

## **What We Believe**

*This copy of the Statement of Faith is provided without mid-sentence verse references for an easier reading experience. Please also carefully read the Statement of Faith with verse references, looking up and reading each verse reference as you go. Be sure that your faith is firmly rooted in a correct understanding of the Word of God.*

### **The Bible (The Holy Scriptures)**

We believe that God has chosen to communicate with humanity generally through His creation and specifically through the sixty-six (66) books of the Bible. We believe in the inspiration, sufficiency, and clarity of the Word of God. We accept as authoritative the entire Bible from Genesis 1 through Revelation 22 as the only standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. These sixty-six (66) books are not to be added to or taken away from, either by supposed new revelation of the Spirit or by human traditions. We believe that God cannot and does not lie; therefore, we believe the Bible is inerrant and infallible in the original autographs. God's Word is eternal and unchangeable.

### **The Nature of God**

We believe in the one true and living God - the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - perfect in all of His attributes, existing eternally in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons of the one Triune God are eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, and equally deserving of worship and obedience. We believe that God does not change. Jesus, Whose Hebrew name is Yeshua (יֵשׁוּעַ), does not change.

## **The Nature of Humanity**

We believe that humanity was created directly by God in His image and likeness to be fruitful and multiply, to rule over and subdue creation, and to have a relationship with their Creator. There is only one race of humankind—the human race or Adam’s race. Adam and Eve were the first two humans. All people alive today are the descendants of Adam and Eve and subsequently Noah. Human life is sacred, and life begins at the moment of fertilization. God has created humanity as two unchangeable genders - male and female - and decreed that marriage and its accompanying sexual intimacy are to be between one biological male and one biological female for life. Humanity was free of sin in their original created state, with the ability to choose obedience or sin. Adam’s rebellion resulted in death and the curse entering the world, and death has passed to all of his offspring throughout time. Since then, all people are born in a state of sinfulness that cannot be overcome without first being drawn by the Father and granted regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Humanity proves our innate sinfulness by the fact that every person commits sin, except for Yeshua. Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of the commandments of God as contained in Scripture. On our own, humanity is completely unable and unwilling to overcome our fallen state and our desire for sin, and to seek after God. Humans are all naturally enemies of God and are wholly dependent on His sovereign grace to save us.

## **The Consequences of Sin**

God is perfectly just, holy, and good, and as such, He cannot and will not tolerate sin in His presence. Neither will He let sinners go unpunished. God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness. The wages of sin is death. It is appointed to humanity to die once, and then we are judged by God according to our thoughts, words, and deeds during our life on

earth. Every person will be found guilty of breaking God's commandments, for which the punishment is eternal, conscious torment in the lake of fire, known also as Hell.

### **The Nature of Yeshua (Jesus)**

We fully believe and affirm the complete deity of Yeshua as the second Person of the Triune God, as well as His complete humanity. We believe He has existed from all eternity, without beginning and without end, and that He is not the product of creation but is Himself the uncreated Creator. As the exalted Son of God, He is that "Son of Man" spoken of by the prophet Daniel, Who reigns in glory, and Who is therefore worthy of our worship and adoration. As we worship Yeshua the Son, we give glory to God the Father. Yeshua of Nazareth is the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He was virgin-born in the flesh, truly God and truly man at the same time, without a sin nature. He lived a perfect, sinless life, fulfilling the Law of God. He suffered on the cross and died a substitutionary death to satisfy the wrath of God in the place of all who repent and trust in Him alone. He was buried, was raised to life, appeared bodily to many, and ascended to Heaven. Having been glorified with all authority in Heaven and on Earth, He sits at the right hand of God. As the great High Priest, He intercedes before the Father on behalf of His people whom He redeemed. He will one day return to gather all of the redeemed, and they will be with Him forever.

### **The Way of Salvation**

We believe that every person is a hopeless sinner in need of salvation from sin and its punishment. No good works we try to do can save us from the righteous wrath of God. Salvation comes when, by the prior regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, a sinner recognizes their own utter sinfulness

and need of the Savior, and they repent of their sins and trust alone in the finished work of Yeshua in their place to save them on the day of judgment. Repentance is a radical change in mind and heart regarding one's attitude both toward God and one's sin. This inward change results in a hatred of sin and a desire to follow and obey God. True repentance will be reflected in the way one lives as a result. Repentance is not a work, but rather is granted by God. When a sinner repents of their sins and trusts alone in Yeshua, God shows His compassion towards them and instantly forgives all of their sins – past, present, and future – and credits them with Yeshua's perfect righteousness because Yeshua bore their sins on the cross.

### **Evangelism & Believer's Baptism**

We believe it is the duty and privilege of believers in Yeshua to take the Good News of salvation to the world and spread the Gospel wherever we go, known as evangelism. Evangelism can take many forms, but it must always contain the proclamation of the Gospel message of salvation from sin and Hell in Yeshua. Believer's baptism by immersion in water, while not required for a person's salvation, should be performed in the presence of witnesses by someone who has repented and put their faith in Yeshua. This serves both as a testimony of their faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and their union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible Body of Messiah.

### **The Destiny of the Redeemed**

We who have been redeemed by the blood of Yeshua recognize that we are not our own; we have been bought by Him and are therefore His servants and the children of God. Each redeemed person is a new creature and has the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, within them as a pledge. God promises in Scripture that He preserves all of His people whom He has redeemed and will Himself ensure

their glorification. For those who place their trust in Yeshua alone, after this life is the promise of eternal life in perfect fellowship with God in His presence.

### **The Bible's Central Promise & Covenants**

We believe that “the covenants of the promise” in Ephesians 2:12 refers to a specific promise and specific covenants which can be traced through the Biblical record. God made a promise to Adam, Eve, and the serpent after the Fall, in which He said that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the seed of the serpent. This promise is the first reference to the coming Messiah Yeshua, Who dealt a death blow to Satan when He suffered and died on the cross to pay for sins and rose again from the dead. This promise was protected and carried forward in time through covenants that God made with individuals and groups at key points in Biblical history. The promise and covenants are as follows:

- The Promise: Genesis 3:15
  - God promised that One is coming who will destroy the serpent, Satan.
- Noahic Covenant: Genesis 9:8-17
  - God promised that He will never send another flood to cut off all flesh and destroy the earth. This covenant preserves mankind and the earth so the Promise can be fulfilled. The sign of the Noahic Covenant is the rainbow.
- Abrahamic Covenant: Genesis 15
  - God promised Abram (Abraham) countless descendants and a land forever. This covenant establishes the offspring of Abraham as the focal point of God's redemptive plan; the covenant is passed on to Abraham's son Isaac, to Isaac's son

Jacob, and the kingly line to Jacob's son Judah. The sign of the Abrahamic Covenant is circumcision.

- Sinai Covenant: Exodus 31:16-18
  - God entered into the Sinai Covenant with the nation of Israel to prescribe their way of life and set them apart as His chosen people by the commandments of the Torah. This covenant also established the criteria for His temporal blessings of the Promised Land. This is the only one of the covenants that is two-sided and includes both blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience. The sign of the Sinai Covenant is the Sabbath.
- Davidic Covenant: 2 Samuel 7:8-17; Psalm 89:3-4 & 89:28-29
  - God chose David to be king of Israel and promised him a lineage and a kingdom that would last forever. This promise will be fulfilled in Yeshua when He returns to establish His kingdom on the earth. The Scripture does not specify a sign for the Davidic Covenant.
- New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25
  - When the people of Judah were being sent into the Babylonian captivity, the prophet Jeremiah prophesied of a New Covenant that would be made with Israel and Judah. This covenant is one-sided, meaning that God promises to write His Law on the heart of His people, and there is nothing the people must do in order for the covenant promises to come about. The New Covenant is about the salvation and sanctification of Israel. On the night of His arrest, Yeshua explained that the New Covenant is found in His blood, meaning that the way to take part in the blessings of the New Covenant is through Yeshua's redeeming blood. It is on the basis of

Yeshua's blood that God forgives the sins of Israel. Gentiles who are saved, although not ethnically Jewish, are included in the promises of the New Covenant by virtue of being joined to the redeemed of Israel by faith. This means that all saved persons - Jew and Gentile - are equally part of Israel by faith. This is true for all of the redeemed throughout history - past, present, and future. Everyone who is joined to Israel by faith has their sins forgiven and the Law of God written on their hearts. The Scripture does not specify a sign for the New Covenant.

### **God's Intended Way of Life for Believers**

We believe that all of God's redeemed people are united as one by faith in Messiah Yeshua regardless of ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, nationality, or any other perceived dividing category. Gentiles are grafted into the commonwealth of believing Israel by saving faith in Yeshua. We believe this has always been the case and that God has one intended way of life for His people - Jew and Gentile alike. Dividing the commandments of God into categories of "moral", "civil", and "ceremonial" and teaching that the civil and ceremonial commandments have been done away with is a manmade tradition that is incompatible with what the Scripture teaches. All of the mixed multitude whom God delivered out of Egypt received the Torah at Mount Sinai under the Sinai covenant. God states many places in Scripture that the commands of the Torah are to be kept forever. The New Covenant given in Jeremiah 31 states that God will write His law, His Torah, on the heart of His people; therefore, the Torah commandments are still applicable for believers under the New Covenant. We strive to keep all of God's commandments that apply to us who are outside of the land of Israel. We do this not out of fear or a belief that we can gain God's favor through our works, but rather out of love for the God Who saved us by His grace. Believers do still stumble and sin as we battle against the world, our sinful nature, and the devil. We are called

to confess our sins to God as part of our ongoing relationship with Him as our Father. We recognize that we are justified (declared righteous in God's eyes) wholly apart from our own works. We have been set free from slavery to sin; thus, we desire to be sanctified and to be holy as God is holy. We believe that obedience to God's commandments is the way in which we show the evidence of our faith. We believe that God intends for His redeemed people to love all people as we love ourselves. Within the family of God, we should love one another as Yeshua has loved us. Our love for other believers is part of our testimony.

### **Sabbath Observance**

We believe that the Sabbath, the weekly day of rest, always has been and always will be the seventh day of the week. The Sabbath is the day on which we are to rest from our labors, gather together to worship, pray, read and learn the Scriptures, and enjoy fellowship with God and other believers. The Sabbath is also a picture of the coming Messianic Kingdom, when Yeshua will establish His reign on the earth for one thousand years, as well as the new heavens and new earth to follow. At no point do the Scriptures state that the Sabbath has been changed to a different day or abolished. No person or group has the authority to change the Sabbath. It is right and proper to gather to worship God on any day, but the seventh day is set apart by God for rest and corporate worship.

### **Biblical Festivals**

We believe that the people of God are commanded to keep and observe the Biblical festivals (God's appointed times) as outlined in Leviticus chapter 23. We recognize that outside the land of Israel, and without a temple and sacrificial system, we cannot keep these festivals to their fullest extent. Nevertheless, we strive to do the best we can to set these days apart as holy, learning about

how they inform us of the glory and works of Messiah Yeshua as they enrich our walk of faith.

The holy days that the Bible commands are:

- **Weekly Sabbath (Shabbat):** Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 34:21; Leviticus 23:1-3; Luke 4:16
- **Passover (Pesach):** Leviticus 23:4-5; Numbers 28:16
- **Unleavened Bread (Chag Ha Matzot):** Exodus 34:18; Leviticus 23:6-8; Numbers 28:17-25
- **Feast of Firstfruits (Reishit K'Tzirchem, Start of the Barley Harvest):** Leviticus 23:9-14
- **Feast of Weeks/Pentecost (Shavuot/Yom Ha Bikkurim, Start of the Wheat Harvest):** Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:9-12
- **Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanah):** Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6
- **Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur):** Leviticus 16:29-34 & 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11
- **Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot):** Leviticus 23:33-44; Numbers 29:12-40; Deuteronomy 16:13-15
- **Assembly of the Eighth (Shemini Atzeret):** Leviticus 23:39; Numbers 29:35-40

In addition to the Biblically commanded festivals, we also celebrate traditional holidays that, although not commanded in Scripture, are mentioned in the Bible and hold significance for us, such as Purim and Hanukkah.

## **Biblically Clean Foods**

We believe that God has prescribed which meats His people are permitted to eat and that the dietary laws are still in effect for everyone, including believers in Yeshua, today. When we gather to eat together as a congregation, we permit only those foods that the Bible declares are clean and fit to eat.

## **The Role & Destiny of the Jewish People**

We believe that God has chosen the physical descendants of Jacob to be His own special people, a light to the nations. This choosing of Israel is permanent and irrevocable. Within physical Israel, there has always been a remnant of those who are faithful to God. Gentiles who come to saving faith in Yeshua do not replace Israel but are joined to the believing remnant of Israel. The majority of Israel rejected Yeshua as the Messiah during His incarnation, thus resulting in a partial hardening of the Jewish people toward Yeshua and the Gospel. However, there will come a day when God will remove this hard-heartedness. At that time, Israel will look in repentance to Yeshua as the divine Savior, and God will save Israel.