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# Press Release

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## **Messianic Jews Discuss Salvation**

The first European Messianic Jewish Theological Symposium met in Berlin, 23-25 February, 2011 to discuss soteriology in Post-Holocaust Europe.

Messianic Jews are Jewish people who accept Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah promised in the Hebrew Scriptures and revealed in the New Testament. As a Messianic movement within Judaism, they stand in continuity with their people. At the same time they are a Messianic Jewish part of the Christian community. Soteriology is the branch of theology that explores the nature of the God who saves; the manner of his saving activity and the benefits of his salvation.

Messianic Jews today echo the prayers of their spiritual ancestors, the previous generations of Jewish believers in Yeshua before the Holocaust and the many who perished in it. They longed for the spiritual and national restoration of their people.

The presentation of the Good News of the Messiah is the primary means by which God brings humanity into a right relationship with himself. God's sovereign freedom determines those who are redeemed. Whilst Scripture affirms that one day 'all Israel will be saved', the only sure way to receive this salvation is through faith in Yeshua.

In the light of the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust, only the message of the Messiah can bring hope, healing and reconciliation to Jew and German alike. This evidence of a loving God who saves is Good News for people of all nations. Our Messianic Jewish soteriology is grounded in God whose compassion for the suffering of his people is expressed through the suffering of his Son.

The Symposium, a positive contribution to the growing theological maturity of the movement, will continue to construct a distinctive Messianic Jewish theology that is both biblically based, and relevant to the cultural and historical context of post-Holocaust Europe.

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# Background

Photograph available upon request: Thumbnail:

The first Messianic Jewish theological symposium for a hundred years met in Berlin 22-25 February 2011. The participants represented differing streams within Messianic Judaism and different theological backgrounds, as well as different generations. This gave depth and perspective to the



discussion. Participants came from the UK, Israel, Germany, Russia, France and other European countries. Most but not all were Messianic Jews, who believe that Jesus (Yeshua, in their preferred Hebrew terminology) is the Messiah predicted in the Hebrew Bible.

At the end of the conference a statement was issued which forms the body of the press release. This statement clearly reflected their attempt to lay a foundation or at least a platform from which to continue the discussion and start the process of developing a Messianic theology that reflects a more European history and context. Currently modern 'Messianic Jewish Theology' is in its infancy and it was clearly felt that it was time for the Europeans to have a voice of their own and as it were throw their hat into the arena.

If the goal was to develop a Messianic Jewish European Post-Holocaust Theology did they accomplish the task? Since the task of developing theology is one that must be taken up by every generation, it is fair to say that they did make a good start.