

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**



# **INTRODUCTION TO THINGS MESSIANIC**

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

**J.K. McKee**

**MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS**  
[messianicapologetics.net](http://messianicapologetics.net)

# Introduction to Things Messianic

© 2005, 2009, 2012, 2022 John Kimball McKee

All rights reserved. With the exception of quotations for academic purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher.

Cover Image: JMWSout via Istockphoto

ISBN 979-8316753604 (paperback)

ASIN B00685T1FG (eBook)

Published by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries

P.O. Box 516

McKinney, Texas 75070

(407) 933-2002

[outreachisrael.net](http://outreachisrael.net) / [outreachisrael.blog](http://outreachisrael.blog)

[messianicapologetics.net](http://messianicapologetics.net) / [messianicapologetics.blog](http://messianicapologetics.blog)

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the *New American Standard, Updated Edition* (NASU), © 1995, The Lockman Foundation.

Unless otherwise noted, quotations from the Apocrypha are from the *Revised Standard Version* (RSV), © 1952, Division of Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

**Fair Use Notice:** This publication contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We make use of this material as a matter of teaching, scholarship, research, and commentary. We believe in good faith that this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law, and is in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. For more information go to: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/107>

Outreach Israel Ministries is a non-profit 501(c)3. All prices listed on the publications of Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics are suggested donations.

# Table of Contents

Introduction ..... xi

## The Messianic Lifestyle

|    |   |     |
|----|---|-----|
| 1  | Introduction to Things Messianic.....                             | 1   |
| 2  | When Did “the Church” Begin?.....                                 | 17  |
| 3  | Is Messiah the Termination of the Torah? .....                    | 29  |
| 4  | What Does “Under the Law” Really Mean?.....                       | 43  |
| 5  | You Want to Be a Pharisee .....                                   | 69  |
| 6  | The Role of History<br>in Messianic Biblical Interpretation ..... | 99  |
| 7  | Adopting a Messianic Lifestyle .....                              | 121 |
| 8  | Basic Messianic Apologetics .....                                 | 129 |
| 9  | Is Sunday “the Lord’s Day”? .....                                 | 145 |
| 10 | Introducing the Biblical Appointments.....                        | 171 |
| 11 | To Eat or Not to Eat? .....                                       | 179 |
| 12 | Sacred Name Concerns .....  | 209 |
| 13 | The Assurance of Our Salvation.....                               | 233 |

**14 The End-Times: What Should We Expect? .....257**

## **The Messianic Condition**

**15 My Family's Messianic Experience:  
1995-2022..... 283**

**16 Our Messianic Future:  
Something Similar, Something Different.....311**

**17 Thinking Big Picture:  
Does Today's Messianic Movement  
Truly Think Salvation Historically? ..... 325**

**About the Author..... 335**

**Bibliography .....337**

**Statement of Faith..... 353**

# 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  
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*  
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*  
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)  
Ger: German  
GNT: Greek New Testament  
Grk: Greek  
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)  
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)  
Heb: Hebrew  
HNV: 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)

# 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

## Introduction to Things Messianic

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

## Introduction

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*

# Introduction to Things Messianic

# **The Messianic Lifestyle**