

FAQ VOL II

A WORK IN PROGRESS

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MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS

messianicapologetics.net

Frequently Asked Questions

VOLUME II

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latest update 04 November, 2024

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A planned resource by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries
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Frequently Asked Questions, Volume II is a multi-year work in progress. Please note how the text may be corrected, updated, or amended, before final publication. Page numbers are also likely to be altered.

Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: King James Version
Lattimore: *The New Testament* by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT: Masoretic Text
NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: New English Bible (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: New International Version (1984)
NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
NT: New Testament

OT: Old Testament

REB: Revised English Bible (1989)

RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)

t. Tosefta

Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament

Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*

TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life

Version (2014)

TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)

TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*

UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New
Testament revised edition

v(s). verse(s)

Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and
New Testament Words*

Vul: Latin Vulgate

YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

Ordination

Can you give me an idea about the, or at least a, Messianic process of ordination? I see many leaders out there bearing titles such as: rabbi, pastor, teacher. What was the process they went about, getting ordained and receiving such a title?

The process of ordination, the formal recognition of someone as a member of religious clergy, is something which has deep origins within the Scriptures. Within the Torah is witnessed the consecration of Aaron and his sons (Leviticus 8), the high priest (Leviticus 21:10), and the Levites (Numbers 8:5-13). Also witnessed is the appointment of Joshua as Moses' successor (Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:9). Within the Apostolic Scriptures, Yeshua the Messiah specially appointed the Twelve (Mark 3:14; Luke 6:13-16), and with it granted them authority and power (Mark 3:14-15; Matthew 10:1-5). The appointment of special servants should also be considered (Acts 6:6; 13:3). Frequently involved with this kind of consecration or recognition, is the laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 6:2), a symbol of both Divine approval and impartation of spiritual gifts.

While there is surely variance, in the more modern Jewish and Christian traditions, the process of ordination for clergy, usually involves:

- some kind of religious education process, involving study of: theology, history, Biblical languages (Hebrew, Greek), and contemporary issues
- some kind of pre-ordination process, involving specific (congregational) assignments, training, and or counseling (by a mentor)
- final approval of a board of leaders of some kind
- an ordination ceremony, which may involve procedures such as: special prayers and blessings, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and various commitments made by the one being ordained and recognized as a leader

The process for ordination, in a major Jewish or Protestant denomination, is most always a multi-year process. To be sure, the rise of many independent, non-denominational churches over the past several decades, has meant that there are many pastors and religious leaders who may not have gone through a formal process of ordination. Many have been seen to just set up a "church," and declare themselves a "pastor." This is something which has also, sadly, been widely encountered throughout a great deal of the independent Hebrew/Hebraic Roots movement. At times, it has also been seen throughout some parts of Messianic Judaism

as well, although there are denominationally-styled organizations¹ which do offer ordination, and a network of support. Some of the benefits of having a formal ordination, with approval from a larger organization, may include having the proper license involving various local and state permissions (i.e., ability to marry, visit hospitals, etc.), as well as having a wider network of support and accountability, particularly when various ministry complications may arise.

What about Messianic ordination? What kind of education or process is involved? In 2024-2025, the two major Messianic Jewish organizations in North America² are seen to offer ordinations and some level of denominationally-styled support to those who they ordain. Frequently, an undergraduate university degree is required, although a theological degree of some kind may not be required, but preferred. There will likely be an application process, involving some biographical data, one's experience attending a Messianic Jewish congregation or synagogue, and the recommendation or sponsorship of various Messianic Jewish leaders. This may then be followed by an interview process, approval toward ordination, and perhaps even preliminary licensing. There may be specific courses, those pursuing ordination need to take, through the auspices of the organization.

After several years as different requirements are met, likely also joined with attending different conference level events, ordination will be conferred at a national conference gathering. This will involve different Messianic Jewish leaders laying hands on the person to be ordained, as well as some significant commitments made by the new leader being recognized.

Of the two major Messianic Jewish organizations in North America, one will ordain Messianic Jewish men as Rabbis, and non-Jewish Messianic men as Messianic Pastors or Messianic Teachers. Women may also seen to be licensed as Messianic Teachers, but not ordained. Another Messianic Jewish organization will ordain Messianic Jewish men and women as Rabbis, but not any non-Jews. Many local Messianic congregations or synagogues are seen to ordain their local leaders as elders, deacons, and Rabbis—which may extend to either males or females. There are some non-Jewish men ordained as Rabbis by their local congregations.³ To be sure, as time moves forward, there will likely be some ongoing developments regarding who can and who cannot be ordained as a Messianic leader, either by a large organization and/or a local congregation.⁴

¹ I say “denominationally-styled” here, because a number of the major Messianic Jewish affiliations, would not be willing to call themselves an actual denomination like Conservative or Reform Judaism, or one of the many mainline Protestant groups.

² These are the International Alliance of Messianic Congregations and Synagogues (IAMCS) and the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations (UMJC).

³ If necessary, do consult the Messianic Apologetics FAQ, “Rabbi, Title.”

⁴ The author’s ordination process as a Messianic Teacher with the IAMCS is covered in “My Family’s Messianic Experience: 1995-2022” (appearing in *Introduction to Things Messianic*).