

Obedience and Why the Law of Yahuah Matters Today.

These days we are told that keeping the Torah is bondage, burdensome and even “spitting at the cross”. We are told that we should not be “under the Law” but rather “under grace”. I would like to present the idea that the Law of the Most High Elohim (God), Yahuah, is as important to believers today as it was at Creation and at the giving of the Ten Commandments on Sinai!



What is the Torah?

The Torah is the name given to the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy. It is also called the Pentateuch, or the Mosaic Law, but it was given to man even before Sinai, more about that later! The Torah is the law, guidelines or instructions of the Most High Yahuah that was given to man for the purposes of instruction, to keep His people safe, healthy and set-apart for Him.

The Law describes how we should act towards the Father, as well as how and when to worship Him. Torah also details how we should treat one another, and how to conduct ourselves. Yahuah’s instructions also explain what we should and shouldn’t eat, how to remain ritually and physically clean, and even how to live in order to have a blessed life.

We can, in a very basic sense, see the Torah as a fence given by Yahuah to keep us away from that which would separate us from Him, hurt us, make us sick, or put us in the position of being cursed by our actions. Obedience to Torah blesses us abundantly and draws us closer to Him! The Father gave His people the Torah because He loves us, not to burden us.

The Law was given to Moshe for the people of Yashar'el on Mount Sinai, and Moshe taught the people each commandment of Yahuah. But there are sources that explain that the Law was there from the very Beginning! Let us have a look at a few of those now.

It is important to keep in mind that Scripture defines sin as “lawlessness” (1 John 3:4), when we look at the following examples:

In Genesis 3:6-17, we see that Adam and Havah (Eve), coveted the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and stole the fruit (they were not allowed to touch it). They also disrespected their Father (Yahuah). They were punished for breaking the fifth, eighth and tenth commandments – to honour your father and your mother, not to steal and not to covet!

We see in Genesis 4:9-12 that Cain was punished for breaking the sixth and ninth commandments, he murdered his brother and lied about it.

“But the men of Sodom were evil and sinned before Yahuah, exceedingly so.” Genesis 13:13, TS2009. This verse notes that the men “sinned”, and by definition, there had to have been a Law for them to have sinned against!

In Genesis 20:3-19, Yahuah stops Abimelek from committing adultery with Sarah, and we see in v. 6: ‘And Elohim said to him in a dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart, and so I kept you from sinning against Me. For this reason I did not let you touch her.”’ Abimelek was kept from breaking the seventh commandment!

‘And Yahuah said to Moshe, “See, I am raining bread from the heavens for you. And the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, in order to try them, whether they walk in my Torah or not.”’ Exodus 16:4, TS2009. Note, this is four chapters BEFORE the Ten Commandments were given to Moshe! And yet Yahuah is speaking to Moshe about testing whether or not His people will be keeping His Law! We see this again in v. 28, ‘And Yahuah said to Moshe, “How long shall you refuse to guard my commands and my Torot?”’ (Torot is the plural form of Torah, in other words, “Laws” or “Instructions”.)

What does the church say?

Now, the view of much of Christianity is that the Torah is “burdensome”. With over 600 individual laws, many people think that it is way too difficult to even attempt to keep the Law. I beg to differ! The number of 613, or even a thousand, laws is nothing compared to modern laws that we each have to abide by every day as it is. The US has over 20,000 laws just for gun control! The laws of individual countries are innumerable, with laws changing or being added regularly too. States also have varying laws. People in each state or country are

expected to stick to these laws, laws they can't even count, and yet less than 1000 laws are "too difficult" or "too burdensome" to keep.

The difficulty of keeping Torah gets broken up even further! The Law of Yahuah is divided up too, with laws pertaining only to Levite priests, kings, farmers, men, women, etc. So in effect, if you are a male farmer, you only keep the laws that directly refer to you, and you need not worry about those for women, kings and priests. Simple! It is really just a case of studying out the Torah, and learning specifically about the laws that you need to keep as an individual!

"But the Torah is only for the Jews!"

Apart from the proof that the Torah was already in the existence in the time of Adam, the Law of Yahuah was given to ALL of Yashar'el (Israel), in Moshe's time once again. Yashar'el consisted of twelve tribes, and the tribe of Yehudah (Judah) was only one of the twelve. The name Jew generally refers to the people of Yehudah. So therefore the Torah was not only given to the "Jews" but to all of Yashar'el. And I can take it a step further.

"And you shall guard the Festival of Matzot, for on this same day I brought your divisions out of the land of Mitsrayim. And you shall guard this day *throughout your generations*, an *everlasting law*." Exodus 12:17, TS2009 (emphasis mine). This verse is just one example out of many in the Bible that tells us the Law is everlasting, forever, and for all generations!

Exodus 12:49 also tells us that the Law is to be kept by the Children of Yashar'el, as well as those who dwells among them, for whatever reason. "There is one Torah for the native-born and for the sojourner who sojourns among you."

"Didn't Jesus fulfil the Law? Wasn't it nailed to the cross?"

The Messiah came to earth in part as an example of how the Torah should be lived! He was perfect and sinless, and therefore kept the Law perfectly. Yahusha (the Hebrew name of the Messiah), did indeed come to fulfil the Law as He said! "Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to complete. For truly I say to you, till the heaven and the earth pass away, one yod or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done." Matthew 5:17-18, TS2009. In this context, "complete", or in other translations "fulfil", means, according to the Miriam-Webster dictionary, "to meet the requirements of; to develop the full potential of; or to convert into reality". Yahusha came to meet the requirements of the Torah, to develop and show the full potential of the Torah, and to convert the Torah into a reality for his followers.

Yahusha did not come to abolish or destroy the written Word of His Father, but to return His people back to the Torah.

Remember that Yahusha came to earth as a man in the time of the Pharisees and Sadducees. These men had created a system of man-made law and tradition that was apart from Torah. They had what we would call the Talmud. They had strong traditions that were supposed to be kept by everyone, but these traditions were not the Law of the Most High, and they were a burden on the people.

We see an example of this in Mark 7:6-8: 'And He answering, said to them, "Well did Yeshayahu prophecy concerning you hypocrites, as it has been written, 'This people respect Me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of me.' Forsaking the command of Elohim, you hold fast the tradition of men.'"

Yahusha came to free the people from the burden of these man-made traditions, and return them once again to the Law of His Father. He was a living example of how to keep the Torah, and he explained that the Torah was a mental, as well as physical law, to be kept on the inside and out (Matthew chapters 5-7). Yahusha did not add to the Law in this passage, which would have been a sin. Instead, He reminded the people what the Law truly meant!

"Come to Me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I shall give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble in heart and you shall find rest for your beings. For My yoke is gentle and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30, TS2009. Here, Yahusha is describing the yoke of the Torah, which is His because He is the living Word. It would be impossible for Yahusha to support anything other than the Torah, the written word of the Father. As the Messiah clearly states, the "burden" of keeping His Father's Law is light. We should indeed lean into this truth!

Yahusha gave a man direct instructions to keep the Commandments of the Torah: 'And see, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good shall I do to have everlasting life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One – Elohim. But if you wish to enter into life, guard the commands." He said to Him, "Which?" And Yahusha said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Respect your father and your mother,' and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" Matthew 19:16-19, TS2009.

The man clearly knows these commands, as he replies, "All these I have watched over from my youth, what do I still lack?" (v. 20) And Yahusha answers him, saying, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me." His words were quite clear, we need to keep the Law, and thereafter, give up that which is holding us back on earth (our idols, desires, etc), and follow Him. Works, as well as faith!

In John 14:15 Yahusha tells us, “If you love Me, keep My commands.” Because He is the Word, His commands are the Torah!

John 15:10 reminds us, “If you guard My commands, you shall stay in My love, even as I have guarded My Father’s commands and stay in His love.”

‘And by this we know Him, if we guard His commands. The one who says, “I know Him,” and does not guard His commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever guards His Word, truly the love of Elohim has been perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. The one who stays in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked. Beloved, I write no fresh command to you, but an old command which you have had from the beginning.” 1 John 2:3-7, TS2009. This speaks for itself. We are to keep the Torah, the commands of Elohim, because shows that His truth is in us, and the love of Yahuah is being perfected in us!

“And become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror, for he looks at himself and he goes away, and immediately forgets what he was like. But he that looked into the perfect Torah, that of freedom, and continues in it, not becoming a hearer that forgets, but a doer of work, this one shall be blessed in his doing of the Torah.” James 1:22-25, TS2009.

Obedience!

Definition of obey

[transitive verb]

1: to follow the commands or guidance of: He always obeys his parents.

2: to conform to or comply with: obey an order.

Yahuah expects obedience from His children, as every loving father does! His commands are a guide to how we should live our lives to praise Him, to be set-apart from the world, and to stay safe and healthy. The Law is not there to be a burden, as I have shown. We can’t even define sin without the Torah, because, ‘Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.’ 1 John 3:4, TS2009. Therefore we need the order and boundaries of the Torah to even know what sin is in order not to sin!

Where do we start?

“Hear, O Yashar’el: Yahuah your Elohim, Yahuah is one! And you shall love Yahuah your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might. And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your

heart, and you shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up, and shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9, TS2009.

The starting point is repentance – to turn your back on the ways of the world, of Babylon, and turn towards Yahuah with all your heart. Repent (*teshuv*) of all your sins and choose to follow Yahuah. “But if they confess their crookedness and the crookedness of their fathers, with their trespass in which they trespassed against Me, and that they have also walked contrary to Me, and I have also walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies – if their uncircumcised heart is humbled, and they accept the punishment of their crookedness, then I shall remember My covenant with Ya’acob, and also my contract with Yitshaq, and also remember my covenant with Abraham, and remember the land ... Then I shall remember for their sake the covenant of the ancestors whom I brought out of the land of Mitsrayim before the eyes of the nations to be their Elohim. I am Yahuah.” Leviticus 26:40-45, TS2009.

The Hebrew word for repentance, *teshuvah*, literally means to ‘return’. Basically, it is a return to Yahuah and His ways after straying, going after false gods and idols, or after sinning. As we see in the passage above, *teshuvah* requires confessing your sins in prayer, and often confessing the sins of your ancestors. There is also often fasting mentioned in connection with repentance. Psalm 51 is another example where King Dawid seeks repentance, and another is Nehemyah’s prayer in chapter one of his book:

‘And it came to be, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days. And I was fasting and praying before the Elohim of the heavens, and I said, “I pray, Yahuah Elohim of the heavens, O great and awesome El, guarding the covenant and loving-commitment with those who love You, and with those guarding Your commands, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, for the children of Yashar’el Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Yashar’el which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not guarded the commands, nor the laws, nor the right-rulings which You commanded Your servant Moshe. Please remember the word that You commanded Your servant Moshe, saying, ‘If you trespass I shall scatter you

among the peoples, but if you shall turn back to Me, and guard My commands and do them, though you were cast out to the end of the heavens, I shall gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen, to make My Name dwell there.’ And they are Your servants and Your people, whom You have ransomed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. O Yahuah, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who delight to fear Your Name. And let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.” Nehemiah 1:4-11, TS2009.

“If I shut up the heavens and there is no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people upon whom My Name is called, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I shall hear from the heavens, and forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, TS2009.

Read the Torah, Genesis to Deuteronomy – reading the weekly Torah portions every Sabbath is great way to start! Read the gospels and the books written by James, Jude, Peter and John; they are men that actually walked with the Messiah, which is incredible! Join a community of like-minded believers who will help you and strengthen you in your journey. The Unexpected Cosmology Discord server is a great online group to join, where we discuss the Torah, Scripture and so much more!

The Fruits of the Ruach haKodesh

Another really important part of keeping the Torah, in my experience, is the fruits of the Spirit (or Ruach in Hebrew). Allow me to elaborate. Many of us who came to the Truth of keeping Torah, especially those of us who came out of mainstream Christianity, fell into the trap of being over-zealous and really excited about what we learned. We then sort-of felt it was our place to convince others of what we knew to be truth, by “bible-bashing” them and becoming infamous “Torah terrorists”. And yes, that is an actual term these days!

While we are called to share the Truth of the Torah and the Good News of Messiah’s life on earth, we are to do so being “meek and humble”, being like Messiah and allowing His light to shine through us.

To be meek is to “endure injury with patience and without resentment”, and a humble child of Yahuah is “not proud or haughty; not arrogant or assertive”.

While we can rest in the Truth of Yahuah, and be sure of His love, we also need to speak that truth in love to our brothers and sisters whom we love! “Beloved ones, let us love one another, because love is of Elohim, and everyone who loves has been born of Elohim, and knows Elohim. The one who does not love does not know Elohim, for Elohim is love.” 1 John 4:7-8, TS2009. This is simple, if we don’t show love to those around us, we don’t truly know Yahuah - and that is a scary thought!

“My brothers, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing the proving of your belief works endurance. And let endurance have a perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in naught.” James 1:2-3, TS2009. Remember that the road of Truth is difficult, painful and often lonely. We will have trials and hardships, but this verse reminds us that Yahuah uses this to draw us closer to Him!

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of Elohim.” Matthew 5:7, TS2009. We are to be peacemakers in order to be sons and daughters of Yahuah! We can’t possibly be peacemakers while fighting with others over this or that calendar, whether or not to headcover, or even over keeping Torah!

“For this is favour, if because of conscience toward Elohim, anyone bears up under grief, suffering unrighteously. For what credit is there in enduring a beating when you sin? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure, this finds favour with Elohim. For to this you were called, because Messiah also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps.” 1 Peter 2:19-21, TS2009. We are called to be patient and long-suffering with others, just like Messiah and His Father are forever patient with us!

“He has declared to you, O man, what is good. And what does Yahuah require of you but to do right, and to love loving-commitment, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?” Micah 6:8, TS2009. This is how we are to show kindness, by doing right, being committed to one another in love, and to be humble in the ways of Yahuah.

“You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city to be hidden on a mountain. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it shines to all those in the house. Let your light so shine before men, so that they see your good works and praise your Father who is in the heavens.” Matthew 5:14-16, TS2009. Our goodness because of our works and belief should be a light that shines for all to see!

“My son, do not forget my Torah, and let your heart watch over my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they add to you. Let not loving-commitment and truth forsake you - bind them around your neck, and write them on the tablet of your heart. Thus finding favour and good insight in the eyes of Elohim and man.” Proverbs 3:1-4, TS2009. Our faithfulness, or loving-commitment, towards Yahuah and those around is very important! This verse also reminds us of the importance of the Torah.

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up displeasure.” Proverbs 15:1, TS2009. Gentleness is important when speaking the truth! This verse carries true wisdom about how we should speak to others.

“It is not good to eat too much honey. Is it esteem to seek one’s own esteem? A man who has no control over his spirit is like a broken-down city without a wall.” Proverbs 25:27-28, TS2009. The final fruit of the Ruach is self-control. This verse doesn’t beat around the bush! Self-control is very important in our journey to walk out Torah!

In this life, we never finish learning. In keeping with the theme of being meek and humble, having the fruits of the Ruach and shining the light of Yahusha, we need to remain teachable. This means we need to keep an open mind and not be so proud that we can’t accept correction or new information.

The Law in the Future.

‘And many peoples shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the House of the Elohim of Ya’acob, and let Him teach us His ways, and let us walk in His paths, for out of Tsiyon comes forth the Torah, and the Word of Yahuah from Yerushalayim.”’ Isaiah 2:3, TS2009.

“And I shall give them one heart, and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, so that they walk in My laws, and guard My right-rulings, and shall do them. And they shall be My people and I shall be their Elohim.” Ezekiel 11:19, TS2009.

“For this is the covenant I shall make with the house of Yashar’el after those days, declares Yahuah: I shall put My Torah in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts. And I shall be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33, TS2009. This verse is also repeated in Hebrews 8:10!

These verses are clearly about a FUTURE covenant that will take place, not about something that had already happened. Yahuah assuredly intended for His Law,

instructions and right-rulings to last for all time, or until “heaven and earth pass away.”

And last, but definitely not least, let us look at a couple of verses from the book of Revelation that will solidify the argument for keeping Torah.

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to fight with the remnant of her seed, those guarding the commands of Elohim and possessing the witness of Yahusha Messiah.” Revelation 12:17, TS2009. In context, this is after the battle where the messenger (angel) Mika’el casts the dragon (satan) down to earth, along with his messengers. Clearly, this is after the coming of Yahusha to earth, after His death and after His ascension to heaven. This shows us that keeping the commands, the Torah, of Yahuah, is still as important as it always was, along with belief in Messiah.

“Here is the endurance of the set-apart ones, here are those guarding the commands of Elohim and the belief of Yahusha.” Revelation 14:12, TS2009. Endurance and overcoming is an essential theme of Revelation! The set-apart children of Yahuah have to overcome so much, and endure many trials and hardships, both in the tribulation period and in the time after the Millennial Kingdom before the great white throne judgement. Here we see that the endurance of Yahuah’s children is keeping Torah and belief in Messiah, once again!

We have read Scriptural proof from the very beginning - in Genesis, through the rest of Torah and the Prophets, and then into the Gospel of the Messiah and the Revelation of the very end times - that the Law of Yahuah is eternal, everlasting, for all generations. The Law is to be written on the hearts of His people, and is a sign of the endurance of His people in the trials of this world. His Law is important to Him, and it is there for our safety and health, a sign to all the world, and even to hasatan (Satan), that we are set apart and belong to Yahuah.

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