

A Statement of Faith for Kol Tikvah

History

Kol Tikvah started in November 2018 as a small group of believers in the Messiah dedicated to learning what part Torah obedience plays, not in our salvation, but in our walk with and love for Elohim. We are an independent group focused on Scripture study and application. A variety of terms have been used to describe Torah observance, Messianic, Hebrew Roots, Hebrew Christian. Regardless of the label, we are a group of believers in the Messiah, part of His body, His ekklesia¹, those called to be like Him, and shine His light in this world.

1. The Center

Elohim (God) created the world in order to have a relationship with human kind,² that the relationship might bring Him glory.³ But, because of our rebellion, we were separated from Him.⁴ His desire is the restoration of that relationship.⁵ Chosen by the Father⁶, redeemed by the Son,⁷ led by the Ruach haKodesh⁸ (Holy Spirit) believers have the opportunity to love Elohim, as shown through obedience to His instructions (Torah).⁹

2. The Core

We affirm our commitment to the following core truths of the Bible.

1. **One Elohim** – There is one, and only one true Elohim¹⁰, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.¹¹ He is the creator and Master of all¹², existing eternally in three persons, - Father, Son, and Ruach haKodesh.¹³
2. **Yeshua the Messiah** – Also known as Jesus Christ is both fully Elohim,¹⁴ and fully man.¹⁵ He existed eternally with the Father¹⁶, and is the Creator¹⁷, not a created being.¹⁸ While He became human, He did not partake of our sinful nature,¹⁹ and was qualified as our sin sacrifice.²⁰ He died,²¹ was resurrected in three days,²² ascended to Heaven,²³ and will return again as He promised.²⁴

¹ Often translated as “Church”, but the Greek simply means “assembly”.

² Genesis 3:8

³ Isaiah 43:6-7

⁴ Genesis 3:24

⁵ Matthew 10:29-31; Romans 8:28-29

⁶ Deuteronomy 10:14-15; Colossians 3:12

⁷ Romans 5:8-9

⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:3

⁹ John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 6:4

¹¹ Exodus 2:24; Matthew 12:26

¹² Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:4;

Colossians 1:16-17

¹³ Exodus 3:13-14; Isaiah 48:16,

Psalm 2:7; Matthew 28:19; 2

Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴ Colossians 1:18, 2:9

¹⁵ Luke 2:52; John 1:14;

Philippians 2:6-8

¹⁶ John 1:1

¹⁷ John 1:3; Colossians 1:16

¹⁸ Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁹ Isaiah 53:9, Hebrews 4:15

²⁰ Romans 3:24-26; 2

Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13;

²¹ Mark 16:37

²² Luke 24:5-7

²³ Acts 1:9

²⁴ John 14:2-3; Acts 1:11

3. **Ruach haKodesh** – The Holy Spirit is fully Elohim²⁵. He is a person (part of the Godhead)²⁶, and was involved in Creation²⁷ and the inspiration of Scripture.²⁸ His works of convicting²⁹ and regenerating³⁰ are essential to the believer’s salvation. Believers are entitled to the benefit and joy of being filled³¹ and walking in the Spirit³² for empowerment in our walk with Yeshua, service and mission.³³
4. **יהוה** – The covenant name of Elohim appears 6,828 times in the Tanakh. While the exact pronunciation is unknown many scholars use the pronunciation, “Yahweh”. This name is holy, and should not be misused or overused.³⁴ It is for this reason that most Jewish and Christian Bibles substitute the name with haShem (The Name), Adonai (Lord), or LORD. This substitution was done out of respect and a desire to keep the commandments, not maliciously. During prayers and Scripture reading at Kol Tikvah, the name Yahweh is used.
5. **The Bible** – The Bible consists of sixty-six books, no more or less. These are commonly called the Old Testament, which we refer to them as the Tanakh (a Hebrew acronym for Torah (Law of Moses), Neviim (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings)), and the New Testament or Brit Chadasha (The Renewed Covenant). It is the written word of Elohim.³⁵ Elohim inspired and arranged the Bible³⁶ through men.³⁷ He has preserved His word,³⁸ and it is powerful and effective to accomplish His purpose of salvation among the nations.³⁹ The Bible is essential for bringing believers in the Messiah into maturity.⁴⁰
6. **Humanity** – Elohim created mankind in His image.⁴¹ He blew into us the breath (neshama/soul) of life that gives us the ability to choose to glorify Him on this Earth.⁴² With this choice, man elected to disobey Elohim in the garden allowing for the corruption brought forth, through sin, to enter into this world.⁴³ When a soul sins against the Father it must be removed from His presence,⁴⁴ causing a separation between man and Elohim. The same sin that causes spiritual death also causes physical death.⁴⁵ Man does not have the ability to save himself from this separation, but must humble himself before Elohim and His loving-kindness.⁴⁶
7. **Salvation** – Salvation is a gift given to us by Elohim that we are unable to attain by our own efforts.⁴⁷ Rav Sha’ul (Apostle Paul) makes it very clear that we are rescued from our sins by His grace.⁴⁸ Grace, or chen (חן) in Hebrew, is not a new element that appeared with writing of the Renewed Covenant. It is an underlying concept that is woven throughout the entirety of the Scriptures. Sometimes written as favor, grace has existed since the creation of the world and was first mentioned regarding Noah.⁴⁹ This same favor was credited to others like Abraham,⁵⁰ Moses,⁵¹ and David⁵² for their faith, with the key aspect of salvation being faith. Yeshua the Messiah is the fulfillment of the promises made to those of the Tanakh. Those promises are

²⁵ Acts 5:3-4

²⁶ John 16:7-15

²⁷ Genesis 1:2

²⁸ 2 Peter 1:21

²⁹ John 16:8-11

³⁰ Titus 3:5

³¹ Exodus 35:31; Micah 3:8; Acts 4:31

³² Galatians 5:16-18

³³ Acts 1:8

³⁴ Exodus 20:7

³⁵ Isaiah 40:8

³⁶ 2 Timothy 3:16

³⁷ 2 Peter 1:21

³⁸ Psalm 119:89, 160

³⁹ Romans 1:16; Deuteronomy 30:14-16

⁴⁰ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

⁴¹ Genesis 1:26-28, Leviticus

19:2, Matthew 5:48

⁴² Genesis 2:7

⁴³ Romans 5:12

⁴⁴ Psalm 5:4-5

⁴⁵ Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23

⁴⁶ Micah 7:18-19

⁴⁷ Jeremiah 2:22

⁴⁸ Ephesians 2:5

⁴⁹ Genesis 6:8

⁵⁰ Hebrews 11:17, James 2:21

⁵¹ Hebrews 11:24-26

⁵² Acts 2:29-32, 36

made available to us through belief in His perfect life, laying down of His life, and taking it up again through His Resurrection.⁵³

8. **Israel** – There exists one Covenant and Promise, given to Abraham, for all of humanity whether Jew or Gentile.⁵⁴ We, at one time, were once considered as strangers, without hope and outside of this Covenant of Promise.⁵⁵ To all who have faith in this promise, through Messiah Yeshua, we have become of the seed of Abraham and share in his (Abraham's) blessings.⁵⁶ However, the church has not replaced Israel.⁵⁷ The nations (Gentiles) have joined Israel⁵⁸ by sharing in their belief. Together, with a unified heart, we have become one body, one people, one ekklesia, for the purpose of glorifying the Father.⁵⁹
9. **Life (Daily Halakha)** – Those who have accepted, by faith, the Salvation offered by Yeshua, the Messiah, are called to walk in a newness of life. The same faith that ushers in Salvation should begin to produce a desire to obey His Commandments and do His Word by the help of the Ruach haKodesh (Holy Spirit).⁶⁰ The Scriptures are very clear that works should accompany our belief.⁶¹ Yeshua said that if we love Him we should keep His Commandments.⁶² Since He and the Father are One and He did not come to destroy the Torah or the Prophets,⁶³ He can only be referring to the Torah as a basis for His Commandments. We understand that there is a blessing in Torah obedience, not only after life, but for the duration of this life as well. It must be made clear that works do not grant salvation, but our response to salvation should be these works.⁶⁴
10. **Eternal Life** – All those who have ever lived will one day be resurrected⁶⁵ to stand before the Master of Eternity and be judged for our works while alive.⁶⁶ As a true testimony of our faith,⁶⁷our works will testify to what was in our hearts. The righteous will be given a place in the coming Kingdom of Elohim while others will be eternally separated.⁶⁸ The heavens and the earth will be renewed⁶⁹ and Elohim will establish His dwelling place with the righteous for all time.⁷⁰

3. Our Commitments to Biblical Truth

1. We seek to understand the intent of each biblical writer by using grammatical, historical, and contextual principles of interpretation, focused on Messiah, and led by the Ruach haKodesh. We accept the absolute authority of the sixty-six-book canon over that of creeds, traditions, or leaders. We affirm that the linguistic, historical and social contexts are essential for understanding the Scripture.
2. We commit to an ongoing study, understanding and application of Elohim's unchanging truth in our constantly changing world, whether personal, social or cultural.
3. We affirm that believers put their trust in the Messiah Yeshua and are kept forever in the saving grace of Elohim through His promises and His power. Every believer has been eternally justified, blessed with all spiritual blessings, and set free from all condemnation.

⁵³ 1 Peter 1:17-21

⁵⁴ Galatians 3:26-28

⁵⁵ Ephesians 2:11-12

⁵⁶ Genesis 18:17-19, Galatians 3:7-9, 29

⁵⁷ Jeremiah 30:11, Romans

11:18

⁵⁸ Zechariah 2:11, Romans 11:24

⁵⁹ Ephesians 4:1-6

⁶⁰ Galatians 3:2

⁶¹ James 2:14, 17-18, 20

⁶² 1 John 2:3-7

⁶³ Matthew 5:17-20

⁶⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:19

⁶⁵ John 5:25, 28-29, 1

Corinthians 15:51-52

⁶⁶ Revelation 20:12

⁶⁷ John 11:25

⁶⁸ Matthew 7:21-23, 25:31-46

⁶⁹ Isaiah 65:17

⁷⁰ Revelation 21:3

4. We affirm that the Ruach haKodesh's work of baptizing, sealing and indwelling occur simultaneously with regeneration and are the possession of every true believer. The Ruach haKodesh gives each believer a unique combination of spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving Elohim and people.
5. We affirm the feasts of Adonai, including the seventh day Shabbat, as outlined in Leviticus 23, as valid and beneficial for believers in Messiah Yeshua. These feasts mirror our journey in the Messiah, and His work in the world.
6. We support the practice of additional biblical symbolic actions, such as anointing with oil, laying on of hands for ministry, wearing of kipayot, tallit, tefillin, the use of traditional prayers, etc.