

2025-07-12 Messiah Conference Report

Thank Keith for giving the teaching

Talk about a passage we read 3X/year

That surprisingly applies to the Messiah Conference

*Deuteronomy 16:16 Three times a year all your males are to appear before Adonai (the LORD) your God in the place He chooses—at the Feast of Matzot (Passover), the Feast of Shavuot (Weeks), and the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles). No one should appear before Adonai empty-handed—*

These are called the Pilgrimage Moadim (Appointed Times)

Where is the place God chooses? Jerusalem, Temple Mount

How far would people have to come? Haifa – 100 miles, Eilat – 200 miles

No planes, cars, buses, trains

Would take 5 days from Haifa, 10 days from Eilat

Also, Jerusalem is at 2500 feet elevation so the hike would be uphill

From Haifa & Eilat which are both at sea level

Although it says all your males referring to Sukkot

*Deuteronomy 16:14 So you will rejoice in your feast—you, your son and daughter, slave and maid, Levite and outsider, orphan and widow within your gates.*

So, not only men were to come to Jerusalem but entire families

Now, think about that 200 mile hike with your entire family 3X/year every year

One of which, Shavuot was during hot weather

*Luke 2:41 Every year Yeshua's parents went to Yerushalayim for the festival of Pesach.*

That's why Yeshua's family was in Jerusalem on Passover in Luke 2

& why there was no room in the inn when Yeshua was born, it was Sukkot

Appearing 3X/year was not optional, it was a command

What an incredible commitment the Lord required of His people

*Deuteronomy 16:17 the gift of each man's hand according to the blessing Adonai your God has given you.*

God did not command a tithe, but a free will offering, what you wanted to give

Based on how God had blessed each person

CSY has been obeying this command for several years

& we have been tremendously blessed financially

So, why did God command Israelites to keep these pilgrimage moadim?

Giving was the primary form of worship

& He wanted Israelites to worship Him

But, they could have done that in their homes or towns

& hired someone to bring the offering to the Temple in Jerusalem

Yet, God commanded they **gather together** to worship 3X/year

Here's why - Israelites camped together for 40 years in the dessert under Moses

Then the men fought together in a united army for 25 years under Joshua

That's 65 years of being together in an organized way

After the fighting ended Joshua allocated the land to the tribes by lot

3M people scattered over an area size of NJ, 300 miles N to S, 50 miles E to W

But there was a very huge difference from NJ today

There was no communication, certainly phones or internet

But probably not even mail service

Each family dealt with cultivating their land or practicing some trade

Men who fought side by side for years would never see each other

Very quickly the sense of unity & purpose they had would have disappeared

They were there to establish a nation that would serve the Lord

Instead, everyone would do what was right in their own eyes

Also attacks from other nations were still happening after the time of Joshua

Recorded in Judges 2 & they needed to come together to fight them off

The nation would not have endured very long

Disputes would have arisen between tribes, boundaries disputed

Brit Hadoshah records one of the division that developed

Speaking of Galileans who followed Yeshua the Pharisees from Judea said

*John 7:49 True, these `am-ha'aretz (people of the land) do, but they know nothing about the Torah, they are under a curse!"*

Judeans looked down on the Galileans, they were considered hicks

Galileans resented the Judeans arrogant pride, control of the government

Pilgrimage Moadim kept Israel unified by bringing them all together 3X/year

How did that help unify them? In a way still relevant today

When you have to gather together with people periodically

It becomes necessary to deal with offenses

So you don't ignore, insult or attack them when you're together

We see that in immediate family dynamic – you can't sit down to dinner

With one of your siblings if you're mad at them or they're mad at you  
So, being in a family that gathers regularly forces you to deal with offenses  
That's why the Brit Hadoshah says

*Ephesians 4:26 Be angry, but don't sin - don't let the sun go down before you have dealt with the cause of your anger;*

Frequently offenses are caused by misunderstandings

So when the offense is discussed the misunderstanding can be cleared up  
Ex: after years of warfare to take the land

The tribes that settled east of Jordan were sent home by Joshua & they  
*Joshua 22:10...built there an altar by the Jordan—a large, conspicuous altar.*  
The only altar God permitted was at the entrance to the Tabernacle  
How did this effect the rest of the Israelites?

*16“Thus says the whole congregation of Adonai: ‘What is this treachery that you have committed today against the God of Israel, by turning away from following Adonai, building yourselves an altar, rebelling this day against Adonai?’*

The other tribes were ready to go to war over what they thought was treachery  
But, the tribes who built the altar explained they built this altar  
*27...as a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, ...  
Then your children may not say to our children in times to come. “You have no share in Adonai!”’*

*28 Therefore we said: ‘If they say such to us or to our future generations, then we will say, “See the replica of the altar of Adonai which our fathers made—not for burnt offering or for sacrifice, but as a witness between us and you.”’*

That altar had an interesting name in the KJV

*(KJV) 34 And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar Ed: for it shall be a witness between us that the LORD is God.*

Ed in Hebrew means witness

So, to keep down offenses all wise God commanded Israelites to gather 3X/yr

On 3 pilgrimage moadim, to worship Him

To keep the people unified in creating & defending

A nation living in obedience to His Word

& to maintain the connections between the scattered tribes & individuals

& to keep them on good relations with each other

The primary purpose of the pilgrimage moadim was to gather to worship God

By making sacrifices, giving, worship in song

But in addition to worshipping the one God at these gatherings

In offerings & songs, Torah would be read & taught

Musicians would teach each other worship songs, have jam sessions

Friendships would develop, children would play together

Meeting 3X/year all through childhood they'd grow up as friends

They'd play games, engage in contests, dance

Romances would begin & be carried on 3X/year

Business ventures would be initiated, business deals agreed on

Crafts, clothing would be sold

& offenses would be addressed in godly ways

Pilgrimage moadim were instrumental in keeping Israelites together as a nation

Without them Israel would not have endured as a nation

Until the time was right for Messiah to come

Then 1380 years later after Messiah came, nation of Israel destroyed by Rome

& most of the people were scattered into all nations, the diaspora

Communities were even more isolated by distance, lack of communication

People even stopped speaking Hebrew except in religious services

& the different accents developed

Sephardic around Mediterranean, Ashkenazi in northern & eastern Europe

Vowels were added to Hebrew texts to maintain proper pronunciation

Now that the state of Israel has been restored

Thousands come to Jerusalem on the Pilgrimage Moadim

& worship together at the Western Wall

Have a family Seder in a banquet hall in Jerusalem on Passover

Celebrate the giving of 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai on Shavuot

On Sukkot many build sukkot & camp out for all 8 days

But, not all Israelis participate, if they did Jerusalem would be overwhelmed

Has anything else developed to unify the way the Pilgrimage Moadim did?

Two other primary things have developed to unify the nation – 1<sup>st</sup> the language

Hebrew was a dead language for 1746 years from 135 to the late 1800s

Used only for prayers & liturgy

God gave vision for restoring Hebrew to a Jewish linguist Eliezer Ben-Yehuda  
 Israeli government understands the unifying power of language

When you make Aliya (immigrate) to Israel you are required

To study Hebrew in an Ulpan for 5 days/week for 5 months

That way everyone speaks the same language

2<sup>nd</sup> Israeli unifying force is - almost everyone, men & women serve in the IDF

Immediately out of high school for 2 or 3 years & as a reserve until 54

& the reserves participate in training periodically

When Israelis meet each other for the first time they ask 4 questions

When did you serve? What group did you serve in? Who did you serve under?

Serving in the IDF creates a bond among Israelis in addition to Hebrew

There's a parallel spiritual unifying force in Messianic Movement

Rabbis, elders, ministry leaders from all over the world

Gather at 2 or 3 conferences/year

Messiah Conference in July, Rabbis & leaders Conference in January

In the SE, SW & Midwest at Regional Conferences

At these conferences we do much the same as at the Pilgrimage Moadim

We travel a long way to get there, thankfully usually by plane

Worship our God in song & dance, study His word through teachings

We share inspiring testimonies of God's grace & power

Share things we've learned that have been successful at building the  
 Kingdom of God

Reaching the lost and discipling believers

Musicians teach each other songs, have jam sessions, friendships develop,

We even play games, miniature golf, bowling

These gatherings are vitally important in keeping us connected as a movement

Keeping us focused on the vision of effectively proclaiming Good News

To the Jew first and also to the Gentile

Messiah Conference is the most significant gathering

Up to 2000 people supportive of Messianic Movement gathering for  
 week in Pennsylvania

Open to everyone, not just rabbis

It is the source of vision & inspiration for Messianic Movement

13 or us were there, usually much more

Rabbis conference in January is open to rabbis, elders & ministry leaders  
 Share with you what I experienced at Messiah Conference  
 To encourage you to plan on attending next year  
 It's expensive, \$700/adult for the whole week including room & board  
 This year for me the biggest blessing was a time of reconciliation  
 With our former Associate Rabbi David Levitt  
 Not going to give details but important to let you all know it happened  
 & it was the high point of the conference for me  
 Reconciliation was needed because of what I've been talking about  
 Rabbi David & I see each other periodically at these conferences  
 So, we needed to clear up any offenses we had with each other  
 Report from leaders of YMJA – Young Messianic Jewish Alliance  
 About 300 young people from 13 to 30 participate  
 Today's youth who come to YMJA events are very different from  
 A few years ago they were not really interested  
 In worship, teachings, prayer, drawing closer to God  
 Were rebellious, would sneak off  
 & do forbidden things, violating curfews, even drugs, sex  
 Recently – kids attending are very different, genuinely seeking the Lord  
 Not rebellious but obedient, not causing trouble  
 Why are they different?  
 In the past kids came from homes where parents were seen as  
 Part of the establishment, in agreement with the world's culture  
 So, like many of us older people, those kids rebelled against their parents  
 & those who represented the establishment  
 Today's kids who attend YMJA events come from homes where  
**Parents** are rebelling against woke culture, they are not woke  
 & their children are in agreement with that rebellion  
 This is why they are home schooling or attending charter schools  
 So, the kids are in agreement with their parents concerning culture  
 & are seeking God, not rebelling  
 I realized this is also true of our teens here at CSY  
 Parents who bring them are here because they reject woke culture  
 Kids also reject it

Worship was amazing – Paul Wilber, Joshua Aaron & Marty & Misha Goetz

There were also great worship teams – Houston, Philadelphia, Toronto

Each team had about a dozen people, many young people

There was an amazing group of young Israelis called Solu

Solu means build up, prepare the way

It always moves me to see & hear worship music coming from Israelis

You can see & hear them on YouTube – search for Solu

Also recommend a documentary *Pioneers of Messianic Worship*

by Dr. Greg Silverman

We were also blessed to meet Solu members who sat at a nearby table

They'll be in Buffalo at the Tabernacle on 7/16 at 6:30pm

Video recordings of the evening services are available on MJAA website

[Mjaa.org/messiah-2025-livestream/](http://Mjaa.org/messiah-2025-livestream/)

Audio recordings of some of the morning messages

Will be available on Google drive

Send me an email & I'll send you the link

Another high point happened on the way home it's a testimony of God's grace

Driving home on a super highway near Williamsport

There was a large piece of metal in the road, debris

### **Slide**

Saw it way too late to avoid hitting it

Loud noise on impact, then a scraping sound as we dragged it along

### **Slide of car**

Prayed for the Lord's help

There were several difficulties

It happened in the left hand lane

So when I pulled over it was on the shoulder in the middle

Lots of high speed traffic whizzing by both ways

It was 96 degrees

Called 911 & requested a tow truck, it didn't come

Thought came to try jacking up the car to try & get the thing out

Discovered I had no crank for the jack

### **Show slide of crank**

Had to use a "cross" & could only turn 1/6 of a turn at a time

## Show slide of cross

Could see a puddle developed under the car

Didn't know if it was oil, A/C fluid or coolant

Grace – I was able to jack up the car & the remove the debris

Just after I finished a young man stopped

& told us there was a repair shop at the next exit, he could have been angel

Car still ran so we drove it off the Xway

At the 1<sup>st</sup> corner I saw a gas station with repair bay doors open

Amazing, to find an open mechanic on Sunday of July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend

Also amazingly mechanics graciously agreed to look at the car right away

Found no damage other than bumper

They determined the puddle was A/C condensation

Checked all the other fluids & said we were good to go

Refused to charge us anything & we drove home with no problems

There's one other fulfillment of the Pilgrimage Moadim to share

This one is very nearby in location and in time

*Leviticus 23:3 "Work may be done for six days, but the seventh day is a Shabbat of solemn **rest, a holy convocation.** You are to do no work—it is a Shabbat to Adonai in all your dwellings.*

God commanded the Israelites, and you & I, to have a day of rest once a week

& to have a holy convocation, a holy assembly, **gathering**

So, Shabbat is a Pilgrimage Moadim, we're having one

Praise the Lord we don't have to walk 200 miles to get to it

Why did God give us this command to come together periodically, weekly?

Primarily so we would worship Him, but also

*Hebrews 10:24 And let us keep paying attention to one another, in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds,*

*25 not neglecting our own congregational meetings, as some have made a practice of doing, but, rather, encouraging each other. And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

The Day is the Day of the Lord, His return or judgement day

Which we all know is coming closer

He gave the command to have a holy convocation on Shabbat



*“to spur each other on to love and good deeds”  
& to “encourage each other”*

To keep us unified in pursuing His purpose for our lives

Individually & collectively

& to make us work out our issues with each other because

We all have to be in same room worshipping our God together once/week

So we can work together to build His Kingdom

We are a family, when conflicts, offenses happen - & they will

Because none of us are perfect, we all make mistakes, misunderstand

The command to have a holy convocation weekly makes it a high priority

For us get them cleared up

Because at that holy convocation you’re going to be in the same room

Maybe sitting in the same row, as that person you have an issue with

Torah instructs us to deal with issues of offense in some very familiar verses

We recite part of these verses every week

*Leviticus 19:17 “You are not to hate your brother in your heart. Instead, you are to firmly rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.*

To hate your brother in your heart means

To have hatred, resentment repressed but still seething inside you

It hasn’t boiled over into expressed anger yet, but it will

Why would your neighbor need firm rebuking?

Because he has offended you, sinned against you or someone else

If you see or experience your brother sinning against you or someone else

You are to firmly rebuke him or else you bear his sin

Meaning you are carrying his sin, God counts his sin as being your sin

Just as the Lord bore our sins by suffering the punishment we deserve

The judgment for your neighbor’s sin will be on you

*18 You are not to take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am Adonai.*

Not rebuking your neighbor for sin against you, for an offense will effect you

You will be tempted to take vengeance &/or bearing a grudge against him

A grudge is anger/hatred seething inside you, in your heart

We are told not to take vengeance because that is the Lord’s job

Amazing that all that is summarized as “love your neighbor as yourself”

In God's mind loving your neighbor means

Firmly rebuking them when they sin against you or others

Important to understand the firm rebuking must be for significant things

Not differences of opinion, preferences, standards

Or valid wounds to your pride

Yeshua confirmed this instruction on confrontation & explained

The godly way to do it

*Matthew 18:15 "Moreover, if your brother commits a sin against you, go and show him his fault -- but privately, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.*

Privately, so you don't embarrass your brother in front of others

Also because of pride people are much more receptive to correction

When they are alone than when they are with friends

Rabbi Sha'ul adds to Yeshua's instruction on how you should go

*Galatians 6:1 Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of **humility**, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won't be tempted too.*

"I might be wrong but here's how I experienced what you said or did"

& if that person is "set right", meaning they apologize

Or explain you didn't understand them correctly

You need to forgive and restore them

But, you don't need to trust them, because trust is earned over time

*Matthew 18:16 If he doesn't listen, take one or two others with you so that every accusation can be supported by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

Witnesses are to witness that you went to your brother "in a spirit of humility"

*17 If he refuses to hear them, tell the congregation; and if he refuses to listen even to the congregation, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax-collector.*

Telling the congregation does not mean jumping up in the middle of a service & making an accusation

Or going to others & telling them your complaint – gossiping & slandering

It means bringing it to the leaders of the congregation the Board of Elders

Also we all need to be aware there is a spirit of offense, a clever demon

That will tempt us to be offended

You have to learn to discern that spirit

& remove it by the power of the name of Yeshua

When it attempts to control you by making you offended

CSY has been under attack by a spirit of offense & we need to stand against it

We learned one way to stand against it is to firmly rebuke in a godly way those

Who offend us, but there is another way that can seem contradictory

*1 Peter 4:8 More than anything, keep loving each other actively; because love covers many sins.*

What does it mean for love to cover many sins? It means overlooking, ignoring

Excusing, without getting angry, developing a grudge, taking vengeance

How do you know which to do?

With love in your heart you need to seek the Lord to know

Whether to confront someone's sin as in Leviticus

Or "cover" their sin with love as in 1 Peter

A criterion I have been led to use is

If I'm the only one that sin hurts, RHK may guide me to overlook it

But if it can hurt others it needs to be confronted

When you are offended by someone RHK will definitely also guide you

To never assume evil intentions, motivation

That they did what they did to intentionally hurt you or someone else

Instead assume their ignorance like Yeshua did on the cross

*Luke 23:34 Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them; they don't understand what they are doing."...*

If they knew all the facts, they would not have said or done what they did

Prayer

Thank you for the wisdom of Your Torah, commanding Pilgrimage Moadim

So your people Israel would stay unified in their purpose to create

A nation that obeyed, served, worshipped You

Thank you for how today's state of Israel also keeps the Pilgrimage Moadim

Thank you for how MM today has its own Pilgrimage Moadim

We pray for an annual NE regional & for a NE regional rabbis gathering

Thank you for getting us home after hitting that debris

Thank you for the man who directed us & the mechanics

Thank you for the realization that Shabbat is a Pilgrimage Moad

That we gather together as commanded by You

To worship, learn, but also to encourage

*spur each other on to love and good deeds*

& because we gather together each week we can't allow offenses to fester

Help us to deal with offenses in a godly way

To firmly rebuke when guided to by Ruach Ha Kodesh, so we don't bear his sin

Help us to do so in humility

Keep us from *taking vengeance, bearing any grudge against the children of your people,*

Help us *love our neighbors as ourselves*

Teach us to "show a brother or sister their fault in a godly way

Help us discern when to firmly rebuke & when to let love cover sins

Come against the spirit of offense, accusation, cliques