

# Statement of Faith



## *The Scriptures*

We believe that only the sixty-six books of the Bible, in their original languages, are the inspired and, therefore, inerrant Word of God. The Bible is the final authority for all we believe and how we are to live. (Mt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

## *One true God*

We believe that the one true God exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and that these, being one God, are equal in deity, power, and glory. God is infinite in love, perfect in judgments, and unchanging in righteousness and mercy. We believe that God not only created the world, but also now upholds, sustains, governs, and providentially directs all that exists, and that He will bring all things to their proper consummation in Jesus/Yeshua, to the glory of His name. (Ps. 104:1-35; 139:1-24; Mt. 10:29-31; 28:19; Acts 17:24-28; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:9-12; 4:4-6; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:4-6)

## *God, the Father*

We believe God the Father is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. We believe the heavenly Father is the source of all that exists, whether of matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made man, male and female, in His image. By intention He relates to people as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward them. In love He both seeks and receives penitent sinners. (Ps. 68:5; Isa. 64:8; Mt. 5:45; 7:11; Jn. 3:17; Rom. 8:15; 1 Pet. 1:17)

## *God, the Son*

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth, Yeshua in the original language, is the Messiah, the Son of God; that He is God incarnate, fully God and fully man; that He was eternally preexistent with the Father and the Holy Spirit; and that He was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinners. By His blood shed at the cross, He obtained for us eternal redemption, the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. He was raised bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for believers forever. He will return to earth again to reign in righteousness. (Mt. 1:18-25; Jn. 1:1-18; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:1-28; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:10-14; Eph. 1:7; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:15-23; Heb. 7:25; 9:13-15; 10:19; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 1 Jn. 2:1-2)

## *God, the Holy Spirit*

We believe that Jesus/Yeshua baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit, in whom we are also sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit regenerates, forever indwells, and graciously equips the believers for godly living and service. Subsequent to conversion, the Spirit fills, empowers, and anoints believers for ministry and witness. We also believe that signs and wonders, as well as all the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament, are operative today and are designed to testify to the presence of the kingdom of God and to empower and edify the Body of believers to fulfill its calling and mission. (Mt. 3:11; Jn. 1:12-13; 3:1-5; Acts 4:29-30; Rom. 8:9; 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 3:1-5; Eph. 1:13-14; 5:18)

<i>Salvation</i>	<p>We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus/Yeshua alone. No ordinance, ritual, work or any other activity on the part of man is required or accepted for his salvation. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight, that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Messiah. (Jn. 1:12-13; 6:37-44; 10:25-30; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 3:1-4:23; 8:1-17, 31-39; 10:8-10; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9)</p>
<i>Evil</i>	<p>We believe that Satan, originally a great and good angel, rebelled against God, taking a multitude of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish his counter-kingdom of darkness, evil, and unrest on earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels. (Isa. 14:10-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Mt. 12:25-29; 25:41; Jn. 12:31; 16:11; Eph. 6:10-20; Col. 2:15; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-9; 20:10)</p>
<i>Humanity</i>	<p>We believe that humanity, intentionally and exclusively male and female, was originally created in the image of God, righteous and without sin. As a consequence of disobedience, all persons are sinners by both nature and choice, and are, therefore, spiritually dead and justly condemned as children of wrath in the sight of God, wholly unable to save themselves. (Gen. 1:1-3:22; Ps. 51:5; Isa. 53:5; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:12-21; Eph. 2:1-3)</p>
<i>Human Sexuality</i>	<p>We believe a sexual relationship is only appropriate in a monogamous, heterosexual marriage covenant, and therefore should only be practiced in such a covenant. We believe that any sexual practice outside of the previously described marriage covenant is sin.</p> <p>We believe that God created humankind in His image, intentionally and exclusively male and female, with each bringing unique qualities to sexuality and relationships. Sex is a wonderful gift from God to be expressed in marriage for procreation, union, and mutual delight or in celibacy in devotion to God. We believe that marriage is the union of one man (husband) and one woman (wife) through a sacred covenant designed by God to be a lifelong relationship and commitment between a husband and a wife.</p> <p>We will teach and uphold God's marriage design as found in the Scriptures, but we also seek to minister to those who suffer the consequences of sexual and marital brokenness. While we do not affirm same-sex relationships, we do affirm loving each person, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us and them in His word. We also affirm that we are called to minister to all who fall short of God's standards with love and compassion. (Genesis 1:27, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:35, Matthew 19:4-6)</p>
<i>The Body of Messiah</i>	<p>The body of Messiah is a community of redeemed people worldwide under the Lordship of Yeshua who meet regularly to worship, be discipled, partake of the biblical feasts and ordinances, fellowship, and carry out the great commission together.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus/Yeshua established the local body to function with ordained leaders and a form of governance that protects, guides and releases people in their gifts to minister. The church functions under the theocratic rule of God with clearly defined elders.</li> <li>2. We believe that the Congregation is God's primary instrument, through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes in the earth. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, God has given spiritual gifts to each person to be used within the body for edification and training.</li> <li>3. We also affirm the priesthood of all believers and the importance of every Believer being joined with and actively involved in a local community of Messiah.</li> <li>4. (Mt. 16:17-19; Acts 2:17-18, 42; Eph. 3:14-21; 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 2:11-15; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10)</li> </ol>

<p><i>Ordinances</i></p>	<p>In our covenant with Yeshua, our lives are marked through acts of baptisms and the Lord's Supper (communion). Through water baptism, we signify the initial surrender of our former lives and rise in the new life of our Lord. Through the spiritual baptism of the Spirit and fire, we experience the presence and power of God. Through the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper, we memorialize the sacrifice of Yeshua, the Lamb of God, and bring His presence into our bodies, the Temple of God.</p> <p>1. <i>Water Baptism</i>. A pledge of a believer's covenant with God. It identifies them with the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua. It is a sign of their cleansing and freedom from sin, and their commitment to walk in the ways of Messiah through the power of the Holy Spirit. Full immersion is our mode of baptism. Rom. 6:1-6, Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:22-24, 36-41, 8:26-39, Gal. 3:26-29, Col. 2:10-15</p> <p>2. <i>The Lord's Supper</i>. Communion bread represents Yeshua's body and the fruit of the vine, either grape juice or wine, represents His blood given sacrificially to redeem us from sin. Through this, we proclaim the life and death of Jesus Christ until he comes. 1 Cor. 11:23-32, 10:16-17, Lk. 22:15-30, Jer. 31: 31-34</p>
<p><i>Missions and Service</i></p>	<p>A fundamental component of discipleship and spiritual growth (individual and congregational), outreach is a response to the work of the Word of God and Holy Spirit within. Sharing messiah's compassion for those who are perishing prompts our prioritization for outreach's urgency. I Pet.2:9; Mt.4:19, 2 Cor.2:15, 5:11,14,20; 2 Tim.1:7-8; Philip.2:15-16; Is.52:7; Ps.40:10, 126:5-6; Rom.10:14-15; Prov.11:30; Dan.12:3</p> <p>We believe that God has called the Body to work together in unity and honor in preaching the gospel to the <u>Jews and to all nations</u>, in making disciples according to the teachings of Yeshua and His apostles, and in remembering the poor and ministering to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. Isa. 58:6-12; 61:1; Mt. 5:1-7:28; 28:18-20; Lk. 4:18; 21:1-4; Gal. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:8</p>
<p><i>Appointed Times</i></p>	<p>We assemble for Sabbaths, Holy Days, and other gatherings as Scripture instructs (not necessarily to the exclusion of other holidays), all of which find their fulfillment in Yeshua, the congregational calendar life will include these. These also proclaim - and testify to Yeshua's Messiahship and Lordship. Rom.9:4-5, 11:24, 14:6; Lev.23; Dt.16; Mt.5:17; Acts 28:17; I Cor.5:7, 9:22, 11:26; Col.2:16; Heb. 2:17; Lk.24:27; Heb.10:1.</p>
<p><i>Last Things</i></p>	<p>We believe in the literal second coming of Yeshua at the end of this age, when He will return to earth personally and visibly to reign over the nations in His millennial kingdom. No one can know with certainty the timing of the Lord's return. (Ps. 2:7-9, 22:27-28; Mt. 24:36; Jn. 14:12; 17:20-26; Rom. 11:25-32; 1 Cor. 15:20-28, 50-58; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11; 2 Thes. 1:3-12; Rev. 7:9-14)</p>
<p><i>Eternal Reward and Punishment</i></p>	<p>We believe that when Believers in Jesus/Yeshua die, they pass immediately into the His blessed presence, there to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and the glorious transformation of their bodies. The saved will receive eternal rewards and forever dwell in blissful fellowship with their great triune God.</p> <p>We also believe that when unbelievers die, they are consigned to hell, to await the Day of Judgment when they shall be punished in the lake of fire separated from the presence of God. (Dan. 12:2; Mt. 25:46; Lk. 16:19-31; Jn. 5:25-29; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:19-26, 3:20-21; 2 Thes. 1:5-10; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:1-22:15)</p>