

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

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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: <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>	ISBE: <i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i>
AMG: <i>Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament</i>	IVPBBC: <i>IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)</i>
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)	Jastrow: <i>Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature</i> (Marcus Jastrow)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament	JBK: <i>New Jerusalem Bible-Koren</i> (2000)
Ara: Aramaic	JETS: <i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)	KJV: King James Version
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)	Lattimore: <i>The New Testament</i> by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (<i>Talmud Bavli</i>)	LITV: <i>Literal Translation of the Holy Bible</i> by Jay P. Green (1986)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.	LES: <i>Lexham English Septuagint</i> (2019)
BDAG: <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)	LS: <i>An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Liddell-Scott)
BDB: <i>Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i>	LSJM: <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i> (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.	LXE: <i>Septuagint with Apocrypha</i> by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
CGEDNT: <i>Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words</i> (Barclay M. Newman)	LXX: Septuagint
CGL: <i>Cambridge Greek Lexicon</i> (2021)	m. Mishnah
CHALOT: <i>Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Holladay)	MT: Masoretic Text
CJB: <i>Complete Jewish Bible</i> (1998)	NASB: <i>New American Standard Bible</i> (1977)
CJSB: <i>Complete Jewish Study Bible</i> (2016)	NASU: <i>New American Standard Update</i> (1995)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition	NBCR: <i>New Bible Commentary: Revised</i>
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls	NEB: <i>New English Bible</i> (1970)
ECB: <i>Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible</i>	Nelson: <i>Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words</i>
EDB: <i>Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible</i>	NETS: <i>New English Translation of the Septuagint</i> (2007)
EJ: <i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i>	NIB: <i>New Interpreter's Bible</i>
ESV: <i>English Standard Version</i> (2001)	NIDB: <i>New International Dictionary of the Bible</i>
Ger: German	NIV: <i>New International Version</i> (1984)
GNT: <i>Greek New Testament</i>	NJB: <i>New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic</i> (1985)
Grk: Greek	NJPS: <i>Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures</i> (1999)
HALOT: <i>Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Koehler and Baumgartner)	NKJV: <i>New King James Version</i> (1982)
HCSB: <i>Holman Christian Standard Bible</i> (2004)	NRSV: <i>New Revised Standard Version</i> (1989)
Heb: Hebrew	NLT: <i>New Living Translation</i> (1996)
HNV: <i>Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible</i>	
IDB: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>	
IDBSup: <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement</i>	

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.