

Creeds of the Kehillah ~ Part 2

The Apostles' Creed ~ Part 1 ¹

In this post, we will take our first look at the entire **Apostles' Creed** and learn some background information. In further posts, we will parse it to learn more about what we affirm that we believe.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

The ancient **Kehillah** was founded on basic biblical teachings and practices like the Ten Commandments, Baptism, the **Apostles' Creed**, the Lord's Supper, the Disciple's Prayer, and corporate worship. These basics of the Christian life have sustained and nurtured every generation of the faithful - from the **emissaries** to today. They apply equally to old and young, men and women, pastors, and **Kehillah** members. **For in union with the Messiah, you are all children of God through this trusting faithfulness** ~ Galatians 3:26 (CJB)

The **Messianic** faith is mysterious not because it is so complicated but because it is so simple. A person does not start with Baptism and then advance to higher mysteries. In Baptism, each Believer already possesses the faith in its fullness. The whole of life is encompassed in the mystery of Baptism: dying with **Yeshua** and rising with him through the **Ruach** to the glory of **God**.

The **Apostles' Creed** comes from Baptism. It is a pledge of allegiance to the **God** of the gospel - a **God** who is revealed as **Father, Son, and Ruach**; a **God** who is present to us in the real world of human flesh, creating, redeeming, and sanctifying us for good works.

It is often said that creeds are political documents, the cunning invention of bishops and councils trying to enforce their understanding of orthodoxy. In the case of the **Apostles' Creed**, nothing could be further from the truth. A council did not create it. It was not part of any deliberate theological strategy. It was a grassroots confession of faith. It was an indigenous form of the ancient

¹ Because it is so familiar to me, I am using the creed that I learned as a child.

Kehillah's response to the risen **Messiah**, who commanded His **Emissaries** (Apostles) to **"go and make people from all nations into talmidim, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the Ruach HaKodesh** ~ Matt 28:19 (CJB).

Later generations of believers sometimes said that each of the twelve **Emissaries** had written one line of the creed - hence the name **"Apostles' Creed."** It is a charming legend that conveys a profound truth: that the baptismal confession is rooted in the faith of the **Emissaries** and ultimately in the word of the risen Christ himself. ²

In my next post, we will begin to examine the **Apostle's Creed** in detail.

² The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism.