

# Why us?



Welcome Israelis!

↑ small cup  
Hot water

## Why me?

If you are an Israeli traveller, you may be wondering, "Who are these people who are willing to host me? Why would people from other parts of the world invite me into their homes? What could they possibly gain from this?" The answer is related to who YOU are and who THEY are!

## Who are you?

You are Israeli and a Jew - both of which are important according to the Tanakh.

This is what the Bible writes about the people of Israel: "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth." (Deuteronomy 7: 6)

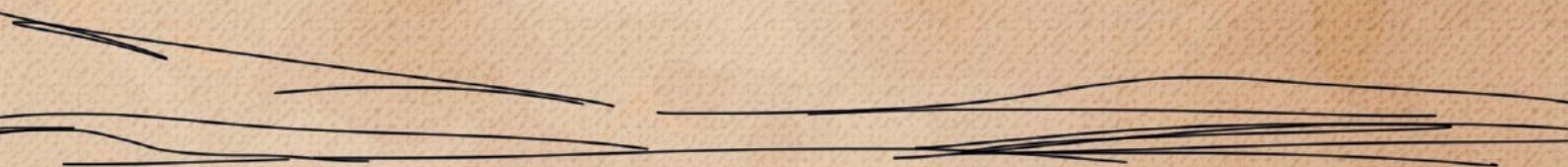


In God's eyes, Israel is His chosen people. God chose you and your nation to be His treasured people; special to him among the nations of the earth.

God also explains the reason why he chose a special people and the role he intends for this nation to play. God has determined that through the people Israel all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

"And the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your people and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and him who dishonours you I will curse and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" (Genesis 12: 1-3)

You may choose to believe or reject these words, but it's important to understand that for many people these are the words of God explaining His plan to use Israel to bless all of humanity. So according to the Tanakh, you matter to Him. He has chosen you and has a purpose for you, both as an Israeli and as a Jew.





## Who are they?

They are *goyim*, meaning they are Gentiles or people of other nations, not Jewish. You may know them as “Christians,” but because “Christ” means “Messiah,” we should really call them “Messianics.” They are simply people of the nations who believe in and seek to follow Yeshua as the promised Messiah.

So, you will find hundreds of families who open their hearts and their homes to you and make every effort to be a blessing to you. Why? Because they simply believe what the Bible teaches, including those verses we mentioned from the Torah, above. They understand that through you and your people they have received the greatest blessing, the Messiah, who came into the world through the Jewish people.

When they read God’s promise to Abraham “...in you (Israel) all the families of the earth shall be blessed” they believe it applies to them directly! Therefore, they feel a debt of love to Israel and seek ways to bless the Jewish people.



They believe in Yeshua, whom we mistakenly call Yeshu (meaning, "May his name and memory be obliterated.") in the land of Israel. They believe that Yeshua is the Messiah, that he died to provide atonement for sin, and that He rose again to give eternal life to all who believe in Him. This Yeshua was an Israeli Jew, just like you.

Imagine a person, who although not a relation, loved you so much that, when he died, he left you \$10 million in his will. Because of this incredible generosity, you and your family would be financially secure for the rest of your lives. Now imagine that a descendent of this person turns up in your neighbourhood needing a place to stay.



What would you do? Chances are you would welcome his descendant and take every opportunity to express your gratitude for the gift that changed your life forever. You would gladly open your home to those of his family.

Most if not all of the people who host you see you as a relative of the one who changed their lives forever – Yeshua the Messiah. Their faith is based on the Scriptures given to the people of Israel and written by God through Jewish men.

Most importantly they know that the source of their salvation is Yeshua Himself, a Jewish man, born in Bethlehem and raised in the Galilee.



This is the reason why their hearts and their homes are open to you. They love you because God chose you as His treasured possession.



“Pray for the peace of  
Jerusalem! May they be  
secure who love you!”

(Psalm 122: 6)

## Messianic Jews - Who are they?

In most ways, Messianic Jews in Israel are just like other Israelis: Tax-paying citizens, most of whom serve in the IDF, love their country, volunteer for various organisations, study at universities and observe Jewish traditions.

They believe, as foretold by the prophets of Israel in the Bible, that God came to live among people as Yeshua the Messiah. He lived a sinless life, and through his death he took upon himself the appropriate punishment for our sins, making a way for a close and personal relationship with God. We do not need a rabbi or a priest to serve as a bridge to God. We only need him.





Yeshua himself said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14: 6)

The New Testament is a continuation of the Tanakh, written by Jews about the life and work of Yeshua in Israel. Therefore, the Bible is one book consisting of the Tanach and the New Testament. It teaches that God loves all people equally, Gentiles and Jews, blacks and whites, men and women. Therefore he sacrificed himself as Messiah for all humanity. We believe that everyone who trusts in Yeshua from the depths of their heart is part of one spiritual family.

Herein lies the connection between Messianic Jews and the Christians who love Israel and host you in their homes. Even though most of these Christians are not Jewish, they believe in the God of Israel and the Messiah of Israel. They believe Yeshua to be the Messiah whose death atones for our sins and who alone gives us eternal life.

## **A challenge**

Yeshua's message exposed the problem of religious hypocrisy. This is why Jewish religious leaders of his time rejected him and incited violence against him. Prejudice against the New Testament and a lack of openness surround many of us to this day. We challenge you to lay aside long-standing prejudices, to examine the facts and to reach your own conclusion about the identity of Yeshua. It may well be that the love you are experiencing from your Christian hosts comes from him.

## So, what do we believe?

The Bible teaches that we are cut off from God because of sin.

We sin every day. Between God and humanity is a huge gulf created by our sinful nature.

Wars, injustice, lies, terror, theft, jealousy – these are sins which have kept us alienated from a holy God.

We were created by God to be like Him and close to Him, but through our stubbornness we chose to go our own way and ignore Him and His ways. We have either done this intentionally or simply by being indifferent toward Him. This stubbornness the Bible calls "sin".

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isaiah 59: 1-2)

We all find ourselves alienated from God, selfish, vain and lacking real love and peace. We are born with a void in our heart that only God can fill.

God offers to restore our relationship with Him by taking our sin upon Himself. Because God is holy and perfect, He requires that sin be



punished, and rightly so! According to the Scriptures, an innocent life must be sacrificed in order for a guilty life to escape the penalty of sin.

It was only by sacrificing an innocent animal on the altar of the Temple that the people of Israel received forgiveness of sin, provided they felt sincere remorse for their wrongdoing.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." (Leviticus 17: 11)

### **God's plan hasn't changed**

God still forgives our sin through the sacrifice of an innocent. In the Tanakh, Isaiah prophesied that one would come who would die to bear the punishment we deserve for our sins. Isaiah was referring to Israel's Messiah.

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all."  
(Isaiah 53: 5 – 6)



## **God Himself atoned for our sins.**

In his love God Himself atoned for our sins. He has done this through the shed blood of the Messiah, bridging the gap that separates us from God. The Messiah was sent into the world to die in our place, taking upon himself the sentence of death that is rightly ours. Because of his sacrifice a way has been made to restore our relationship with God.

## **Yeshua - Son of David**

Only one Jew in history has fulfilled the biblical prophecies of Messiah. He is Yeshua (meaning "salvation"), the Son of David.

Out of his great love for us, God sent Yeshua as a sacrifice for our sins so that we might be restored to him. He was faithful to keep his promises!

## Here are some of the prophecies and their fulfilment:

- Messiah will come from the House of David. (Jer. 23: 5-6 fulfilled in Mat. 1:1)
- Messiah will be born in Bethlehem in Judea. (Mic. 5:1 fulfilled in Mat. 2: 1)
- Messiah will be born in human form. (Isa. 9: 5-6 fulfilled in John 6-9)
- Messiah will die having never sinned. (Isa. 53: 9-10)
- Messiah will die in the place of others. (Isa. 53: 10)
- Messiah will rise from the dead. (Isa. 53:10,11 fulfilled in Luke 24: 1-7)
- The people of Israel will reject him. (Isa. 53: 5- 6 fulfilled in John 19: 15-16)
- Messiah will come before the destruction of the Second Temple. (Daniel 9: 26)



## The Open Door

Jewish history is filled with times of desperation when all hope seemed lost and heaven's door seemed tightly shut. At one such time – the Babylonian Exile – God said these amazing words to the Jewish captives:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

**All of us face times when we feel desperate and alone, when God feels a million miles away. But the door is open; all you need to do is step through it! What is keeping you from doing that right now?**

*“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”*



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