

Risking theological incorrectness, I should like to reintroduce the term “religion” because it is a single word that means “faith and practice directed toward God.”

If Judaism can be said to be the religion of the Jews, then similarly, Messianic Judaism is the religion of Messianic Jews. Defining “Jews” and “Messianic Jews” has never been too problematic; Jews are the family of those who can trace their ancestry to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as those who have joined the family through covenant declaration and adoption (proselytes). Messianic Jews are simply Jews who believe that Yeshua ben Yosef of Nazareth is the Messiah who was sent by God, to save the world through his personal sacrifice. According to this definition, to be a Messianic Jew, you must also (although not necessarily first) be a Jew.

Before proceeding further, it is important to note that there are two components involved in being a Jew; they are ancestry and faith in God. The ancestry component is obvious, even for the proselyte who becomes naturalized through the adoptive process. The faith component is not as obvious because personal faith in God is not required in order to be a Jew, but by his claim to his father Abraham of whom God said: