

The Historic Roots of Messianic Jewish Worship

by
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You're here from a traditional synagogue, perhaps a Conservative synagogue, and you are wondering about a few things – like all the instruments, dancing during the service, people standing up and proclaiming what they believe God is speaking, and perhaps a few other oddities. Please don't be alarmed. Let me explain.

Messianic Judaism has two historic roots – one in Judaism, and the other in Evangelical Christianity. Those of us who have been around long enough remember, with fondness, the gentle and loving Christians who took us in when we first believed in Yeshua. They swaddled us, fed us, burped us, and changed our diapers – quite often, if the truth be known. So while many things in our service today are traditionally Jewish, some are the cultural remains of those early experiences, and some are additions we have made to help us express our New Covenant faith in Yeshua.

Now, even though we dance in our service (not a custom in most synagogues), at least our dances are Davidic in style. And even though there is a blend of musical instruments (also not traditionally Jewish), at least we try to play in a minor key. If you are a dancer or if you play an instrument, perhaps you will be able to help us to evolve into new forms that will be even more pleasant, and perhaps more authentically Jewish. But please don't ask us to give up our dancing.

Finally, it may seem very brazen to declare that we can hear God's voice prophetically. But we are truly celebrating our New Covenant relationship with God in the reality of Yeshua, and Scripture teaches that if we trust in Him, we will be able to hear His voice. As his words are recorded in John 10:27: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

So I invite you to relax, and thank you for listening to "Worship Shorts."