

Baruch HaShem Messianic Synagogue

New Members Class

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The Plan

- Fill out a Membership Application
- Attend the classes every Shabbat
- Read the books
 - *Growing to Maturity* (Dan Juster)
 - *The Jewishness of the Gospel* (David Stern)
 - *Our Hands are Stained with Blood* (Michael Brown)
- Take the Exam
- Interview

Growing to Maturity

- Chapter 1 – The Plan of Salvation
 - Section A: Creation to Abraham

Creation to Abraham

- G-D is personal – Exodus 34:6-7 (13 attributes of G-D)
- G-D is Holy (totally separated from evil, unclean things, and immoral ways) – Leviticus 19:2
- Man was created in G-D's image
 - We are a reflection of G-D in function and attributes.
- Selfishness is when self and its desires are enthroned as lord of our lives instead of G-D.
- G-D had a plan to purchase back (*redeem*) us from our state of spiritual death (*separation from G-D*).

G-D's Plan

- Centered on a chosen nation
- Began with Avraham, G-D's friend

G-D's Promises to Avraham

- 1. He would make of him a mighty *nation*
(Genesis 12:2-3)
- 2. He would make his *seed* a source of blessing to all nations
- 3. He would give Avraham's descendants
(*through Ya'akov*) the *land* of Israel
- 4. He would *bless* those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel

Why Avraham?

- “Avraham trusted G-D, and his trust was credited to his account as righteousness.”

Gen 15:6

- Somehow, genuine trust in G-D makes us acceptable to Him.
- True test of Avraham’s trust: the binding of Yitzchak (the *Akedah*) in Genesis 22.

Faith & Sacrifice

- Traditional Judaism (via the Talmud & the Siddur) tells us that since we (as Jews) are tied to Yitzchak as his descendants, we should pray that G-D might remember his sacrifice and forgive our sins.
- Somehow our forgiveness is tied to sacrifice...someone paying a great penalty for us and having merit that counts as our own.
- Faith (believing trust) and sacrifice are part of G-D's means of restoring us to Himself.