

House of Covenant NEWSLETTER

January 2026



APPRECIATION - STEVE AND DARLA ESTES

House of Covenant is strengthened by those who generously give their time, talents, and hearts to serve, and this month we are honored to recognize Steve and Darla Estes for their faithful dedication to our congregation.

Steve and Darla have been part of House of Covenant for many years, and their presence has consistently been a blessing. Whether through their steady support, joyful participation, or hands-on ministry, they embody a true spirit of service.

Steve is always willing to step in wherever help is needed: from repairing chairs to assisting in unexpected ways. Over the years, he has faithfully served by cooking and serving food at dance events, helping with feast preparations, and filling many roles that quietly keep things running smoothly.

Darla has served as a leader within our Davidic Dance Team for years, both as a volunteer and now as a co-leader. Her passion, creativity, and commitment have helped nurture worship through dance and inspired many along the way.

We are deeply grateful for Steve and Darla and the many ways they pour into House of Covenant. Their faithfulness brings life, joy, and strength to our community. Thank you both for being part of our community!



RESOURCES

To view teachings online, search YouTube for [House Of Covenant In Bend Oregon](#).

For recommended books, resources, and study materials visit [lostintranslation.org](#).

Tithe online! Visit our website at [www.houseofcovenant.org](#).

WHERE TO FIND US

Phone: (458) 899-4922

Email: office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com

Website: www.houseofcovenant.org

We meet at:

21300 Bear Creek Rd.
Bend, OR 97701

Office hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 3pm
Sunday - Monday Closed

Mailing address:

House of Covenant
PO Box 8224
Bend, OR 97708

The story of Jesse and Margaret is marked by obedience, trust, and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit. Spanning continents, cultures, and many divine encounters, their lives (alongside their two sons) reflect what it means to follow God wholeheartedly.



A Faithful Upbringing

Margaret's faith was shaped early by her mother, whose powerful encounter with Yeshua transformed their home. Though she never attended school, Margaret's mother learned to read the Bible through the leading of the Holy Spirit and instilled a daily rhythm of prayer and Scripture in her children. Whenever a need arose, her response was simple: "Go ask God." Margaret quickly learned that God was faithful to answer, whether through unexpected provision, guidance during exams, or even something as small as a ride home on a scorching day. These moments built a lifelong dependence on God as a loving and generous Father.

Growing up amid both Hindu and Christian influences, Margaret's relationship with Yeshua deepened during her high school years, eventually leading her to join Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Through discipleship training and months of outreach across India, she experienced God's protection and guidance time and again, even in moments of injury, danger, and uncertainty. Each step affirmed God's call to go where He sends her and love the people He places before her.

Jesse's journey began differently. Raised in a Christian home, he lived for years without a personal relationship with Yeshua. That changed in 2008 when he heard God speak audibly, calling him into deeper intimacy. From that moment, Jesse's life became centered on both knowing Yeshua and making Him known. Together, he and Margaret recognize that their story is sustained not by their own strength, but by God's grace.

Called to a Home Away from Home

Born, raised, and married in Southern India, they believe God Himself led them to the United States and ultimately to Madras, Oregon. Though they initially questioned "why Madras," the answer became clear through daily obedience. The Holy Spirit opened doors for them to pray, encourage, and share the gospel in simple yet powerful ways. Acts of obedience (like giving away food prompted by the Spirit) became moments of divine provision and confirmation, revealing God's love to those in need.

Their journey to House of Covenant was also Spirit-led. After a season of home worship, they prayed for a community where they could grow and raise their sons, Zohar and Zehrah, in the Lord. An online search led them to the House of Covenant calendar, where they found the Isaiah Study Group. To Bend they went, hesitant for their first visit with so many new faces. Though they still questioned their path, the Holy Spirit reassured them that this was where He called them to be. And so ... they started attending Shabbat service. God spoke to them through Rabbi Adam's teachings, and through Shabbat School teacher, Sandi Harris, where Zohar drew closer to the Lord. He replaced their uncertainty with peace and assurance through worship, teaching, and gentle confirmations.

A Life Led by "Yes, Lord"

Today, Jesse and Margaret share that God is continuing to shape their character by calling them into deeper surrender, rebuilding their faith through His Word, and teaching them to rely daily on the Holy Spirit. They believe they are called to lives of intercession, service, and availability, ready to say "yes" wherever He leads. There is so much more to their story than written here. Margaret excitedly invites questions so she can share!

Their testimony reminds us that obedience does not always come with full clarity, but it always comes with God's faithfulness. As they trust Him completely, their lives shine as a light, showing that God truly guides, protects, and fulfills those who follow Him wholeheartedly.

Welcome to Chai with the Rabbi, where we introduce biblical insights from a Hebraic perspective that draw us closer in covenant relationship with God.

Scripture and Culture

Shalom, friends!

The topic that has been on my heart this month is culture - specifically, the contrast between biblical culture and secular culture within the home. As I reflected on this, I was reminded of a teaching I recently heard from a pastor who offered a vivid and sobering illustration:



“Imagine a grandmother who grew up experiencing significant trauma. Her pain was known to the family, and she was met with compassion, sympathy, and empathy. Yet she never truly received healing. Over time, her unaddressed wounds produced fear and a need for control. Out of that fear, she spoke over everyone and everything. Though her intentions came from love, they were entangled with unresolved hurt.

Now imagine that grandmother is religious. She quotes Scripture constantly, often out of context, and uses the Word as a means of control. She says, ‘I prayed about it,’ or ‘The Lord told me,’ or ‘I fasted, and this is the answer.’ Everyone knows she struggles, yet the family allows her authority to shape the entire system because they feel sorry for her. We love grandma, but she needs help. And unless grandma becomes healthy, what you are allowing is the least healthy person to determine the culture of the family.

If this pattern is left uncorrected, it will continue in the children and the grandchildren. What began as compassion for a broken family member becomes a generational curse.”

That teaching struck me deeply because it reflects an ancient truth in Jewish thought: **the culture you create is the inheritance you pass on.** Our sages teach that households, families, and even entire peoples are shaped not only by laws and beliefs, but by patterns, behaviors, and lived values.

Scripture reminds us, *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). Training is not merely about rules—it is about cultivating a way of life, a culture that reflects biblical values, faith, and covenant with God.

In the September edition of Chai with the Rabbi, I wrote about culture in the context of spiritual warfare, referencing the ministry of Yeshua:

“Everything Yeshua did - teaching Torah, manifesting the miracles of the Kingdom of Heaven, confronting the leaders and teachers of His time - was meant to change, clarify, and restore our Heavenly Father’s Kingdom to the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

I posed the question then: Is the battle we wage as believers spiritual or cultural? Jewish wisdom answers: they are inseparable. In Torah thought, **culture is the soil in which the soul grows**. Culture reflects society's values, fears, joys, and convictions. It is expressed in how we speak, how we eat, how we honor the elderly, how we observe Shabbat, and how we conduct ourselves in daily life.

Let us pause and define culture more clearly:

"A culture is comprised of people. We cannot affect one without affecting the other. A culture is simply a set of shared attitudes, values, practices, and social norms that characterize a group of people or society. It includes elements of language, religion, food, music, and customs that shape the identity of a community."

Establishing a Biblical Culture

The Torah emphasizes that culture begins at home. From the moment a child opens their eyes, the home becomes their first nurturing training ground, and the family their first place of ministry. Our sages understood that holiness is not confined to synagogues or study halls—it is cultivated in the rhythms of everyday life: in the blessings spoken at the table, the songs sung on Shabbat, the stories told of our ancestors, and the values upheld in moments of both trial and triumph.

A biblical culture must be intentional, not accidental. It is the deliberate choice to shape attitudes, practices, and norms around God's Word. It is choosing to speak life rather than fear, to heal rather than pass down pain, and to honor our Creator rather than conform to the fleeting patterns of secular culture.

Why Culture Matters

Whether we recognize it or not, every one of us lives within a family culture. It may be shaped by grandparents, parents, or generations of peoplehood passed down through centuries. It may also be influenced by the surrounding society - American culture, for example, values determination, independence, self-reliance, and freedom. These traits are not inherently wrong, but they become dangerous when they overshadow God and His ways.

When independence replaces biblical obedience, self-expression eclipses humility, or personal comfort outweighs covenantal responsibility, Scripture becomes subordinate to convenience rather than the foundation of life.

The sages teach that **education without culture is like a tree without soil**. Torah values require fertile ground - cultivated intentionally, patiently, and lovingly. The home becomes a holy sanctuary where children learn not only what is right, but why it is right. This is the essence of biblical culture: a home shaped by faith, prayer, kindness, justice, and, yes, sacred tradition.

Practical Ways to Build a Biblical Culture

First, I want to say thank you. As a community, you have all contributed greatly over the years to the godly, biblical culture of House of Covenant. Your faithfulness matters.

Here are some simple and meaningful ways to cultivate biblical culture at home:

1. **Put God first.** Teach Scripture and godly principles to your children. Talk about them together - especially around the dinner table.
2. **Pray for one another daily.** Pray with and over your spouse before work. Pray over your children before school - whether they are homeschooled or attend private or public school.
3. **Address broken areas within yourself honestly.** Do not ignore sinful habits or wounded places while expecting others to adapt around them. Seek prayer, counsel, deliverance, and healing. Walk as a disciple of Yeshua, shaping your thoughts, emotions, and actions according to Scripture.
4. **Honor God's appointed times.** Keep Shabbat, observe the Feasts, and practice tithing. Create traditions and customs around these commands. Many Jewish traditions are beautiful and provide an excellent starting place.
5. **Love your neighbor as yourself.** Begin within your family, then extend that love outward. Let your children see kindness, generosity, and compassion practiced daily - and invite them to join you.

There are countless creative ways to build a godly culture. Pursue them with joy and determination. Learn to love God's ways. As Yeshua taught, *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"* (Matthew 6:33).

A Holy Heritage

As we reflect, I encourage each of us to ask: What culture am I nurturing in my home? Am I allowing fear, unhealed pain, or secular priorities to shape it?

Or am I intentionally planting the seeds of a biblical heritage so that my children and grandchildren inherit a legacy of faith, truth, and holiness?

Now more than ever, as our nation casts aside its biblical foundations and embraces what is selfish, unholy, and destructive, we must guard and preserve the ways of our Heavenly Father. We have lost our way not because truth disappeared, but because we failed to safeguard the biblical culture that carried it.

The battle is real, my friends - and it is ongoing. But it is also winnable. Not merely through words, but through the daily, intentional cultivation of lives that reflect God's values in every corner of our homes.

Shalom, and may the culture you cultivate bring blessing to your home and to generations yet to come.

- Rabbi Adam Spears

UPCOMING EVENTS

Purim Service *Monday, March 2 at 6:30pm*

Purim (the Feast of Lots) commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. This was the time of the beautiful Queen Esther, of the wise Mordechai, of the Persian King Xerxes, and the evil Haman. **Join us for our Purim service and Oneg** (fellowship/potluck). **Please bring a side dish or dessert. Enjoy the Esther Play and costumes!**

Passover *Thursday, April 2*

Passover is the beginning of the Jewish religious New Year. This feast is the remembrance of God's deliverance from slavery and the Exodus from Egypt. It's also the time of the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah. **Join us for our Passover Seders in homes. Please sign up with our Pesach Hosts.**

Unleavened Bread Service *Wednesday, April 8*

Unleavened Bread is the week-long observance of removing the leaven from our homes and the eating of matzah. This also commemorates the Exodus and symbolizes the removal of sin (leaven) from our lives. Messiah, the Bread of Life, was in the grave during this feast. **Join us at 6:30pm for our Unleavened Bread closing service and potluck** (kosher and unleavened foods only).

Shavuot Service *Saturday, May 23 at 6pm*

Shavuot is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire Israelite nation assembled at Mount Sinai, although the association between the giving of the Torah and Shavuot is not explicit in the Biblical text. The holiday is one of the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer. In the Brit Hadashah, this was also known as the Day of Pentecost (Greek for 50/Shavuot) and the Day that God sent his Ruach (Spirit) to His disciples. **Join us at 6:00pm for a Torah Service and Ice Cream Social.**

All upcoming events and services are listed on our online calendar at houseofcovenant.org.

CLASSES AND GROUPS **All events meet at 21300 Bear Creek Rd unless noted.*

Davidic Dance Class

Mondays, 7pm

Darla Estes: 541-550-6750

Isaiah Study Group

Thursdays, 6:30pm

Sherel Stosik: 808-778-1172

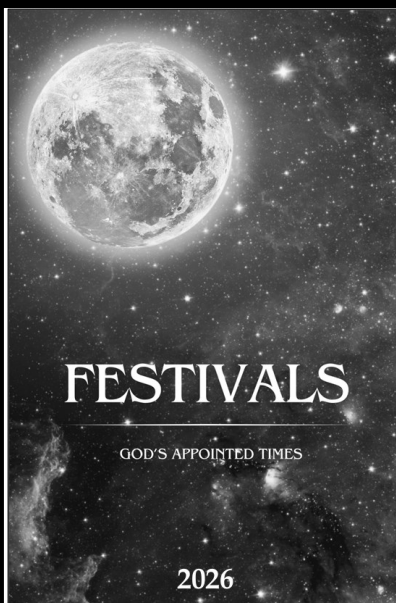
Men's Group

Every other Thursday, 6:30pm

Jeb Anderson: 541-316-3570

**Location to be determined*

FEATURES AND DEALS



Festivals: God's Appointed Times 2026

\$6 on the bookstore counter

God's Appointed Times is a concise, Scripture-driven booklet that explains God's calendar, outlines the biblical commands for each of the seven appointed times, and shows how these festivals reveal God's redemptive plan through Messiah.

See **the bookstore counter** after service to pick up your copy while supplies last! Additional copies are available on lostintranslation.org.

If you have items you'd like to donate or sell, reach out to office.houseofcovenant@gmail.com. Include a description of the item, the sell price (if applicable), and any pictures.