

Solel Sabbath Fellowship

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS (HALAKAH)

A. ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

1. THE FOUNDATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

The Scriptures teach the authority and sufficiency of God's Word, consisting of the sixty-six books of the *Tanakh* (Old Testament) and Apostolic Scriptures (*Brit Chadashah*, Renewed Covenant, New Testament). We believe that the Scriptures were verbally inspired by YHVH and are inerrant in the original manuscripts. We believe they were written by YHVH through the use of men, using their style and personality under the control of the Set-Apart Spirit. Therefore, they are absolutely trustworthy in all matters of which they speak. We believe the Scriptures to be the true center of unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions shall be tried.

We believe that the Torah, the first five books of the *Tanakh* (Old Testament), forms the foundation of all Scriptures. If there appears to be a contradiction between two portions of Scripture, we use the Torah to define the meaning of the other parts of Scripture.

We do not accept any extra-biblical books outside of the 66 books as Scripture. We may refer to these historical texts (e.g., Apocrypha, Talmud, Mishnah, Gnostic Gospels, Didache, the Book of Jasher, the Book of Enoch, etc.). As such, we treat them with the same respect we would give to any other writing of man, such as modern commentaries or history books.

Scripture references—Deut. 4:2; Ps. 19—Torah is foundation of all Scripture; Psalm 119:105, 160—God's Word is truth and everlasting; Proverbs 30:5-6; Rom. 7:12—God's Word is without error; Matt. 5:17-19 – The commands of God are still for today; 2 Tim. 3:15-17—Inspired by YHVH (God); Heb. 4:12—Living and active; 2 Pet. 1:19-21—Moved by Holy Spirit; 2 Tim. 3:15-17, 2 Pet. 1:3-4— All we need for life and godliness

2. ONLY ONE GOD (YHVH)

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, Yehovah, the creator and supreme ruler of Heaven and Earth. He has existed eternally in oneness (*echad*). Often called God the Father, He is Spirit and is infinite, personal, perfect in righteousness, wisdom, power, and love. He is infinite, immutable, unchangeable. He does not lie, and He does not tempt us. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, His creation whom He loves. He hears and answers prayer and has provided salvation from sin and death to all who come to Him. We believe it is our duty to praise Him, serve Him, and obey His instructions and commands. This includes the commandment that we worship Him and Him alone, and that we are not to worship Him in the manner of any other false gods.

Scripture references—Gen. 1:1, 26-27; Ex. 20:1-3; Deut. 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Jn. 5:7

3. YESHUA (JESUS)

We believe that Yeshua (Jesus) of Nazareth is God's son and the Messiah. He is the physical form of God sent to interact personally with YHVH's creation. He was conceived by the Set-

Apart Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life by full obedience to the Torah, died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice, rose from the dead after three days, was witnessed by many, ascended into heaven to be with the Father, and is coming again to establish His eternal kingdom and to judge the world. He is the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek who currently sits at the right hand of the throne of the Father, interceding on behalf of all who place their faith in Him. He is the promised seed, and as His disciples, we seek to follow His Father's commands as He did. He is the living Word of God (Torah) that became flesh and is not only our Savior but also our Master, and we follow His example to bring others to an understanding of who YHVH (God) is, of their sin, and their need of a Savior and to follow YHVH'S commands.

Scripture references—Gen. 49:10; Deut. 18:17-22; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Is. 7:14; Is. 9:6-7, 52-53; Dan. 9:24-27; Zech. 9:8; Matt. 1:18-25, 5:17-19, 28:18-20; Luke 1:31-35; John 1:1-18, John 2:18-22; John 2:36; John 3:14-18; John 14:6-15; Acts 1:8-9; Acts 4:11-12; Gal. 4:4-7; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

4. THE SET-APART SPIRIT (Spirit of God/Ruach HaKodesh/Holy Spirit/Set-Apart Spirit/Spirit of Messiah)

We believe the Set-Apart Spirit is a divine part of YHVH, given by the Father and Son, of the same nature and submissive to the will of the Father and Son. Among many purposes mentioned in Scripture, the Set-Apart Spirit is given to help us, teach us, sanctify us, seal us, comfort us, and lift up Yeshua the Messiah among us. We do not believe the Set-Apart Spirit can ever lead us contrary to the written Word of God, nor can He lead us into sin or the breaking of YHVH's commandments as defined in the Scriptures. For example, if someone makes a prediction for the future that does not come true in every way, or if someone speaks against Yeshua the Messiah, we know that person is a false prophet. In addition, if someone says, "The Spirit told me to..." and it contradicts Scripture or calls others to follow a pagan practice, we know that the Spirit was not truly speaking through that person.

Scripture references—Deut. 34:9; 1 Sam. 10:6-10; Neh. 9:20; Ps. 51:10-11; Acts 1:8; John 14:7; 16:13; Rom. 8:9, 14; 1 Cor. 2:10-12, 3:16; Eph. 2:18-22, 3:16-17; Titus 3:5; James 1:13-17; 2 John 1:7-11

5. MANKIND

The Word of YHVH teaches that man was created by a direct act of YHVH in His image and did not evolve from lower life forms. Mankind was created innocent of God's Law (Torah) and as such was able to commune with YHVH. By voluntary transgression, man fell from his state of innocence through defiance of YHVH's command. All mankind from then on are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward YHVH and His Torah (Law), which is called "sin." Consequently, all men are now sinners by nature and choice, without defense or excuse. By this first man's sin, death passed on all men, for all have sinned.

Scripture references—Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:7-25; Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 3:10, 20, 23; Rom. 5:5:10-19; 1 Jn. 3:1-4; 1 Jn. 5:17

6. SALVATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Scriptures teach that salvation is God's gift to us. Salvation of sinners is divinely initiated by the grace of God and accomplished only through the redemptive work of Yeshua, the Son

of God, through His death, burial, and resurrection. As our savior, He mediates on our behalf. Our hearts will never choose to walk in obedience without rebirth and a new Spirit indwelling us. The Scriptures teach that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. We cannot ever stand before a righteous God and claim to have no sin. It is only because of His love for us that He sent His son, Yeshua the Messiah, to pay the penalty for our sins and to redeem us as a representative and substitutionary offering. All who trust in Yeshua and claim Him as their Master and Savior are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. We do not perform works to become saved. We can never make up for sin by self-improvement or good works. However, we seek to do works of righteousness to please Him because He chose us first. Part of these works is to follow our faith in Yeshua the Messiah by the act of immersion, or *mikvah*, as a public acknowledgement of being a disciple as commanded in Scripture.

Scripture references—Deut. 4:29-31; John 1:12; John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:12-21; Acts 8:34-39; Acts 16:30-33; Rom. 3:23-26; Rom. 5:8-10, 15-18; Rom. 6:23; Gal. 3:26-30; Eph. 1:4-7; Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:8-11; Titus 3:4-7

7. HOLINESS (BEING SET APART)

The Scriptures teach that every believer should be separated unto YHVH (God) and from worldliness, and by the aid of the Spirit of Elohim, should walk in love and holiness, as defined in all the Scriptures. We believe that the commands of YHVH, as given in the “Torah” (the first five books of the Bible), are God's definition of holy behavior and that the Apostolic Scriptures clarify these commands further for those living in a sinful world. If we listen to the advice of “experts” who don't follow God's Word, then we allow bad information into our minds and homes. Only God's Word will stand the test of time, and we can depend on His advice for us and our family.

Scripture references—Deut. 18:18-22; Deut. 30:11-14; Psalm 19:7-11; Eccl. 12:13-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Matt. 7:15-20; John 15:10; Acts 29:29-30; Rom. 10:6-8; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 6:7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; James 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 John 2:15; 1 John 4:1-6; 1 John 5:2-3; 1 John 5:15-17

8. JUDGMENT AND RESURRECTION

The Scriptures testify of the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. Believers by faith in the Messiah will spend eternity in the presence of God, and unbelievers in everlasting punishment.

Scripture references—Prov. 16:4-6; Ezek. 18:23; Matt. 3:12; 25:41-46; John 3:18; Rom. 9:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:3-10; Rev. 20:10-15

9. SABBATH/SHABBAT

The Word of Elohim states clearly that YHVH's day (the Lord's day) is **not** the first day of the week, but **the seventh day** and has happened every seventh day since the first week of creation. The Shabbat starts at sunset on the sixth day and goes till sunset on the seventh day. Throughout Scripture we see, from Genesis to Revelation, that the seventh day is a set-apart day for Yah's people to assemble together to honor YHVH and to rest from our daily activities. YHVH sanctified it after creation and has given it to his people throughout history as a *moed*, or appointed, set-apart time, to meet with Him. It is to be a day to rest from our

work and labors, to meet with other believers, to worship YHVH, and to study the Scriptures. It is a day that prepares us to live for Him in all that we do the rest of the week.

Scripture references—Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:9-11; Ex. 31:14-17; Ex. 35:1-3; Lev. 23:2-3; Deut. 5:12-15; Ps. 92:1-13; Is. 56:1-8; Is. 58:11-13; Is. 66:15-24; Jer. 17:21-27; Ezek. 44:24; Matt. 12:1-13; Mk. 1:21-29; Lk. 13:10-17; Jn. 7:22-23; Acts 13:14; Acts 15:19-21; Acts 16:13; Acts 17:2; Acts 18:4

10. CALENDAR

Solel Sabbath Fellowship is an *aviv* (*abib* in some translations) barley, sighted-moon fellowship. This means that we follow the calendar based upon sighting the moon each month (*chodesh*) in the land of Israel, along with beginning the biblical year based upon the barley harvest exclusively. While we understand that there are many interpretations, this calendar will be the one taught and celebrated at Solel.

The new moon is considered the first sliver of the moon (waxing crescent) that is visible to the naked eye by those who live in the land of Israel. If the moon is not visible on the 29th day, then the 30th day will be considered the end of the month, with the day following the 30th day being the 1st day of the next month.

The year begins once there is enough barley in the fields that, by the 12th or 13th sighted “new” moon, the fields can begin to be harvested at the Feast of Unleavened Bread (*Chag HaMatzot*), starting 14 days (evenings) after the sighting of the moon. The month of “the aviv” is the first month of the year and occurs during the ripening of the barley harvest in the land of Israel. All these “sightings” must be done in the land of Israel, which is YHVH’s set-apart place forever. Israel is where the calculation for the calendar begins and the only place in Scripture where we are to look for the *aviv* and the sighted “new” moon. An amount of barley was to be taken from a field that, when processed, will constitute an omer (or approximately two-thirds of a gallon).

Scripture references—Gen. 1:14; Ex. 9:31-32; Ex. 12:1-2; Ex. 12:18-20; Ex. 13:3-10; Ex. 23:15; Ex. 34:18; Lev. 2:14; Lev. 23:5-6, 10, 14, 24, 27, 34; Deut. 16:1-9; Josh. 5:10-12; Ruth 2:14; 1 Sam. 17:17; 1 Sam. 25:18; 2 Sam. 17:28; Ps. 104:19; Mk. 4:26-29

11. MARRIAGE

Solel Sabbath Fellowship believes that marriage is an institution created and designed by YHVH, involving the union of one man and one woman in a permanent, sacred fidelity. They become “one flesh.” Sex is God’s beautiful gift to be enjoyed between a biological man and woman within the confines of marriage. God says in Scripture that marriage is to be for life.

Scripture references—Gen. 1:27-28; Gen. 2:18-25; Prov. 5:18-23; Prov. 18:22; Prov. 31:10; Song of Songs 8:14; Mal. 2:14-16; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-12; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:25-20; 1 Cor. 7:2-15; Heb. 13:4

12. ABORTION

Men and women are equal in dignity and worth, with different God-given roles within the body and family. All human life is precious from conception to natural death and should be protected. The Scriptures teach that abortion is out of harmony with YHVH’s plan for human life. Elective abortion is the termination of an unborn, innocent human life and is a violation

of God's commands. Medical birth control methods are all abortifacients, killing the baby after implantation. These go against the Word of Elohim. Solel teaches against these methods of birth control. In-vitro fertilization is also against YHVH's commands and promotes man acting as God. The embryos are all fertilized, and the ones deemed not as healthy are exterminated or experimented on. These are babies who would implant in the mother's womb except that the fertilization is done in a lab, dehumanizing the blessing of sexual intercourse and the creation of a baby. The Scriptures teach about the effects of abortion not only on the unborn, but also on the parents and the extended family. Solel seeks to teach that trusting in YHVH for His direction in relation to children is essential and an extension of our relationship to Him. We live in a fallen world broken by sin and death. As such, our bodies often do not work as hoped. Our responsibility as followers of Yeshua is to trust our Heavenly Father as He did and walk in obedience to His commandments.

Scripture references—Gen. 1:27; 9:5-6; Ex. 20:13; Ex. 21:22-25; Ex. 23:7; Deut. 12:29-32; Psalm 127:3-5; Psalm 139:13-16; Prov. 6:16-19; Is. 5:20; Is. 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matt. 7:12; Matt. 18:5-6; Jn. 6:38; Jn. 10:10; Rom. 1:28-32; Rom. 12:1-2

B. NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

1. SACRED NAMES

We uphold the Set-Apart names by using the following:

The name of "YHVH" (Yehovah) rather than "the LORD."

The name of "Yeshua" rather than "Jesus."

The title of "Messiah" or "HaMashiach" rather than "Christ."

The Scriptures teach that we should pronounce God's name, especially in relation to making a vow. Therefore, we do not seek to substitute *HaShem* or *Adonai* for YHVH. In ancient times, YHVH's people used His name in everyday greetings and blessings (ex. Numbers 6:24; Ruth 2:4), and we are told that His name is to be a memorial for all generations (ex. Exodus 3:15). The patriarchs called on YHVH's name, and YHVH tells us that He wants us to glorify His name to the nations. Written Hebrew vowels did not exist until more recent history, and no one can prove with certainty exactly how His name should be pronounced. Therefore, we agree to disagree in love on issues of spelling and pronunciation of the Sacred Names.

You will find that we often use titles such as God, Lord, Adonai, Master, and Holy Spirit, as commonly used in the English language, while substituting Hebrew terms and names in place of them. We believe that all languages are filled with words whose roots ultimately came from the mixing of languages at Babel. So no matter what English words we substitute, they all have their roots in Babel. We see in Scripture that all nations and tongues will come to worship YHVH. They will not all speak Hebrew. Many will use terms for YHVH that are familiar in their various tongues. For this reason, we do not have a problem using English words in their proper contexts, along with their original Hebrew counterparts, as we seek to develop an understanding of Hebrew words while also being intelligible to all attending our times of fellowship. As Paul writes, "It is the same with you. If you don't speak clearly in a language people know, they cannot understand what you are saying. You will be talking to

the air! It is true that there are many different languages in the world, and they all have meaning. But if I don't understand the meaning of what someone is saying, it will just be strange sounds to me, and I will sound just as strange to them" (1 Corinthians 14:9-11, CEV).

Scripture references—Num. 6:22-27; Josh. 24:15; Ruth 2:4; Ps. 118:26; Ps. 129:7-8; 2 Thess. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:9-11

2. END TIMES

The Word of YHVH teaches a premillennial, bodily return of Yeshua to the earth to establish His kingdom during the Millennium. We are told that He will meet His people in the air, and we will forever be with Him, transformed into our glorified bodies. The Scriptures teach of satan (the devil, hasatan, the adversary) and his constant battle to defeat God's plan of redemption for the world and to destroy God's people. We believe in His ultimate defeat and casting, along with his followers, into the lake of fire.

While end-times views are seen as a disputable matter, we desire to study and understand the godly principles that our Heavenly Father desires us to learn from studying revelatory, prophetic, and eschatological teachings in the Scriptures. However, most end-times teachings are not an issue that we feel is worth separating from other believers over. While we do believe that a person's view of the future (end times) can affect our interpretation of Scripture and even our decision making, we believe that the purpose of prophecy is not to give believers a crystal ball into the future, but that its purpose, once revealed and come to pass, is to produce the conviction that YHVH is the one, true God, and therefore, to inspire hope, repentance, and faith.

Scripture references—Matt. 25:45-46; John 3:15-16; 14:1-4; Rom. 2:4-11; 6:23; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2; 1 Cor. 15:25, 51-57; Rev. 3:10, 10:14; 19:20; 20:6, 10-15; 21:8

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and proper human conduct, and it is the final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Solel Sabbath Fellowship's beliefs, practices, policies, and accountability, the elders are the fellowship's final arbiter on theological positions for Solel Sabbath Fellowship.