



## STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

### **GOD**

There is one God, Creator of heaven and earth, who is revealed in the Scriptures as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—one God, eternally existent in unity and love as three persons. The creative actions of God in the spiritual and material world are accomplished by the Father working through the Son and in the power of the Spirit. This eternal God has revealed Himself in creation and the history of Israel as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Gen. 1:1; Exod. 3:15; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6)

### **MAN AND SIN**

Man was created in God's image with the ability not to sin; however, through the exercise of His free will, Adam disobeyed God, resulting in the entrance of sin and rebellion into the world. This led to separation, alienation from God, and spiritual and physical death for Adam and Eve and their descendants. (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6-8, 24; 4:8, 6:5-7; Eccles. 7:29; Rom. 5:12, 15-19; 8:20-22)

### **THE PATRIARCHS AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

God chose the patriarchs of Israel and their offspring—the Jewish people—and established an everlasting covenant with them. His purpose was to “bless all the families of the earth” through Abraham and His descendants. God gave Israel the Torah as a covenantal way of life, and the Land of Israel as a pledge of the blessed inheritance in the World to Come. Our people failed time and

again to observe the statutes of the Torah, turning to idolatry, and provoking God to jealousy. The result was judgment and exile from the land until the time of physical and spiritual restoration. As foretold by the prophets, God in His faithfulness brought His people back from exile to the land of Israel to give them a new heart according to His gracious and irrevocable calling. (Gen. 12:1-3; Jer. 31:35-37; Ezek. 36; Ezra 1:1-5; Rom. 11:28-29)

### **YESHUA THE MESSIAH**

In the fullness of time, the Divine Son was made flesh—Yeshua the Messiah, born of a virgin, as the seed of Abraham and David, the true and perfect Israelite, fully God and fully man. Yeshua lived a perfect life, fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Torah. As foretold by the prophet Jeremiah, Yeshua established a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah for the forgiveness of their sins, not abolishing but rather confirming and fulfilling God’s eternal covenant with Israel. (Isa. 7:14; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 1:1, 18-23; 26:26-29; Jn. 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:1-3)

Yeshua died as an atonement for the sins of Israel and the nations. He was raised bodily from the dead by God the Father as the first fruits of the resurrection. He ascended to heaven, was enthroned at God’s right hand, and was granted all authority over the spiritual and material created order. (Isa. 53:4-6; Ps. 110:1; Matt. 28:18; Mk. 14:61-62; I Cor. 15:3-8; Phil. 2:9-11)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

On Shavuot (Pentecost), God poured out the Holy Spirit on the community of Yeshua’s followers so that they, and all who would believe in Him, might be intimately joined to the Messiah, and sealed by His Spirit as His corporate body. The Holy Spirit continues to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, to regenerate us, guide us into all truth, and glorify Yeshua. The immersion (baptism) in the Holy Spirit empowers us to share the Gospel with power and to receive the supernatural gifts of the Spirit. These gifts, including the leadership gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11–13, are given to equip God’s people for diverse kinds of service. (Num. 11:24-29; Joel 2:28-29; John 3:3; 16:8, 13-14; Acts 2:1-21; 10:44-48; 15:8-9; Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12; 14; Eph. 1:13)

## **THE KEHILAH**

Messiah's community is a single *ecclesia* (kehilah) expressed in diverse forms—both within Israel and among the nations. God's election, gifts, and calling to Israel are irrevocable. Yet He has also broken down the middle wall of partition that separated Jews and Gentiles and made us “One New Man.” We are all called to surrender to Yeshua's Lordship, to proclaim Him to the world, to make disciples, and to be agents of cultural transformation for God's glory. We are called to demonstrate our love and unity as God's *ecclesia* with all people groups—including our Arab Christian brothers and sisters in our Middle Eastern context. (Gen. 1:27-28; Isa 56:6-7; Matt. 5:13-16; 28:18-20; Jn. 10:14-16; 17:20-21; Eph. 2:14-16)

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

The writings of the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) and the Brit Chadasha (the New Testament) are the divinely inspired and fully trustworthy, Word of God. The Bible (both testaments) is a gift given from God to His people, to impart life, and to guide them in the ways of truth. The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Torah (the five books of Moses) serves as the “constitution” of the Jewish people along with the Prophets and the Writings. Under the New Covenant the Law of Moses, read in light of the Gospel, retains its perennial value for the *ecclesia*. It provides universal norms of faith and practice for Jewish life. The Torah causes consciousness of sin as a revelation of God's righteous judgment on all who do not repent, turn away from sin, and accept Messiah's atoning sacrifice. No man can be justified by works of the law as “all fall short,” but rather through faith in the death and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah, God accounts our faith as righteousness. (Exod. 31:18; Deut. 4:2; 8:3; 9:10; Matt. 4:4; 5:17-20; Lk. 24:25-27; Rom. 3:20; 1 Cor 15:56; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21)

## **SALVATION**

Through repentance and faith in Yeshua we receive forgiveness of sins, spiritual regeneration, union with Messiah, and the sanctifying and empowering presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Through Yeshua, both Jews and Gentiles receive the confident hope of eternal life and a glorious physical resurrection. By faith in Yeshua, immersed by water into His death, burial, and

resurrection we are joined to Him and His Body, and are sealed by His Spirit. As a result of our regeneration, we love God and obey His Word. We also proclaim His death through the Lord's Supper until He comes again. Yeshua is the Mediator between God and man, and no one can come to the Father except through Him. Salvation is only through Yeshua, and there is no other name under Heaven by which people may be saved. (Matt. 28:19-20; Lk. 24:46-48; Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; 13:38-39; Rom. 6:22-23; I Cor. 11:23-27; Gal. 5:6; Eph. 2:4-9; 1 Tim 2:5-6)

### **THE SECOND COMING OF MESSIAH**

Messiah Yeshua will return to Jerusalem in glory at the end of this age to rule forever on David's throne. He will effect the restoration of Israel in fullness, raise the dead, save all who belong to Him, judge the wicked with eternal punishment, and accomplish the final *Tikkun Olam* (Restorative Order) in which Israel and the nations will be forever united under God's rule. This restoration will bring everlasting joy to those who belong to Him. They will live forever in an order of mutual blessing and fellowship with God, in a renewed and perfect cosmos filled with the glory of God. (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Rev. 20; 21:1-4)