

WHO WE ARE:

Welcome! Many want to know “who we are” and what we are about. We don’t like to talk too much about ourselves, as God’s Words are so much more interesting and important than we are. But for those who ask, we are a small branch rooted in the original Jerusalem Messianic Church of God. We’re a unique group of congregations whose roots go back through time as a body of believers who resisted the many new post apostolic doctrines brought in by the then new Roman church. We believe salvation is God’s free gift to us through Messiah Yeshua. None of us can earn salvation. We also believe God’s merciful grace is not to be mocked through license. Our forefathers held fast to the original Good News and Torah based doctrine, as taught by Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus the Christ) and His apostles.

As the words of Christ began to spread through Greece and into Rome, a new church began to emerge with different teachings and familiar old holidays to replace the Holy Days Yeshua and His Disciples kept. To enhance the numbers of adherents, this new church based out of Rome instead of Jerusalem, adopted many of the old pagan practices by “Christianizing” them by giving them a new name. These holidays had only slight modifications with a new explanation of their symbolism which was now being imposed on the church.

Many things that were once rites and practices done in honor of various pagan gods, were now being taught as supposedly being in honor of the Christ. This transformation away from the teachings and practices of Yeshua, God’s True Church has always resisted, but it attracted the Gentiles who were accustomed to these religious days in honor of the sun and the goddess of fertility. So prevalent were the many new pagan customs and teachings, that soon after the apostolic era, those who continued in the original doctrine of Jesus and His apostles were in a minority, and were soon considered a threat to this new religion that also became known by the Romans and Jews as “Christian.” For holding on to the original apostolic teachings, our history has been one of being misunderstood and persecuted. Though the Church of God history is one of being widely scattered, our roots, doctrine and practices can be traced back throughout history, to the original Messianic Jerusalem Church of God that Messiah – the Son of God and His apostles founded in Acts.2.

Just as God’s statutes in Torah taught Israel to welcome the stranger and treat them with love and respect (Ex 22:21, Lev 19:34), Jesus taught His church through Peter and Paul (Acts 10:28, Gal.2:8) to love and welcome all mankind. Paul taught the Gentiles that, as believers, they were grafted into the tree that is the Israel of God (Rom 9). We do not teach or believe in “Replacement Theology” – a teaching that in effect says that God has rejected His people Israel and replaced them with a mainly Gentile church. Rather, as Paul did and taught, we reach out not only to Jews, but to all of God’s children from all nations to become one in Messiah (Rom 1:16, Eph 2:16-19). While Paul focused his ministry on the new Gentile believers, each of the twelve original apostles focused their teaching toward their fellow Jewish believers – but they all preached the same Good News of Salvation through the blood of the Lamb and a doctrine based upon Torah. Messiah’s true disciples will also hold onto the original doctrine which was set down in all of scripture. That’s why we teach and practice each of God’s Holy Feasts, Sabbaths, New Moons, Statutes, laws etc. (Col.2:7). That is why you will find us striving to maintain and teach the same doctrine and continuing in the same practices of the original Jerusalem Church of God. Paul taught the Gentile congregations (and his fellow Jews) each of God’s seven Holy inspiring Feasts (Acts 16:3-4). It is this uniqueness in teaching and practice that makes us differ from most churches or groups.

Therefore, on this site you will read and hear about many things that the original Jerusalem Messianic Congregation practiced, as taught by Yeshua and His original apostles and later by Paul, Barnabas and

Apollos. That's why you will notice God's Holy Days and many other unique original Church of God doctrines being taught with their meanings expounded. In summery:

- You will see that God's Sabbaths were kept by Christ and His apostles, so we too keep and teach them (Luke 4:16-31, Col.2:16-17), as they represent the practices of our Father (Gen.2:2), and they portray the Millennial Rest for God's people (Heb.4:9).
- You will learn about all seven of God's Holy Days, the first of which is Passover (*Pesach*). Christ and His apostles kept Passover (Matt.26:17-19, 1 Cor.5:7). Indeed, Christ is the Passover Lamb from God that redeems our souls by His blood (John 1:29, Rev.5:6). This is the most basic of truths! God's plan of redemption is clearly portrayed through God's commanded Holy Days.
- You will learn about the Holy Days of Unleavened Bread (*Matzah*), just as Paul practiced and taught in all the churches as he traveled (Acts 20:6, 1 Cor.5:8). During these seven days, leavening pictures sin and vanity, while unleavened bread symbolizes a repentant heart toward God and of coming out of sin in to live a new life God's way (Matt.16:6-12, 1 Cor.5:8). God's people understood the symbolism of these days as annual reminders to separate from the sins of the world, as a way to draw closer to God (Ezra 6:21-22). God tells His people to come out of the world, to avoid her punishments, right to the very end (Rev.18:4).
- You will learn about the Feast of Firstfruits (*Shavuot*), later called Pentecost, because it was the day of the giving of God's 10 Laws and many Statutes, and it was the day God poured out His Holy Spirit on the new congregation of believers. It is with His Spirit that He writes His laws on our hearts (Ezek.36:27, Heb.10:15-16). Pentecost is the day He founded His church of repentant Jewish believers (Acts 2). Paul also kept Pentecost (Acts 20:16) and he also taught the Gentile churches to keep it, as they were grafted into the Household of God (Rom 9) with believing Israel (1 Cor.16:8).
- You will find we practice and teach God's Feast of Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah*), for it symbolizes the day of Christ's return and of the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor.15:52, 1 Thess.4:16). It also symbolizes a merciful warning of the correcting plagues spoken of in Revelation that are each preceded by a blast of a trumpet (Rev.8:6-...).
- Just like the Jerusalem Church of God, we too keep the fast on the Holy Feast of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) (Acts.27:9). The feast of Atonement pictures the atoning sacrifice of the life Christ for the sins of mankind. The Day pictures the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God to restore God's people to Him; and it pictures the banishing of Satan (Lev.16:9-31, Rev.20:3). This day pictures when real unity with God (AT-ONE-MENT) is made complete.
- Following in the steps of Yeshua our Messiah, we too keep His fun and meaningful Feast of Tabernacles (*Sukkot*) (John 7:2-14), picturing both God's desire to Tabernacle with us (Ezek.37:27, Rev.21:3), and the temporary status of our sojourn on this earth (Lev.23:43, Heb.11:8-10). On this Feast God teaches us to rejoice before Him (Neh.8:9-18) in anticipation of God's awesome City (New Jerusalem) and His wonderful world to come.
- As God commanded His people, we keep the 8th day – that last day of the Feast that Jesus called, “the Last Great Day” or (*Shemini Atzeret*) – it is the Holy Day succeeding the Feast of Tabernacles. It pictures the Great Day of the resurrection and judgment (John 6:39-54, 7:37, 11:24, 12:48, Rev.20:4-6).

- As Paul instructed us all, we do not let men judge us for keeping God's Sabbaths, Holy Days or New Moons (*Rosh Hodesh*) (Col.2:16-17).

You will find each of these High Holy Days commanded in Lev.23, and sprinkled throughout scripture – including throughout the New Testament. Through them, God has spelled out His plan for salvation for Israel and all of mankind. They are like a topographical map, pointing to the Christ and to God's plan of salvation for all of mankind! Or, like Paul put it, they're like a reflection, shadow or image cast from the body of Messiah (Col 2:17).

Who are we? We disciples of Messiah, a part of the Church of God, and **YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!**

On this site you have found a place to rejoice and learn God's True nature of love toward all of His children, those He has already called and those to be called. So visit often and join us on a journey through God's Word that teaches us that ALL of God's laws were given to us – including the Ten Commandments, Statutes, Ordinances, Testimonies, Precepts and even His Judgments, IN LOVE and for our GOOD (Deut.6:24 & 1 John 5:1-3)! Blessed is God who gives us the wonderful gift of Torah! God gave us the Words of Life through His faithful servants, and our Lord and Savior who died for us as the Lamb of God. (Gen.22:8 & Jn.1:29) They all spoke to us through God's love for us, as they were moved by the power of the Father's Holy Spirit (2 Pet.1:21).

We make no claims of preeminence or greatness, or of being better than any other group of people. God is the judge and only God is Great, as are His Words and promises. We try to keep the focus upon the Most High Father and His eternal Son Jesus the Messiah, through whom God made all things (John 1:3, Heb.1:2)!

The sign Yeshua Messiah gave that we are His disciples is that we learn to show love to one another (Jn.13:35), and that as we show True Love toward God and one another, we fulfill God's Torah (Mark. 12:28-34, Rm.13:8-19). Jesus said He did not come to do away with or change the law (Mt.5:17-19), but He revealed it's full spiritual meaning to us interlaced with God's mercy, that previously the Torah could only point toward (Gal.3:24).

Messiah also revealed to us the Good News of our relationship with our God as with a loving Heavenly Father, caring for, teaching and exhorting all His children in patient love and mercy through His wise loving laws (Jn.14:15-21 & Heb.12:5-12). Through His grace, we have hope and a promise of a wonderful future in His soon coming Kingdom (Isa.11:1-10 & John 14:2-3)!

As we strive to fulfill His will for us and become more like Him, we "Choose Life" eternal! (Deut.30:19, 2 Pet.1:3-11) We encourage each of you to take an active role in searching out and applying these Truths in your life so that you may receive the results of abundant blessings promised by God our Father for so doing (Jm.1:25).

Let's all learn together how to live what Jesus called the greatest commandment – those two greatest of Statutes – to love God with all our heart and all our soul (Deut.6:5, Mark 12:30) and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Lev.19:18, Mark 12:31). Much of the rest of God's Word is the details of how to keep these two great laws of love, leading to Messiah and to eternal life!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace" (Num 6:24-26).