

The Torah

We live in a troubled world with serious societal problems where personal and group behaviors prove we people have lost our moral bearings. In our society, sex, violence and all manner of immorality abound. At the same time ... and in direct correlation to our immoral ways ... grief, heartache, depression, strife, confusion and unhappiness permeate our culture. Society has forfeited happiness and stability in exchange for the “freedom” to live as they wish. Freedom from moral absolutes has led to the most dreadful form of slavery imaginable. Slavery to the wants and desires of this world!

Most regrettably, in many religious circles, there is little difference between the behaviors of the “world out there” and the believing community. Divorce, child abuse, drugs, alcohol, economic destitution, and sexual immorality plague our religious communities.

In stark contrast to our culture’s situational ethics and moral relativity stands the greatest moral code known to mankind; **The Hebrew/Biblical Torah**. It is the greatest and most comprehensive guide concerning human behavior. Its scope covers every issue of morality, ethics, and religious belief that one could imagine. The Torah leaves nothing out of its catalogue of prescriptions. It covers issues from property rights to religious service, from sex to sanctity, from authority figures to truthfulness. In its completeness as a moral code, it cannot be surpassed. Moreover, the Torah comes with its own set of “promises” for the obedient. Notice these words of ADONAI (LORD) given to Moses regarding human behavior and the Torah: “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love YHVH thy ELOHIM (G_D), to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply....I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

But what is Torah? The Torah, according to Jewish tradition, is technically the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Contained within those books are a series of laws, commandments, precepts, and judgments. The whole body of those judgments combined together is also referred to as the Torah. Thus, the word “Torah” according to Jewish tradition means both the first five books of the Bible and all of the commandments and laws found in those five books. Perhaps the reader now understands better where the term “Mosaic Law” is derived.

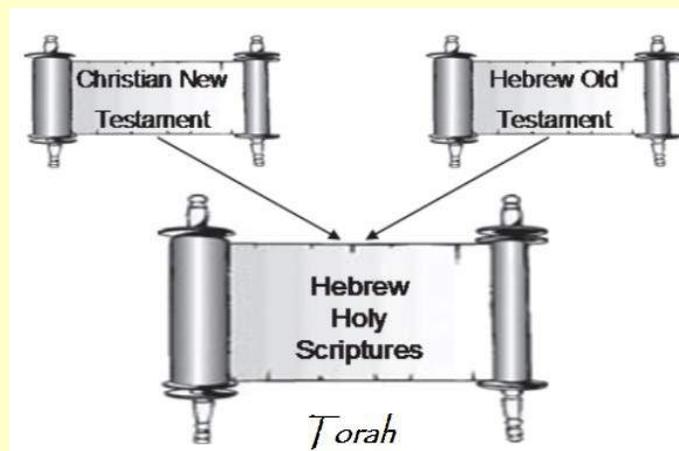
It must be added that this is a simplistic explanation and does not provide the reader with the real importance of Torah within Jewish Tradition/Culture. Because the Biblical account regarding much of these laws, commandments, precepts, and judgments is quite frankly short of details, there was an evolution of thought and tradition within Jewish culture wherein these laws, etc. were expounded upon and wrapped in acceptable conventions. Such conventions to the lay person of today can be seen in “Jewish Food Regulations” or “kashrut”. Or perhaps the traditional black garb donned by Hasidic Jews. Some of these conventions my brothers and sisters are Jewish traditions and not Biblical mandates, and despite the fact that they are near and dear to the hearts of the Jewish people and culture not all of these traditions unto themselves are “Torah”.

So what then is really the best way to view Hebraic or Biblical Torah if not simply as the previously described? The Hebrew word Torah comes from the Hebrew root word yarah. Yarah means “to throw, to shoot (as an arrow), to aim at.” Yarah is the directional process taken by an object going from “point A” to “point B.” Yarah certainly implies: a starting point, a traveling process, and an end point. As a derivative of the word yarah, Torah means much more than a “legal code” or set of rules. Torah implies a starting point, a progression in a specific direction, and a final ending point.

By association of ideas Torah means guidance and instruction (cf. 2 Kings 12:20), and must not be interpreted in a solely legalistic sense! **It is a way of life derived from the covenant-relationship** That Torah is not only law as can be seen from the fact that it is equally well prophetic utterance (Isaiah 1:10; 8:16) and the counseling of the wise (Proverbs 3:4).... From Exodus 24:12 it would appear that commandment is supplementary to Torah but not identical with it." Still further it should seem incomprehensible to not view Yeshua's teachings about righteous application of the commandments as Torah.

As such the usual English translation of the Hebrew word Torah - "law" can be seen to be much narrower than the meaning of the word itself and not very accurate. Subsequently a much better English translation of the Hebrew term "Torah" might be "**Instructional Journey**" or "**The Way**"!

Still further it should be clear that Torah can not realistically be defined or limited to any sub-set of Holy Scripture such as the first five books of the Hebrew Tanakh (a.k.a. Hebrew Old Testament). Torah then is more accurately: "the collective revelation of knowledge from ELOHIM to mankind through the inspired writings which constitute Holy Scripture!" Essentially by association then, **all of Holy Scripture is Torah**. Torah is the complete unified corpus of Hebrew Holy Scripture; The Tanakh (a.k.a. Christian Old Testament) and the B'rit Chadasha (a.k.a. Christian New Testament). In plain terms; **The Bible contains Torah!**



Ultimately this is why our Lord and Savior Yeshua HaMashiach, The Living Word of ELOHIM, declared "I AM The Way, The Truth and The Light!" Torah is the way in principal application we should live! Torah is the truth by which ELOHIM reveals His character and wants His Righteousness promulgated over creation! Torah is the work of righteousness which serves as the light of life ... the light of humanity.

Naturally it must be understood that only in the man Yeshua could this righteous character of G_D be revealed perfectly. Only ELOHIM could deliver for us our end of the covenant and bring forth life from Torah because none other than Yeshua could withstand the judgment of the law and be declared "perfect"! It is only through Yeshua that the keys of hell and death were removed from hasatan (Satan or the adversary). And now in accordance with the B'rit Chadasha renewed covenant, we people can also be judged righteous through faith in Yeshua, the Righteous One.

Now most people when learning that the Hebrew Torah is more accurately the revelation and knowledge of righteousness contained with "Holy Scripture" or still more accurately the inspired "Word of G_D" made manifest on Earth in Yeshua of Nazareth, ask a basic question: "Since Yeshua has come and liberated us from the curse of the law (death); is not the law itself fulfilled and inconsequential? After all this is what Christianity holds fast as basic doctrine!

Unfortunately for nearly all of Christianity the question is raised simply due to the teachings of the Earthly Church of Messiah for the last 1,850 years and because the manner in which Jewish tradition viewed and applied Torah. Unfortunately formal Christian teaching/theology was developed after the Earthly Church had divested itself of its Hebraic Roots. Teachings which were developed in many respects to actually separate the Earthly Church from anything which resembled the Jewish Religion but not intended to accurately depict the correct Hebrew religious practice detailed in the Biblical revelation. In many respects

Christianity did not represent a renewed covenant Judaism but rather the creation of a new religion.

So in reality the Rabbinic Jewish and Christian heritages are essentially the reasons why the question is even tabled at all. A question, which one will soon see, should not even be asked.

Now the learned Christian may say “wait one minute; Yeshua did in fact tear down the Jewish Religious Conventions during His wondrous ministry!” So if Torah was not the issue with the Jewish Religious Establishment then what was the problem?”

In short there was a fundamental failure by the Jewish religious establishment to understand that joyful obedience to ELOHIM in faith and performance of the justice and righteousness of Torah as a function of spiritual indwelling is ELOHIM’s design. Torah, when viewed properly, can be condensed to love of ELOHIM and love of man as Yeshua declared. This is why Torah is the only absolute moral code valid for mankind. Instead an evolved rigorous compliance to traditional regulation was instituted in Judea in the hopes of making the chosen people a holy people. Rather than producing righteousness, the net result was that Israel became an isolated and elitist people wherein the religious establishment’s legalistic conventions actually moved the sheep of Israel away from the fertile grazing area of faith and spiritual development.

In effect the religious establishment had created and fostered a society of zealous compliance to regulations and conventional traditions of minutiae wherein the purpose was to be visibly holier than thou so one could secure prominence and stature in society. Still further it was deemed this regulatory compliance was paramount to righteousness and hence salvation. This legalism was the primary flaw of Jewish

religious practice. This upholding of tradition over Holy Scripture was what Yeshua attacked during His glorious ministry. Even the Jewish tradition (The Talmud) declares that salvation is a function of grace and cannot be earned ... all the same the record of the B'rit Chadasha is clear as to how Israel was functioning and clearly the swift judgment of ELOHIM upon Israel in 70 AD confirms that condition!

To support these last declarations we need to review what Yeshua revealed about the religious establishment regarding this practice:

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands? He answered and said unto them, well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of ELOHIM, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of ELOHIM, that ye may keep your own tradition. (Mark 7:5-9)

Then spoke Yeshua to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: **All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.** For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Messiah; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Messiah. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And

whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. ... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. ... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. ... Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Matthew 23:1-33)

Although this discourse of Yeshua is most scathing to say the least we must understand this Hellenistic influenced rabbinical legalism was the primary wall which separated the people from true Torah and of course ELOHIM. Subsequently the rebuking by Yeshua was consistent with this most grievous transgression. Within the Gospel of John a similar theological construct takes shape but in a very different light:

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Yeshua by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from ELOHIM: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except ELOHIM be with him. Yeshua answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again; he cannot see the kingdom of ELOHIM. Nicodemus says unto him, how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Yeshua answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into

the kingdom of ELOHIM. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again. The wind blows where it lists, and thou hears the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, how can these things be? Yeshua answered and said unto him, **Art thou a master of Israel, and know not these things?** (John 3:1-10)

Ultimately Yeshua's ministry aimed not to just return Israel to proper Torah but to provide the chosen people with a flesh and blood example of the Living Torah, up close and personal. So yes, Yeshua was indeed here to condemn the rabbinical legalism which usurped Torah and had led the sheep of Israel astray. So is it then true as well that Yeshua came to do away with Judaism or Torah practice?

Although we clearly see where Yeshua rebuked the Jewish religious establishment for their corruption of ELOHIM's Torah let us also note within those very same Scriptures Yeshua declared that the people were to follow the renderings of the leaders (obey the law) but not to do so as they did (hypocritically). Yeshua also declared that the weightier matters of Torah (justice, mercy and faith) are paramount ... while the others are also to be done!

The B'rit Chadasha speaks loudly to the point of Yeshua upholding the Torah. Yeshua did not rebuke ELOHIM's Torah.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fill it up.**

For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:13-19)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it. ... Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness ... torahlessness). (Matthew 7:13-23)

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, why call thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, G_D: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. (Matthew 9:16-17)

He that hath my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas says unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Yeshua answered and said unto him, if a man loves

me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loves me not, keeps not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. (John 14:21-27)

Then Yeshua sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, **He that sows the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity (lawlessness); and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father! Who hath ears to hear, let him hear!** (Matthew 13:36-43)

And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. **And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of ELOHIM, and have the testimony of Yeshua Mashíach.** (Revelation 12:15-17)

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of ELOHIM, and the faith of Yeshua. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, **Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, says the**

Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.
(Revelation 14:12-13)

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. **Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loves making a lie. (Revelation 22:12-15)

It should be abundantly clear that Yeshua in no form or fashion did anything but uphold the Torah ... even to the very last passages contained within the blessed Revelation given through John! The Alpha and Omega requires obedience from the beginning (Genesis) until the end (Revelation). Hmmm!

Now let us take a look at what Yeshua's talmidim (disciples) had to say on the matter:

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **ELOHIM** is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness (outside of Torah), we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light (abide in Torah), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Yeshua Mashíach his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:5-9)

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Yeshua Mashiah the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keeps his word, in him verily is the love of ELOHIM perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that says he abides in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (1 John 2:1-6)

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, covenant-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of G_D; Having a form of G_Dliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses (preached against the law), so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds; reprobate concerning the faith. ... But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Messiah Yeshua. All scripture is given by inspiration of G_D, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of G_D may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:1-17)

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what

doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one ELOHIM; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? See thou how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed ELOHIM, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of ELOHIM. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James: 2:14-26)

But now the righteousness of ELOHIM without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of ELOHIM which is by faith of Yeshua Mashiach unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of ELOHIM; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Mashiach Yeshua: Whom ELOHIM hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of ELOHIM; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Yeshua. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is he the ELOHIM of the Jews only? Is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one ELOHIM, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? ELOHIM forbid: yea, we establish the law. (Romans 3:21-31)

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? G_D forbid! But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. (Romans 7:12-14)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of G_D, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto G_D, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of G_D. (Romans 12:1-2)

If any man defile the temple of G_D, him shall G_D destroy; for the temple of G_D is holy, which temple ye are. (1 Corinthians 3:17)

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blame and unreprieveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; (Colossians 1:21-23)

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the daytime. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceiving while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's

voice forbid the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Yeshua Mashiach, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (2 Peter 2:12-22)

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Yeshua Mashiach. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:15-18)

When one looks at these Scriptural passages what can be deduced? Do the talmidim in any way shape or form indicate that Torah is invalidated? The only objective conclusion is a definitive “No.”

There is assuredly something strange going on in the world if approximately 2 billion people ... purported believers in Messiah ... purported believers of “the way” ... can read these Holy Scriptures and conclude that the Torah as handed down to

Israel through Moses, perfected in Yeshua and upheld throughout all of Holy Scripture is not in affect nor a foundational element of a believer's relationship with ADONAI ... with Yeshua!

Dear brothers and sisters can we see?

Instead of invalidating the Torah ... Yeshua, through His perfect observance and obedience of ELOHIM's commandments and statutes, provided us the divine example of how Torah really works. How Torah works when it is practiced through faith and spirit and not the conventions of what man's idea of Torah practice is.

Yeshua best described proper Torah application with His sermon on the mount. From Matthew we learn:

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see ELOHIM. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of ELOHIM. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. (Matthew 5:1-11)

What Yeshua the Messiah came to deliver was not just the atonement of sins through faith but the living example of how Torah represents the "the way" or the "narrow path" to ELOHIM. It is clear that keeping the commandments and statutes of ELOHIM is critical to entering His Kingdom. If salvation from ELOHIM was strictly a function of faith, and not coupled with the works of living Torah as defined

by Yeshua Himself, then one must conclude that the path to ELOHIM would be wide and much of Scripture would be invalidated as would ELOHIM 's plan for mankind.

Yeshua's "sermon on the mount" served notice to the religious establishment and all Israel that their understanding and arbitration of Torah was incomplete. Yes the laws were given through Moses but other revelation was given through the prophets. In fact Yeshua's great sermon can be found within the Psalms ... Yeshua was serving notice that the heart of David ... and ... the fulfillment of the commands is what G_D desires. Yeshua was teaching that Torah is an inside out manifestation of faith and not the other way around. Yeshua was teaching that Torah begins in the heart and not the flesh. Oh yes indeed observance of the commandments can be performed in the flesh but it will also be judged in the flesh. But ... when Torah is upon the heart ... it too will manifest but it will not be judged.

Yeshua did not negate the letter of the law ... what Yeshua made perfectly clear is that the letter of the law performed without a heart for G_D is not what is desired by G_D ... is not acceptable to G_D ... we can't earn righteousness!

From a strictly theological perspective it seems apparent that:

- 1) Works alone or observance of regulations cannot save a person;
- 2) Only through repentance and faith in Yeshua the Messiah will ELOHIM's saving grace be bestowed upon believers;
- 3) A belief in Yeshua which does not yield obedience to the commandments and statutes of ELOHIM as well as the "good works" of faith is a false faith and puts

people on the “broad path ... Spiritual Torah will not contradict the letter of the law ... but it will assuredly establish the law!

As the Apostle Paul makes clear in exquisite fashion, the grafting into the root of Messiah is premised upon circumcision of one’s heart. A circumcision wherein Torah is imbued inside a person because of a spiritual re-birth through faith in and obedience to Yeshua. As Paul correctly states “we do not refute the law we establish the law!” What law? Not legalism but the law of faith and love within Torah as designed by ELOHIM! ELOHIM’s law of justice and righteousness relayed to us in Holy Scripture!

As we heard from Yeshua, our Lord and Master, Torah is in no way shape or form dead or done away with. In fact Yeshua makes it clear that Torah is valid until Heaven and Earth pass away. So without any doubt at all we know that Torah still has purpose.

So now let us revisit the question again: “If Torah is not for salvation but alive and well ... then what is it for?”

1) Torah represents the essence of G_D’s eternal character ... holy, righteous, good and loving:

First and foremost the Torah represents our knowledge of ELOHIM ... the one true G_D ... the CREATOR. Encapsulated within the TORAH ... within the Law is the very essence of our G_D. Assuredly Torah reveals our shortfall and sin but conversely it illuminates the character of ELOHIM ... of Yeshua. Consequently our understanding and pondering of Torah represents our means of getting to know G_D ... getting to know our beloved!

Turning one's back upon the Torah is in effect saying that one does not need to intimately know G_D; now what believer would declare that they did not need to know G_D? Not coincidentally the very first commandment is that we will know ADONAI! In essence failure to seek the character of G_D through pondering of the sacred Torah is a failure to keep the first and supreme commandment of G_D most high!

2) Torah Represents the stewardship grant and rules through which man exercises authority over the chaos:

Man was made in the image and likeness of G_D. This means that man was destined to rule/steward over the Earth as a reflection of the One Who both created and granted authority. G_D exercised authority over the chaos in the beginning by bringing forth the light. This light (Yeshua) is the light of mankind and serves within man as G_D's reflection. Consequently this light (reflection of G_D's character) as defined in Torah represents mankind's means of subduing chaos.

When mankind fails to uphold the laws (character of G_D) mankind fails to exercise authority over chaos ... letting darkness promulgate and spread.

3) Torah Represents the perfect non-relative framework by which people are to live and be sanctified:

Unlike the seductive and idolatrous relativism that is fundamental to this temporal world's system, the Torah is the eternal and supreme manifestation of G_D's will for human behavior. Mankind is simply incapable of self-establishing goodness and righteousness. All deviation from Torah compromises the prime directive thereby promulgating chaos.

It is paramount we understand that we are not at liberty to redefine or selectively adopt certain standards of goodness and righteousness ... regardless of motive or intent. Consequently observance of Torah is paramount to the prime directive and also what defines us as being human. To act instinctively, not submitting to Torah, essentially renders us as being no different than all the rest of creation.

In short the Torah serves as our means for “sanctification”! “Be Holy for I am Holy” says the LORD. We are sanctified by the knowledge of G_D and made “separate” for His purpose through conformance to the sacred commandments.

4) Torah represents the covenantal relationship between G_D and Israel:

After the fall of our first parents, the innate ability of humanity to exercise stewardship in accordance with G_D's will was compromised. G_D subsequently chose Israel as His mechanism for re-establishing mankind's authority over this chaotic temporal world. G_D formally gave Israel the Torah so that both the grant of authority and ability to exercise the authority could be achieved through the auspices of the Everlasting Covenant.

It is important to understand that the authority and the right to exercise this authority are directly connected to the Everlasting Covenant. G_D did not choose all nations ... He chose Israel. As such it is only Israel that is granted authority over creation and of course all peoples of the Nations that so desire to come into Israel.

If post-fall mankind could have innately exercised the Torah on our own than there would have been no need for G_D to formally provide the Torah to Israel ... but in so doing G_D established His singular Covenantal Nation ... Israel.

5) Torah represents the constitutional regulations of G_D's Kingdom:

Since temporal Israel was set apart to be a Priestly and Holy Nation ... charged with re-establishing order over the chaos in the creation ... the Torah serves as the corporate and individual by-laws of the Kingdom. It is one thing to be chosen and called for citizenship ... it is another thing to remain an active citizen ... by abiding by the constitutional mandates.

By submitting to the Torah people are essentially claiming citizenship rights to Israel. Belief and faith are assuredly critical in G_D's plan but the real deal is not about us ... it is not about being saved ... it is about becoming part of the Kingdom ... spreading the Kingdom ... so that chaos can be subdued.

It would appear that we've lost our way and make G_D's plan about us ... about our salvation. But we fail to recognize the fact that G_D saves us not for that primary objective ... G_D saves us so that we can do what we were supposed to do ... provide G_Dly stewardship over His good creation.

6) Torah represents the visible and tangible means by which the lost will be brought back to Him;

As we consider the Hebraic perspective being disclosed herein we should then understand that Torah is the primary mechanism of evangelism ... the means through which people will be drawn out of the dark into the light of G_D's character.

Yet again we know that Torah does not save ... G_D saves through the awesome works of Yeshua HaMashiach. But think for a moment ... the Good News Gospel is the message of redemption, hope, transformation and salvation. This is a message of what G_D has done for us ... but our message needs to be supported with the fruits of why He did this for us! G_D assuredly did not save us so that we could look and act just like those that are being drawn in ... if this were the case how could there be any difference ... how could there be any separation between light and dark ... why would there be any yearning to be in the light?

Consequently the Torah, Israel's light and wisdom before the Nations, serves as the primary evangelical tool to draw people into the truth of Mashíach. The Gospel and a Torah observant lifestyle work hand in hand. In some cases the lifestyle leads a person to the truth of Mashíach ... on the other hand the Good News of redemption and salvation draws people towards conformance to Yeshua's character!

The point being that there is no real evangelism without the shining of light! Anyone can assuredly preach the good news and recount the words of the Book ... how much more effective is a person however when that good news is delivered in conjunction with the shining light of peculiarity? Hmmm!

7) Torah represents our means of providing witness to Who we serve:

In Hebrew the community Israel is often referred to by the terms "HaEd" and HaKeru'im ... meaning the community of "witnesses" and "called out ones" respectively. Additionally Israel was also referred to as the people of "HaDerech" ... "the way"!

Torah submission consequently serves to testify ... serves as a believer's testimony ... as a witness to Whom we serve and to Whom has provided the calling! Do we get this? Israel is the community that has been called out ... by G_D ... to follow "the way" which He has provided.

When as believers we submit to the unique and peculiar lifestyle that Torah observance brings ... we bare testimony not to ourselves but to G_D ... and His Mashíach Yeshua. We bare testimony that He really is G_D ... worthy of worship, obedience and servitude! If we claim to be Israel then we assuredly must provide testimony in a fashion Biblically revealed ... else we are just making this G_D to person relationship all about us! Hmmm!

8) Torah represents the visible and tangible trust through faith that we have in ADONAI:

Obedience to G_D's ways ... His commandments ... His lifestyle for us is the direct result and display of our trust in Him. G_D has made many promises to us and our abiding within the framework that He has set forth is a public display of our trust that He will deliver on these promises.

Yes G_D through His Mashiach Yeshua has promised to deliver us ... in that day! But this promise requires our trust that abrogating all of the hopes and dreams of "this world" (wealth, fun, satisfaction, prominence, self-determination, sin) will not leave us missing the boat. This is why Torah observance serves as a demarcation line between faithfulness and faithlessness. For the lukewarm believer that still lives to the dreams and desires of this temporal world ... there really is no belief that what is coming is better ... is eternal. There is a continued fear of missing out in the here and now and this is because there is no real trust. There is a continued fear of death!

We need to examine ourselves and really think about how good our trust level is with our LORD!

9) Torah manifests our personal and communal submission to ADONAI;

Torah submission ultimately is about submission ... it is ultimately about relenting to G_D and putting aside that first sin ... that desire to be G_D ... that desire to be in control! We really need to understand that submitting to Torah is indeed all about control. Control by G_D but also our Torah submission puts us in control because when we do so sin is no longer in control.

Funny how this works out ... we need to give up control to get control. We need to stop acting on our own to get back in charge. So ... how are we doing? Are we in charge or are we being led astray by the machinations of our own minds and desires?

10) Torah Represents true love ... in all ways is sacrificing one's own ideas to implement G_D's ideas in all matters of life real love:

The notion that an emotional, kind, tolerant, sympathetic and empathetic attitude is equivalent to love is generally a feel good cover up to explain away the lack of obedience more often than not.

Please do not get this wrong ... most assuredly a mushy and pliable heart is what our LORD desires and does make within us. He does rid of us seething anger, bitterness, contempt, strife, etc. ... but ... all the same this "friendly attitude" is not what loving really is all about. Love is pure sacrifice for the benefit of others.

Love as defined by G_D is exercising authority over sin, at our own temporal expense, for the benefit of creation. Willing obedience is the way a believer lays down their temporal life to make the creation better for the rest of humanity. Real love quite frankly in a Biblical sense is just down right unpopular!

Just think about it for a moment ... sin is essentially self-gratification at the most rudimentary level. What would the creation be like without this sin? It would be perfect ... agreed?

Conclusion:

It is hoped that the message herein is loud and clear ... Torah is not for our salvation ... Torah is because of salvation ... the free gift of grace and mercy wrought through Yeshua HaMashiach.

But as we know this gift is predicated upon G_D's calling and we also know that this gift is predicated upon our acceptance ... our willingness to cleave to Israel ... the community of witnesses. This gift as Holy Scriptures reveals is tightly connected to the Everlasting Covenant made between G_D and Israel for the purposes of enabling mankind to once again exercise proper stewardship and rule over G_D's creation.

For mankind to function as desired by G_D it is clear that we must first be saved by Him ... redeemed/adopted, separated, reborn, indwelt and sealed. Then because of how He saves us ... we can then freely and joyfully conform to His character and thereby exercise righteous authority over His creation. We can exercise authority over sin because HIS is the power and glory forever!

Dear reader ... is this Hebraic perspective that hard to grasp? Is it too far to see? Is it not a perspective that withstands serious scrutiny of G_D's Word?

This notion ... no this lie ... that observing Torah is being "under the law" must be challenged head on without fear. The only element of the law that a believer should recognize as being abrogated is the "curse or death penalty" associated with being found guilty without mercy by the judge! Praise G_D and His Mashiach Yeshua for offering this gift of grace/mercy through the only mechanism that we as humans can effect ... belief and faith ... and it is even debatable if we do this on our own!

But as we have reviewed herein already ... this belief ... this faith is designed to be purposeful ... it is designed to be covenantal ... it is designed to promulgate G_D's

Kingdom by spreading the very light that is G_D's own character ... His very essence. An essence which HE has depicted for us within the auspices of His sacred Torah and Commandments ... an essence that He has mandated we reflect through joyful obedience.

Let us for a moment follow the "big picture" clues:

- 1) G_D brought forth light (Yeshua) as a means of subduing the chaos ... in the beginning;
- 2) Yeshua is the light through which all creation was ordered;
- 3) G_D brought forth mankind in His image to exercise authority over His creation;
- 4) Yeshua is the light within mankind;
- 5) Mankind was designed to reflect G_D's character in ruling the Earth;
- 6) Mankind abrogated this granted authority when our parents sinned ... the light no longer shined within them;
- 7) G_D called and established Israel by Covenant to be the light once again upon the Earth to begin the restoration and proper stewardship process;
- 8) G_D gave Israel the essence of His character in the form of the written Torah ... this written Torah was a temporary gift;
- 9) G_D promised through His Holy Prophets to send the light back into the World so that mankind could once again have the light of Mashiach within them;
- 10) G_D through Yeshua brought forth cleansing and salvation so that mankind could once again be "indwelt by" the light".
- 11) G_D sent forth through Mashiach His HOLY SPIRIT (Ruach HaKodesh) to mankind so that their hearts could be circumcised with Torah by Spirit ... not by written tablets ... not by flesh;
- 12) All of the B'rit Chadasha revelations and teachings discuss the faithful in Mashiach to be those that: walk in the light ... do not conform to this temporal world ... pursue holiness ... pursue righteousness ... think differently ... act in a peculiar manner ... refrain from sin ... obey the commandments ...

manifest a life that is in conformance to the character and walk of Yeshua ...
the very light of G_D!

So can we get it? Do we understand that the Torah is all about purpose responsive to being saved? Do we understand that our salvation is designed to bring about the original order planned for G_D's creation? Do we understand that our goal as redeemed believers ... as members of Israel is to propagate the Kingdom here on Earth? Do we understand that our goal is to draw others into the Kingdom for the purpose of promulgating the broader restoration of creation?

Dear reader ... the Torah is essentially what makes us human beings. Can we see this? Without Torah there is chaos ... without authority over chaos there really is no difference between mankind and all the other beasts of creation ... beasts which differ from humans in that they do not have the grant or capabilities to exercise authority over the creation ... they operate on sheer instinct!

Perhaps this may sound strange but the Biblical fact remains ... a person without G_D's light in them is really not human. Oh they may talk and behave as a human does ... but they lack the fundamental capability of performing the duties of being human as set forth by G_D ... they can't steward the creation thereby negating their status as a human being.

Undoubtedly this last declaration will not sit well with those individuals prone to the traditional Greek metaphysical model and thought framework ... but alas ... that thought framework is frankly not Biblical and irrelevant to the Hebraic perspective. In the Hebraic perspective this "deal" is not about us but about the CREATOR ... it is not about us it is about the CREATION ... it is not about what and how we understand but about how we behave and what we do! It is about us fitting into His plan on His terms and not making it our plan ... as Adam and Eve failed to realize!

Ultimately it is the hope that this Hebraic perspective regarding the meaningfulness of Torah has shed some badly needed light upon this issue that seems to create so much anxiety.

Anxiety for the mainstream Jew who mistakenly thinks that Yeshua is a false Mashiach Who came to do away with the Everlasting Covenant ... Who came to do away with G_D's purpose for humanity and His creation ... Who came and did not faithfully and perfectly fulfill all of the Messianic prophecies pointing to Him!

Anxiety for the mainstream Christian who mistakenly believes that somehow G_D's character is no longer relevant ... who mistakenly believes that observance of Mashiach's character ... the commandments ... is somehow detrimental to one's salvation ... who mistakenly believes that behaving like a citizen of Israel is somehow heretical! Heaven Forbid!

Beloved children of G_D ... the gift that is G_D's character is really the only thing of value to us in human terms ... all else wilts away. In His mercy and for the sake of His creation, good will and great NAME ... He has offered humanity yet another chance to rule in His stead over His creation. Yes ... we know that on our own we will not succeed and that we must await His return before restoration is made manifest! All the same we have not been given free rein to do as we will ... in fact G_D has mandated that we in fact proceed with the prime directive in spite of our inevitable failure to bring about restoration on our own! And this is the patience and perseverance of the saints ... this is where we need to dig in knowing that in the here and now we may seem to labor in vain ... without tangible results.

But ... let us not forget one great lasting component of obedience which G_D has declared in accordance with the Everlasting Covenant ... He has promised to bless us abundantly. Bless us not just in the world to come (Olan HaBah) but in the here and now.

Children ... He is our Creator ... our Father and He wants us to not only steward over His creation but to abundantly enjoy His creation. Look around ... despite all of the decay associated with a fallen world ... it remains full of awesome beauty ... bounty ... blessings. He desires our happiness ... our peace ... our contentment ... our Shalom ... and He has promised to give abundantly to us ... if we abide within the framework that He has defined!

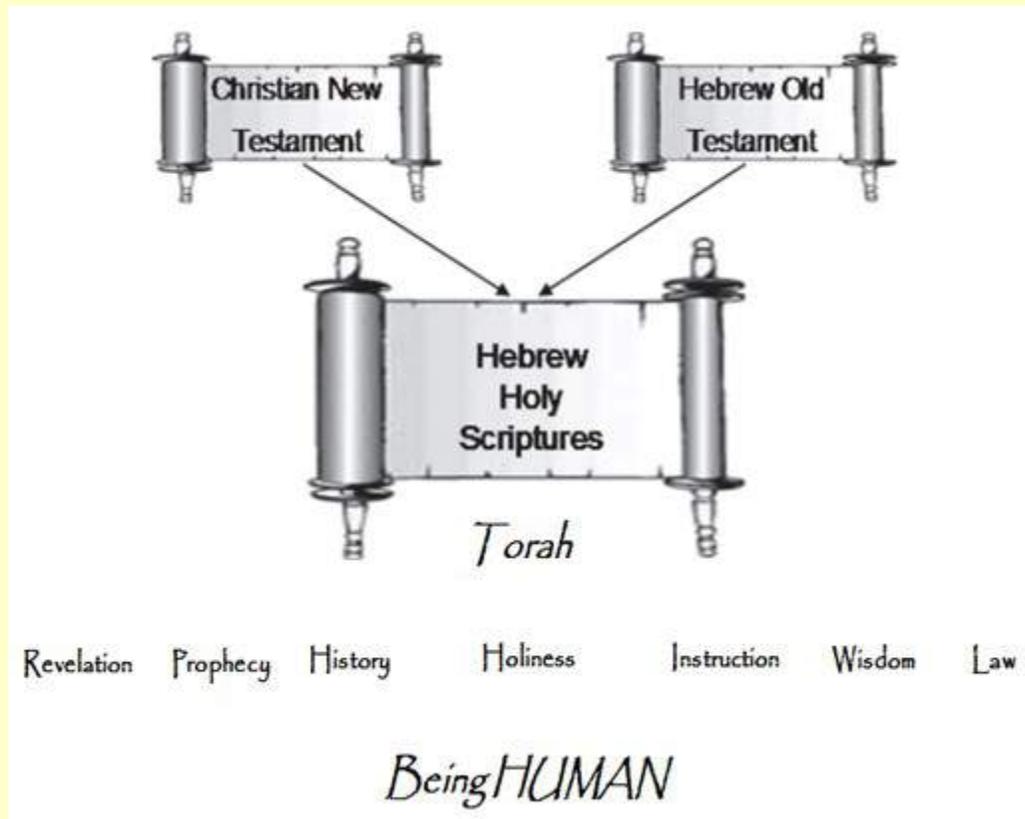
So let us walk uprightly in the liberty of our redemption and adoption into Israel's remnant. Let us remember that our freedom has been purchased with a most tremendous cost ... the life of Mashiach Yeshua.

He redeemed us so that we can become children of G_D! He has redeemed us so that we can become His servants and once more walk without shame upon the Earth and exercise divinely appointed authority over the very works of the Creator's hands.

Let us pursue the path of righteousness knowing that we are imperfect and will stumble ... knowing that the light within us will not fail to rebuke us ... knowing that the light within us will call for our confession and request for cleansing through the blood of Yeshua HaMashiach.

Let us confidently establish lawfulness and shun lawlessness as the means of exercising authority over the chaos that permeates the world through sin and rebellion.

Let us graciously receive from our beloved Mashiach and Father G_D the right to once again pursue true humanity ... for the sole purpose of glorifying His NAME throughout all creation!



Bless the LORD the HOLY ONE Who has
graciously and lovingly given to His children Israel ...
His Holy Torah!

Note: For any individuals looking for a more comprehensive rendering of the commandments and insights regarding application of same please refer to "Book #2 Mystery Babylon Exposed - An Attack On Lawlessness" which can be found in the "Author's Books" section of the website!

Shalom Aleichem ... P. R. Otokletos