

Conversion to Judaism is not practiced by most Messianic congregations because doing so undermines the message of the Messianic Scriptures (New Testament) of Gentiles being grafted into the "olive tree roots" of the covenants G-d made with the Jewish people. [Romans 11:17-20] It's wonderful to see us all "equal sharers in the rich root of the olive tree." If all became Jewish, that sharing would become strictly for Jews.

Torah teaches, in the mouth of Balaam, Numbers 23:8, "How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied? 9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations." That is, the descendants of Israel will always have a separate covenantal identity separate from the nations.

There is a special blessing in scripture to those who bless Israel. Beresheet [Genesis] 12, "I will bless those who bless you [Abraham]. If people converted to Judaism, they would lose the ability to receive the blessing of befriending Israel.

There is a promise in the prophet Yeshayahu [Isaiah] that those of the nations [Gentiles] who would ally themselves with Israel, and keep Shabbat, etc., will have a *greater* reward than those who are born Jewish. Yeshayahu [Isaiah] 56:6-7, "And the foreigners who join themselves to ADONAI to serve him, to love the name of ADONAI, and to be his workers, all who keep Shabbat and do not profane it, and hold fast to my covenant, I will bring them to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be call a house of prayer for all peoples."

Conversion involves circumcision, and Paul tells us *not* to circumcise our new believers in Galatians 6:12 and other places.

A person can be a Gentile believer in Yeshua and friend to Israel without being Israel. Identifying /with /Israel, is a great blessing, as opposed to identifying as Israel. Taking the identity of Israel, when it is not one's identity, can be viewed as a sort of spiritual identity theft.