any Messianic person wanting to study the whole Bible on a consistent basis.

A SURVEY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES FOR THE PRACTICAL MESSIANIC

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J.K MCKEE

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

A SURVEY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

FOR THE PRACTICAL MESSIANIC

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Cover Image: J.K. McKee personal photo

ISBN 979-8326952844 (paperback)

ASIN B0DHT72NJ4 (eBook)

Published by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries

P.O. Box 516

McKinney, Texas 75070

(407) 933-2002

outreachisrael.net / outreachisrael.blog

messianicapologetics.net / messianicapologetics.blog

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which 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.

ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
ECB: *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
Ger: German
GN: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HN: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: King James Version
Lattimore: *The New Testament* by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT: Masoretic Text
NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: New English Bible (1970)
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)
WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

PROLOGUE

It can be observed, how throughout a great deal of religious history, theology is often produced in an environment of either conflict, or need. One of the greatest battles raging, across the spectrum today, concerns the valued place of the Holy Scriptures. For sincere, born again followers of the Messiah of Israel, the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, often serves as the anchor for who they are—and most especially why they believe that God put them here on this planet. That there are increasing assaults on the Bible, both internally and externally, within the community of faith, is a sad reality of our times.

In 2005, a teaching was released upon the Messianic sphere of influence, advocating that the Epistle to the Hebrews was not to be treated as inspired, reliable Scripture. For certain, this created quite a stir, with many being confused and hurt. It led to our ministry producing the commentary *Hebrews for the Practical Messianic*, but also exposed too much of the Messianic community for being too under-developed in its understanding of how we got the Bible. But what the enemy intended for the harm of others, the Lord, I believe, turned around for good. Not only was I prompted to produce a series of commentaries, mainly on the Pauline letters, from a Messianic perspective (2006-2016)—but the material in this workbook, summarizing the composition of each book of the Bible, and its major theology, would not have come about.

Since the original release of *A Survey of the Tanach* (2007) and *A Survey of the Apostolic Scriptures* (2006), both of these workbooks have been offered as separate volumes. I am pleased that we can now, in 2024, offer them in a combined, single volume, *A Survey of the Holy Scriptures*. When I was attending Asbury Theology Seminary in 2006, I had to take a course entitled, “A Survey of the Bible.” I had to keep a journal of people, places, key ideas, and concepts, as I read through each book of the Holy Scriptures on my own. **I believe this is one of the most important exercises which any Believer, maturing in faith, can ever do.**

As this single volume has been prepared, a number of alterations and updates have been made to the material. Most importantly, reflections on the current condition of the Messianic movement, and some new experiences our ministry and family have had, have been incorporated. I pray that *A Survey of the Holy Scriptures for the Practical Messianic*, is a great blessing, as you endeavor to have a much greater appreciation for the Word of God, in the uncertain times we find ourselves.

J.K. McKee Editor, Messianic Apologetics
September 2024

One of the major reasons why today's Messianic movement has grown in the past several decades, is a significant interest by Believers in the Torah and the Tanach. In too many cases, the Tanach Scriptures were not probed in that great a detail in a Jewish Believer's traditional Synagogue upbringing—and perhaps more serious, a non-Jewish Believer's Christian experience often witnessed the Old Testament taking a back seat to the New Testament in the Church. With many of the ethical and moral controversies the greater Judeo-Protestant religious community is experiencing in our time, a need for God's people to return to a foundational grounding in the Tanach Scriptures is absolutely imperative. The Old Testament cannot simply be disregarded any more.

Many have stayed away from consulting the Tanach not because of a lack of interest, but because few want to have to deal with the controversies it addresses. Unlike the Apostolic Scriptures, constrained to the First Century C.E., the period of the Tanach stretches back all the way to the beginning of the universe itself. Questions like: *Who was the Pharaoh of the Exodus? Did God actually condone the genocide of the Canaanites? and Am I the only one who thinks the Prophets are mentally disturbed?* are debates which many people do not want to enter into. Even more significant is the effect of a critical scholarship which has attempted to divide the Torah into non-Mosaic sources, question the inspiration and historical reliability of the text, and even regard much of the Tanach as Ancient Israel's mythology. For a Messianic movement which claims to place a high value on the Tanach, it is time that we join in to these conversations.

A Survey of the Tanach for the Practical Messianic takes you through the Old Testament from a distinct Messianic point of view. It presents a theologically conservative perspective of the books of the Tanach, but one which does not avoid some of the controversies present in Biblical Studies for over one hundred and fifty years. The student, in company with his or her study Bible, is asked to read through each text of the Tanach, keeping a journal or log of characters, place names, key ideas, and reflective questions. Each book of the Old Testament is then summarized for its compositional data, and asks you questions to get a good Messianic feel for the text. This resource can be used for both personal and group study, and will be a valuable aid for any Messianic Believer wanting to study the whole Bible on a consistent basis.