

The Mishnah tractate *Pirkei Avot* or Sayings of the Fathers is a compilation of wise sayings, proverbs, and anecdotes dating from the Third Century B.C.E.-Third Century C.E., forming much of the basis of ancient Jewish ethics. Many important parallels can be seen between remarks made in the *Pirkei Avot* and the wisdom sayings or teachings of Yeshua the Messiah, James the Just, and the Apostles Peter and Paul. In the Jewish community today, the *Pirkei Avot* are traditionally read and considered during the seven weeks between the festivals of Passover and *Shavuot*.

Sayings of the Fathers: A Messianic Perspective on Pirkei Avot takes readers through not just one, but two years of fifty-day reflections, and six bonus days, of some of the ancient wisdom seen in this valuable text. You will not only be introduced to some of the key views present in the Apostolic period, but also be able to weigh the value that the Jewish Sages have in your own personal study and reflection upon the Holy Scriptures. Be prepared to join into an ancient discussion that spans the ages as you reflect on these words. Be blessed as your faith and outlook on the world are enriched, and you have more to take to your Heavenly Father in prayer!

**SAYINGS
OF THE FATHERS**

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

A MESSIANIC PERSPECTIVE ON PIRKEI AVOT

**A DEVOTIONAL FOR COUNTING THE OMER
BETWEEN PASSOVER AND SHAVUOT**

WILLIAM MARK HUEY

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS

A MESSIANIC PERSPECTIVE ON PIRKEI AVOT

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**PROVIDE THYSELF A TEACHER,
AND GET THEE AN ASSOCIATE,
AND JUDGE ALL MEN IN THE SCALE OF MERIT**

AVOT1:6

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ABBREVIATION CHART AND SPECIAL TERMS

The following is a chart of abbreviations for reference works and special terms that are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

Special terms that may be used have been provided in this chart:

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
BECNT: *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*
BKCNT: *Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CEV: Contemporary English Version (1995)
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
ECB: *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
eisegesis: “reading meaning into,” or interjecting a preconceived or foreign meaning into a Biblical text
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
exegesis: “drawing meaning out of,” or the process of trying to understand what a Biblical text means on its own
EXP: *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*
Ger: German
GNT: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
halachah: lit. “the way to walk,” how the Torah is lived out in an individual’s life or faith community
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
ICC: *International Critical Commentary*
IDB: *Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*

- Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
- JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
- JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
- KJV: King James Version
- Lattimore: *The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore* (1996)
- LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
- LS: *A Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell & Scott)
- LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
- LXX: Septuagint
- m. Mishnah
- MT: Masoretic Text
- NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
- NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
- NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
- NEB: New English Bible (1970)
- Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
- NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)
- NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
- NIGTC: *New International Greek Testament Commentary*
- NICNT: *New International Commentary on the New Testament*
- NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
- NIV: New International Version (1984)
- NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)
- NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
- NKJV: New King James Version (1982)
- NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
- NLT: New Living Translation (1996)
- NT: New Testament
- orthopraxy: lit. "the right action," how the Bible or one's theology is lived out in the world
- OT: Old Testament
- PreachC: *The Preacher's Commentary*
- REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
- RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
- t. Tosefta
- Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
- Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
- TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
- TEV: Today's English Version (1976)
- TLV: Tree of Life Messianic Family Bible—New Covenant (2011)
- TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
- TNTC: *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*
- TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
- UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition
- v(s). verse(s)
- Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
- Vul: Latin Vulgate
- WBC: *Word Biblical Commentary*
- Yid: Yiddish
- YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

PIRKEI AVOT

YEAR ONE