

# The Early Church

*A Bible Times Experience*



*'You have been grafted in'  
Romans 11:17-18*

*"...but you shall receive power  
when the Holy Spirit has  
come upon you and you shall  
be my witnesses both in  
Jerusalem and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and even to the  
remotest part of the earth..."*

*Acts 1:8*

**MARKETPLACE**

Ruggles Camp and Retreat Center

2009

## MESSIANIC SEAL

This emblem or unique symbol, which has become known as the "Messianic Seal" was apparently used by Jewish believers who called themselves Nazarenes in the first Messianic Church over 2000 years ago. The Messianic Seal was found etched/inscribed on artifacts excavated from Mt. Zion prior to the 1967 Six-Day War by a Greek Orthodox monk who was living as a hermit in the Old City of Jerusalem. The artifacts were discovered in a grotto near the Tomb of David and the traditional site of the Upper Room. The ceremonial artifacts are believed to have been used by James the Just, the half-brother of Jesus, and the Apostles. Pottery upon which this seal is etched bears the Aramaic inscription "For the Oil of the Spirit," and was kept hidden until 1990.

The symbol consists of a Menorah, or seven branched lampstand which has been a symbol of Jewish identity from ancient times (Exodus 25:31-40). The Fish has been a symbol of Christian identity for nearly 2000 years. The Star of David is made with the base of the Menorah and the tail of the Fish coming together, connecting the two in the center. A study of God's Word tells us that when Christ returns He will sit on David's throne to reign over His kingdom. The Star of David, which is used on the white and blue flag of Israel, is formed from the two triangles. The triangle is a symbol of the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The design this year is rich with symbolism! Be a "missionary" and share the Good News with others!

If you would like to know more about this, there will be a display table in front of the kitchen window in the Retreat Center.