

Apostolic Messianic Judaism

Apostolic Jews

(Romans 2:18-19)

**A Guide To Chaplains
2005-2006**

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Sacred Text:

The Hebrew Bible translated from the Massoretic, the Brit Chadashah Messianic Bible translated from the Greek.

Special Days/Holy Days

Work proscription Days: (Note: Apostolic Messianic Judaism uses a lunar-based calendar, thus the dates of their work proscription days change yearly.

Pesach (Passover)—first day; calculated as the evening of the first full moon after the spring equinox. Full moon must occur in Jerusalem before sundown.

Amad (Resurrection)—the third day of Passover, in which the Messieh was raised up and resurrected.

Shavuot (Pentecost)—counting from the Sabbath after Amad 50 days; the birthday and beginning of the Apostolic Messianic Church.

Significant Days: (Note: Apostolic Messianic Judaism uses a lunar-based calendar, thus the dates of their work proscription and other significant days change yearly.

Pesach (Passover)
Amad (Resurrection)
Shavuot (Pentecost)

Guidelines for these significant days:

Pesach is observed after sundown and the first star appears in the east. Unleavened bread and fermented grape juice are the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus Messieh. The participants are required to bathe one another's feet. The fermented grape juice shall consist of two-thirds kosher wine and one-third water in the amount of one tablespoon combined. This may be served in a typical Communion cup. No substitutes are permitted. The observance is closed. Only those who have repented, have come through the waters of mikvah, and made a profession of conversion may participate.

Amad is observed on the evening of the third day with a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Messieh. This can be a regular religious service or if few members in a private room.

Pentecost is observed with a march of the Minister or member in charge carrying the Brit Chadashah (New Testament), followed by the members, from outside the edifice or room into the sanctuary where it is placed before the members on the podium. Signifying members willingness this shall be the authority in all matters of faith, doctrine, and practice. Following this observance the members shall hold a regular worship service.

Diet:

Apostolic Jews have no special diet. There are no laws in the Jewish Brit Chadashah (New Testament) requiring a kosher menu.

Private Worship:

Apostolic Jews are required to pray morning and evening. There are no special religious items necessary.

Group Worship:

The first day of the week in the morning is the most important weekly observance. This is in commemoration of the Amad of Jesus Messieh and the day the New Covenant Messianic Church was established. There must be one other day of evening worship but the selection is set by the choice of the Minister and the members. Every Friday morning is set aside for Bible Studies in prison institutions where permitted. Apostolic Jews may work on any days of the year except those noted. They may also gather on the evening of the first day of the week.

Clergy:

Ordained Ministers whose license or ordination is certified by a recognized Bishop of our faith. In some cases a novice or lay-person (male only) appointed by the Minister may conduct a service.

Basic Beliefs:

The heart of Apostolic Messianic Judaism is belief in Jesus as the Messieh of Israel. Upon this confession of faith an individual must be born again of mikvah (water baptism) and Spirit. Circumcision is imputed to each believer in their mikvah covenant wherein they who are Messieh's are counted as the seed of Abraham. Apostolic Jews believe in one God who is Father in Creation, Son in Redemption, and Holy Spirit in Regeneration. God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus Messieh, to wit God was in Messieh redeeming the world unto himself. The Torah is a schoolmaster to lead us to Messieh after which members are completely observant of the Brit Chadashah (Jewish New Testament). The Gospel of the Kingdom is the true light which must be preached to all nations. Gentiles are grafted into the olive tree of New Covenant Israel..

The essence of the Apostolic Jewish faith is contained in the Shema: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord." Our faith is directed toward two commandments: 1.) Love God with all one's heart, soul, mind, and body; and 2.) to love one's neighbor as himself. In harmony with these two great commandments of Jesus Messieh, we accept and practice holiness and sanctification in both our spiritual and secular activities. Apostolic Jews do not accept any doctrine, teaching, or practice that is not found explicitly in the Brit Chadashah (Jewish New Testament) or taught by Jesus or his Apostles.

In modern times Apostolics have disagreed on points of doctrine but with respect to salvation by grace through faith adhere strictly to Acts 2:38 as the redemption plan of Israel. It is binding upon all Apostolics of this faith to acknowledge no one is saved by

works of man, traditions of man, or by creeds or dogmas developed by non Apostolics. Within the Apostolic Jews of the olive tree there are variations with respect to the extent of holiness (external) and personal convictions. This leads to several different standards of life-style.

Orthodox Apostolic Messianic Judaism is the fulfilment of the hope of Israel and the climax of Old Testament faith. Members believe in the divine origin of the Scriptures notwithstanding some of man's errors in copying or translating. No doctrine, element of faith, or practice may come from any other source. The unchanging Brit Chadashah (Jewish New Testament) of Jesus will continue past existence upon earth and therefore fully authoritative. Orthodox Apostolic Messianic Judaism places the greatest and strictest demands on its members in matters of Truth. Preserving the Truth once delivered to the world by the Apostles is the inspiration within all teaching and preaching. These are often referred to as Ultra-Orthodox and are the most pious of Apostolic Jews.

The Apostolic Judaism of Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Therefore there can be no adjustments or changes in our theological concepts. While other religions claiming to be Christian are continually evolving toward monotheistic universalism, Apostolic Jews place strong emphasis on preserving the Israel of God which consist of Jews and Gentiles in one body, following Jesus as Messieh.

There are other branches of Apostolic Judaism whose views are reformed toward Protestantism containing some Catholic beliefs and observances. These hold Acts 2:38 as we do but not with the same interpretation. Therefore we should not be grouped with these who are not fully Apostolic Messianic. This modern Pentecostalism continues to evolve since revelation to these is fluid and any man may alter faith, doctrine, and practice as he chooses. These, also called Jesus Only, Oneness Pentecostals, Apostolic Pentecostals etc., should not be classified with us nor we with them.

Reconstruction Judaism is the modern effort to restore the original faith of the Messianic Jews of the Brit Chadashah. They are a small group consisting of about 300 Churches in the United States, the Philippines, South Africa, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Europe. The founder is Bishop Gary Reckart who places great emphasis on human value and equality of the races. In practice this group follows the great commission of the Messieh Jesus of Nazareth.

Apostolic Messianic Judaism remains constant in terms of faith, doctrine, and practice seeing themselves as the seed of Abraham rather than members of a nation or a branch of Judaism placing emphasis on race. One slogan of Apostolic Jews is: Saved by grace not race!

References:

Reckart, Bishop Gary. (Statement of Faith Apostolic Messianic Judaism). Florida: JMFI Publications 1995.