Messianic Judaica - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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What is Judaica?

Items or *(less commonly)* matters relating to or associated with Judaism or Jewish tradition or culture, especially those forming part of a collection.

• What is a Messianic Jew?

By strictest definition, a Messianic Jew is a blood-born Jewish person (from their mother's side) or a third-generation converted Jew who has accepted Yeshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus) as their Messiah.

• Are you (Messianic Judaica) Messianic Jews?

If we were to go by the strict definition most of the world uses to define Messianic Jew, then no. However, we choose to go by a different definition, which is as follows:

Yeshua our Messiah was a Jew, who was born, lived, and died in Israel. His earliest disciples and followers were all Jews. Yeshua is the "King of the Jews". If Yeshua was a Jew, He is the King of the Jews, and He is our King, then by all calculations (A+B=C) then **we are Jews!** We believe that, even if we may not be accepted by the Jewish or traditional Messianic Jewish community (because we may not have Jewish blood or not converted to Judaism according to their standards), we are confident that the blood of our beloved Messiah who gave His life for us makes us Jews indeed. According to the Scriptures, we have been grafted into spiritual Israel because of our faith in Yeshua (*Rom. 11*), and we hope that the whole world will one day become part of His family as we are.

Why do you promote and sell head coverings for women?

Head coverings for women are a very private and personal subject, and the decision to wear or not to wear them is solely between each woman, her husband (if married), her congregational beliefs, and the woman's walk with the Lord. There is much history and debate of the "biblicalness" of head coverings over the centuries. To give a bit of background, It has been a well-known cultural tradition for Jewish married women throughout the ages to wear head coverings. In the time of Yeshua, most women, especially the married ones, wore some kind of head coverings on a regular basis. Even to this day, many Jewish married women typically wear head coverings of some sort, especially in their place of worship, during times of prayer, and when in public. For many it may not be obvious because many Orthodox and Hasidic married women wear wigs (we won't go into the reasons here). It is not specifically commanded by the LORD for women to wear head coverings anywhere in Scripture, but there are various hinted references throughout the Torah and elsewhere that give us clues and hints that this was commonplace (Gen. 24:63-65, Num. 5:18, etc.).

Head coverings were and are traditionally worn by married Jewish woman to show that she is under her husband's authority, and in some cases, she is keeping her most lovely feature as a special treasure for him and no other man to see. The level of covering or modesty any woman will attain in public or in her house of worship is what the Lord puts in her heart to do, ranging from a small scrap of lace to a full head wrap where no hair is visible. Please see this article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_covering_for_Jewish_women
There are echoes of the tradition and spirituality of head coverings in the Renewed Covenant, especially in the writings of Paul (1 Cor. 11:2-16). We believe that, as Messianic Jews grafted into Israel, (although not all women ascribe to exactly what we believe), we want to make different options of head coverings open to women based on their level of comfort or obedience with regards to this important tradition.

• Why do you promote and sell kippas for men? Isn't it "disgraceful" for a man to cover his head?

This is also a very hotly debated subject. Because the Bible says that for any matter to be established there must be at least two or three witnesses (1 Cor. 11:4, 7 is the only time that it being shameful for a man to cover his head is ever mentioned), we are more inclined to believe that the aforementioned passage about men not covering their heads has been either misinterpreted, mistranslated, or misunderstood. (There is a theory that not covering their heads was mentioned by Paul to the men of Corinth because of pagan practices in that region. Please see this research article: https://www.bible-researcher.com/headcoverings3.html). For centuries, and even to this day, it is a widely-held tradition for most Jewish men to cover their heads with kippas (as a symbol of being spiritual "priests" under the authority and covering of the LORD – Lev. 10:6, 13:45), so we want to keep this tradition alive, in order to help Messianic men identify with the rest of the family of faith.

• You sell Challah Bread covers for the Sabbath. Do you believe the Sabbath is Saturday or Sunday?

We wholeheartedly believe that followers of Yeshua are supposed to observe the Sabbath (Hebrew: "Shabbat") beginning on Friday evenings at sundown until Saturday at Sundown. Our Messiah Yeshua said that He did not come to abolish the law ("Torah" – Matt. 5:17), and any references commonly quoted from Bibles that say that the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday is based on words that were inserted to the Scriptures to change the meaning by translators (the first day of the week – the word "day" is not in the original text). Even though the Sabbath is a day of rest, it is also a holy convocation ("set-apart assembling" – Lev. 23:3) and as such we believe it is the day when we are supposed to assemble to worship Him. Traditionally, the Sabbath Challah bread covers are traditionally used for "Erev Shabbat" (Sabbath Eve) to cover the challah bread that is used during the family dinner to welcome the Shabbat on Friday evening. (Challah does not need to be homemade. It can be purchased.) The assembling on Shabbat typically takes place in a Messianic Synagogue on Saturdays, usually between the morning and the afternoon.

• Do I need to be Messianic in order to buy or sell on MessianicJudaica.org?

Although it is not required, we highly recommend that anyone who buys or sells on Messianic Judaica.org be Messianic. There are several reasons, the two most important ones are: one is that we are on the honor system (where everyone is treated fairly, honestly, and kindly), and we want to make sure that we are working with likeminded individuals who follow Messiah Yeshua and are committed to following His Torah. Two, we do not want certain items to be sold on this site that does not reflect our beliefs. We pray that everyone will come to the knowledge of the truth that Yeshua is our Messiah and that by keeping His commandments we will have life (Matt. 19:17, Rev. 12:17, 14:12, 22:14) and abundant blessings (Deut. 11:27, 28:1, 30:16. Psa. 112:1). Messianics may not always agree about everything, but we can all be one big happy family in Him!

• Can I buy or sell in bulk on MessianicJudaica.org?

Currently, our vendors we are not equipped for buying or selling in bulk. As our logistics improve, we may be able to do so, but right now we want to limit buying and selling to small quantities. We hope that this will keep a personal, human touch to the site, and hopefully make it easier for Messianic small business owners in all fields to establish their businesses.

Some vendors will have a small inventory of certain merchandise, and some vendors will only take orders that are "made to order". If you have any questions or would like to buy anything you see on this site to help them and the ministry, please <u>contact us</u>.

Although we will do the very best we can to resolve any potential issues, and hope that everyone else will do the same, we (MessianicJudaica.org/Don't Give Up Ministries, etc.) cannot be held ultimately responsible or liable for any problems you may encounter with a vendor, buyer, instructor, student, etc. We greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation and dedication to making this a site that will bring the Messianic community together as the Kingdom of God and bring the most glory to our Eternal God and Father and His Son, Messiah Yeshua.

Thank you so much and may the LORD richly bless you!