

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation is:

- to participate in and to promulgate the covenant G-d made with Abraham and his offspring in Gen. 12:1-4, and confirmed in Jer. 31: 2-4, 31-37, to establish the Jews as His people, redeemed by their Messiah, and energized by His Spirit to keep His Torah.
- The outworking of this is to follow the *words* of the Tanakh and Brit Khadashah. These inspired words are summarized by the Messiah when He was asked which is the greatest commandment (Mk. 12: 29-31). He responded by reciting the שמע (Sh'ma) and the ואהבת (V'ahavta) (Dt. 6: 4-5), to which he joined Lev. 19:18 The Torah commands He cited, that summarize all the Tanakh, are that we are to love G-d with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 - We express our love to G-d in Messianic Jewish worship and lifestyle, which reflects G-d's love of Israel (John 4:22, Ro. 11:18), and provides a spiritual home for Jewish believers in the Messiah.
 - We express our love for people by meeting the needs of spirit, soul, and body through the power of Yeshua, first, of our own families, then our local congregation, then of the people of Israel, and lastly of all the nations. This is primarily accomplished by sharing the life changing message of G-d's salvation.

OUR METHOD

Our goal is to worship G-d in Spirit and in Truth. That is, the Biblical pattern of worship includes such items

- as banners (Ps. 20:5, 60:4)
- dance (Ps. 149:3, Jer. 31:13)
- reading or singing of scripture (Neh. 8:8), including honoring the Torah scroll in procession around the sanctuary (Rev. 1: 12-13)
- written prayers (Acts 6:4 lit. "the prayers," also Acts 3:1)
- wearing the 'fringes' of Nu. 15: 38-40, as a "garment of praise"
- wearing of the kippah (the skullcap, which takes its scriptural precedent from Ex. 28:1-4, its rabbinical authenticity from the Talmud (Rosh HaShannah 17b) as a symbol of humility before G-d, and its Jewish cultural validity from I Cor. 9:20)
- Hebrew in the prose and poetry, as much as possible.



These and related practices are part of the worship style that King David, the prophets, and the Messiah Himself knew and loved. It is prophesied that such ancient worship would be restored (Zeph. 3:9, Amos 9:11) in the אחרית הימים, *a-kha-reet ha-ya-meem*, the last days. Incorporating these things into worship has been a spontaneous outgrowth of the Jewish spiritual restoration. We experience a great deal of divine joy being Biblical Jews.