

The Virtual House Church Presents

Wisdom from the Torah

DEUTERONOMY

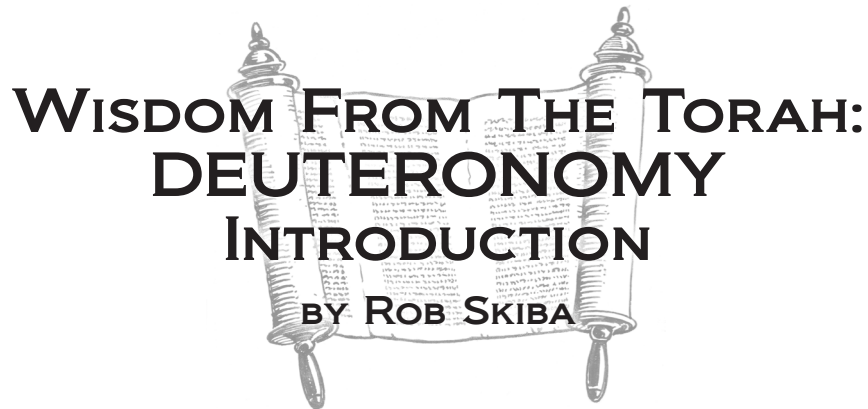
**With Related Portions From The
Prophets and New Testament**



KJV

Book Five

We dedicate this Bible study workbook to all who have a hunger and thirst for the things of God and who desire to know His Son Yeshua (Jesus) through the words of Moses, the prophets and apostles.



THE SUMMARY OF THE TORAH

Well here we are at the last book of the Torah. I like to look at it as sort of the “CliffsNotes™” of the previous four books, because it really does act like a summary of all that has preceded it. The word “Deuteronomy” comes from the opening phrase in Hebrew: “*él-leh had-de-bā-rim*”, which means, “*These are the words...*”. How interesting that early on in the call of Moses’ life, we read that he was a man who had trouble speaking (or so he thought anyway). And yet, we see that YHWH has clearly equipped him with eloquent words. In fact, the book of Deuteronomy is really one long speech from the man who was “slow in speech.”

EXODUS 4

*10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, **I am not eloquent**, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but **I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue**.*

Was Moses really a bad speaker or was he just being humble and feeling unworthy of the calling in which YHWH wished to use him? Perhaps a little of all of that may be true. One thing I’ve learned in my own life though is that God does not generally call the equipped, but rather He equips the called. I certainly see this to be true in the life of Moses. What an amazing journey he had! From escaping death in a basket floating down a river to being raised as a son of Pharaoh, to exile leading to a life of herding sheep in the wilderness, to being perhaps the greatest leader of men the world has ever known. Now, here we are at the end of his long journey, which unfortunately included him failing to actually enter the Promised Land. Nevertheless, you see his shepherd’s heart at work as he recounts the Exodus, the wandering in the wilderness and the commandments, ordinances and statutes of YHWH to the generation that would enter the land. He was about to die and thus he wanted to leave the people with some final “words” to both encourage and warn the people about the blessings and curses, which come from obedience and/or disobedience to the most high Elohim.

Of all the books of the Hebrew Tanakh, many scholars have noted that Yeshua quoted the most from the book of Deuteronomy. In fact, the words from this book enabled Him to pass His testing in the wilderness. Could this also serve as an example for us as His followers? Could the 40 days He spent in the wilderness correspond with the 40 years the Israelites spent being tested in the wilderness? Could their testing in the wilderness parallel a future testing for us in the Last Days? I suppose that’s all food for thought. Suffice it to say, if it was good enough for Yeshua to use in thwarting the temptations of the Devil, it will surely do the same for us.

In an article on the Koinonia House website, Dr. Chuck Missler has this to say about Deuteronomy:

Not surprisingly, the New Testament authors mentioned Moses more frequently than any other Old Testament person. His concluding remarks after a 120-year lifetime have been handed down to us as the Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is essentially a series of sermons by the greatest Old Testament prophet. Jesus Himself quoted more from Deuteronomy than from any other portion of the Old Testament. (In a sense, Deuteronomy is the “Book of Romans” of the Old Testament.)

* * *

Moses’ words were addressed to all Israel, an expression used at least 12 times in the book. Its frequent occurrence emphasizes the unity of Israel which was brought about by God’s mighty deliverance of the nation from Egypt, and by her acceptance of His covenant at Sinai. They were uniquely God’s people, the only nation on earth that had as its “Constitution” the Word of God.

— Dr. Chuck Missler^[1]

Indeed, I agree. The Torah is the “Constitution of the Kingdom.” It is the standard by which we determine right and wrong, good and evil, sin and righteous living.

LAW AGAINST THE LAW?

Recently, I found an interesting website^[2] concerning the laws of our country (the United States). In one section of that site, it says:

How Numerous are the Laws Passed by the United States Congress?

The United States Code (abbreviated USC) is the collection of laws passed by the United States Congress, minus the ones that have been repealed or superseded...

The United States Code occupies this much shelf space:

- *First shelf (USC titles 1-21): 34.25 inches*
- *Second shelf (USC titles 22-42): 28.75 inches*
- *Third shelf (USC titles 42-49): 10 inches*
- *Table volumes and index: 18.5 inches*

Supplement volumes dated 2001 through 2005 are spread over three shelves:

- *First shelf of supplements: 5.5 inches*
- *Second shelf of supplements: 34 inches*
- *Third shelf of supplements: 13.75 inches*

*All told, the USC of year 2000 (minus supplements) occupies **73 inches of shelf lineage.***

As I continued to dig along these lines, I found that **20,238 bills passed into law in 2009** and **21,031 bills passed into law in 2007.**

1. See: <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2004/505/> [Retrieved 8/11/14]

2. See: <http://extent-of-regulation.dhwritings.com/>

Another website article^[3] dated December 27, 2011 states:

New Laws Ring in the New Year

A wide range of new legislation goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

A host of new laws—from making it a crime to sell a live animal on any street or in any parking lot, to honoring law enforcement officials killed in the line of duty with a special medal—become effective Jan. 1, 2012.

*In 2011, all 50 states and territories met in regular session and **enacted more than 40,000 new bills and resolutions** on issues across the board. Laws do not always become effective on Jan. 1, however. State constitutions or statutes usually establish when they go into effect, or sometimes, an effective date is written into the specific piece of legislation.*

An NBC news story^[4] confirms this with the headline:

“About 40,000 state laws taking effect at the start of the new year...”

On the Library of Congress website,^[5] I found...

“What about the United States Code?” The current Code has 51 titles in multiple volumes. It would be very time consuming to go page by page to count each federal law, and it also does not include case law or regulatory provisions.”

By contrast, YHWH gave us just five short books (measuring only about a **half-inch** in my Bible), within which only *some* of that content deals with His established Laws for *all* of mankind. The rest is comprised of story-telling.

There are those who claim there are 613 laws contained in those five short volumes, penned by Moses. However, **no one** was meant to keep all of those as some only apply to priests in Jerusalem when there is a Temple. Some only apply to women. Some only to farmers. Some to kings, etc.. So all 613 (alleged) laws do not apply to any one person. Ultimately, it seems to me, when you really get down to it, even the 613 are really just an elaboration on how specific people can keep the big 10 (more on that shortly).

Yet, isn't it interesting how the modern Church has essentially created a doctrinal law, which basically makes it *illegal* to keep this simple 10-point Law? Ironically enough, the same Christians who promote that variety of Antinomianism, will almost unanimously demand that we should “*obey the laws of the land.*” OK. So, we're supposed to obey the ***hundreds of thousands of laws written by man***, but toss out the 10 written by the finger of YHWH Himself? And that makes sense to people??

Seriously. Think about it folks: There are literally ***hundreds of thousands*** of laws just for our one nation. Imagine how many there are if they were counted in every nation. Even taking duplicates into account, the number would be outrageous! Yet, YHWH was able to write with His own finger just 10, that if obeyed, would keep the ***entire planet*** in order. Yeshua made it even simpler for us, by distilling the 10 down to just 2: Love God and love our fellow man (and these 2 actually show us how to keep the 10).

And yet, the Church — of all people — wants us to ignore them; claiming they've been “done away with” at the cross. Worse still, we even have those within the body of Christ claiming that it is a “doctrine of devils” for us to seek to obey them.^[6]

3. See: <http://www.ncsl.org/press-room/new-laws-ring-in-the-new-year.aspx> [Retrieved 6/4/14]

4. See: http://www.nbcnews.com/id/45819570/ns/us_news-life/t/new-laws-toughen-rules-abortions-immigrants-voters/#.U492t8RDsrU [Retrieved 6/4/14]

5. <http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2013/03/frequent-reference-question-how-many-federal-laws-are-there/> [Retrieved 6/4/14]

6. For instance: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/rob-skiba/obeying-yhwh-doctrine-of-devils/10152820823342506>

10 OR 613?

When it comes to “keeping the Law”, time after time, people continue to come at me with the question/accusation, “Well, are you keeping all 613 commandments of the Torah?” as if to try and trap me.

As we’ve already seen, *no one* — not even Yeshua — could keep the so-called 613 commandments. A lot of them are *only* applicable to the Levites (Yeshua was from Judah). Many require the physical Temple in Jerusalem (which is now gone — due to the will of YHWH I might add). A fair amount apply only to women (Yeshua was... well, a He not a she). There are those that apply only to farmers (He was a carpenter/rabbi, not a farmer). Some require a court system of Torah observant judges and others apply only to kings (the first time He came as the suffering servant/sacrificial Lamb, not as a judge or King), etc., etc..

So, in this layperson’s opinion, there really is no valid argument for keeping *all* of the laws contained in Torah! It simply is not possible for *anyone* to do so. You’d have to be a circumcised female Levite king working in a stone temple in Jerusalem as a priest with a side-job of being a court judge who enjoys farming to keep “all” of the alleged 613 commandments of Torah!

Therefore... let’s worry less about the alleged 613 and get back to the simplicity and beauty of the 10, which were actually written by the **finger YHWH Himself** and placed into the Ark of the Covenant, which was a picture of something eternal in Heaven. These same were then written by the hand of YHWH on our heart and mind (Heb. 8:10) and thus illustrate our love for Him through obedience (1 John 5:1-3). Anything else is sin (1 John 3:4). Even Paul says:

ROMANS 6:

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

*15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid.***

*16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or **of obedience unto righteousness?***

It’s not nearly as complicated as some are trying to make it. Do we keep the Law *for* Salvation? Absolutely not! Are any of us perfect? No. Will we fail? Yes. But praise YHWH for...

1 JOHN 2:

*1 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, Jesus Christ the righteous:***

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

*3 And hereby we do know that we know him, **if we keep his commandments.***

*4 **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.***

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

*6 **He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.***

How did He walk? In obedience to and pure love for His Father. I saw an article on gotquestions.org^[7] that caught my attention in this regard.

7. See: <http://www.gotquestions.org/law-vs-grace.html#ixzz3ACYU8vrt> [Retrieved 8/12/14]

There is no conflict between grace and the Law, properly understood. Christ fulfilled the Law on our behalf and offers the power of the Holy Spirit, who motivates a regenerated heart to live in obedience to Him (Matthew 3:8; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:14). James 2:26 says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." A grace that has the power to save also has the power to motivate a sinful heart toward godliness. Where there is no impulse to be godly, there is no saving faith.

Furthermore, we must acknowledge that Yeshua and His Father are one:

John 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*

Thus, what YHWH said, Yeshua said. What Yeshua taught and commanded, His Father taught and commanded. The two are one, in perfect unity.

Indeed, the purpose of the Law is to show us our sin and reveal our desperate need for a Savior (Galatians 3:24). It is the "school master" that brings us to Christ. I hear this often quoted as if to say, we no longer need it, but think this through: When we graduated from school, did we "do away with" all that our "school masters" taught us, or did we strive to walk out, practice and seek to profit from what we learned? If we wouldn't toss out that which we were taught in grade school, high school and college, why would we toss out the Holy Word of Yah that leads us to repentance and sanctified living through a right relationship through Yeshua?

Again, the above cited article^[8] goes on to say...

Once we are saved, God desires to glorify Himself through our good works (Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:10). Therefore, good works follow salvation; they do not precede it.

Conflict between "grace" and the "Law" can arise when someone 1) misunderstands the purpose of the Law; 2) redefines grace as something other than "God's benevolence on the undeserving" (see Romans 11:6); 3) tries to earn his own salvation or "supplement" Christ's sacrifice; 4) follows the error of the Pharisees in tacking manmade rituals and traditions onto his doctrine; or 5) fails to focus on the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27).

THE SIGN BETWEEN YHWH AND HIS BRIDE

I've been thinking about the marriage of Israel and YHWH at Pentecost (the first one at Mt. Sinai), which birthed the Church that is the Bride (Acts 7:38). What if we thought of the Ten Commandments less as "commandments" and more like wedding vows? Think of them more like your wedding band, which serves as a "sign" to everyone else that you "belong to" another. Going with that analogy...

The 10 Wedding Vows:

- 1) I will not have anyone else in my life before You, for You are my Spouse.
- 2) I will not make images of others that may distract me or draw me away from You.
- 3) I will not defame, destroy or bring Your name to nothing.
- 4) I will remember the anniversary of that special day You gave me rest.
- 5) I will honor the parents you gave me.
- 6) I will not kill the people You made and love.
- 7) I will not commit adultery against You or anyone else.

8. Ibid

- 8) I will not steal from You or anyone else.
- 9) I will not lie about You or anyone else.
- 10) I will not covet because You have provided everything I need.

Seems to put things into a little better perspective doesn't it? This also helps us understand why breaking these "vows" makes our Spouse unhappy and why keeping them proves our love for Him.

1 JOHN 5:

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments [wedding vows].

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments [wedding vows]: and his commandments [wedding vows] are not grievous.

Now, on the flip-side, can you imagine someone arguing that they no longer need to keep their wedding vows?? If such an argument would never fly within our flawed human marriages, why should we imagine it to be valid in our marriage to YHWH?

Another way to look at the above is to consider them less as a "do and don't list" and more of a promise from YHWH to His Bride that if He abides in us and we abide in Him, we will obey those commandments as a natural by-product of Him actively being a part of our lives. In other words, it's *Him* doing those things in and through us.

THE DEUTERONOMY 12 TEST

This is something that I have become more and more passionate about. We learn in Deuteronomy 12 that we are not to worship YHWH the same way the heathens worship their false gods.

DEUTERONOMY 12:

28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the Lord thy God.

29 When the Lord thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

*30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that **thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.***

*31 **Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God:** for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.*

32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

In numerous places throughout the Scriptures, we see similar instruction concerning *not* worshiping YHWH as the heathens do their gods...

EXODUS 32:

*1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, **Up, make us gods, which shall go before us;** for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.*

2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

*4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.***

*5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, **To morrow is a feast to the Lord** [YHWH].*

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Notice what they did. They set something up and declared that the works of their hands was the one who brought them up from their slavery in Egypt. They worshiped a representation of a pagan deity, proclaiming that it “*shall be a feast to the LORD!*” The word “LORD” there in English is translated from the Hebrew word YHWH, which is the true name of God. Thus, they were doing as the heathen do—and doing it in the name of YHWH while claiming that He was the one they were thinking about as they brought gifts, ate, drank and made merry.

That is *exactly* what Christians all over the world are doing with Christmas. They are associating the Son of God with traditions that have always been attributed to the false sun gods of antiquity and participating in rituals that have nothing to do with the one true God of the Bible or His Son, Yeshua. If you keep reading that story in Exodus, you will see that YHWH was extremely unhappy about that sort of thing. It didn’t matter what the people thought. Clearly it mattered more what He thought about it all. His response? He killed 3,000 people!

Continuing through the Scriptures, we see...

1 KINGS 14:

22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

*23 **For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.***

*24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and **they did according to all the abominations of the nations** which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.*

2 KINGS 16:4 *And he sacrificed and burnt incense **in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.***

2 KINGS 17:

*10 **And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:***

*11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, **as did the heathen** whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger:*

12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

*13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, **Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.***

14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them.

16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

Notice the repetition of phrases like “every green tree” and “as the heathens do”. The “green tree” refers to the evergreen, which was treated as a phallic symbol tracing back to Nimrod/Baal and other gods. The heathen often placed gifts at the foot of the tree, which is also usually decorated. Sound familiar? We do the *exact same thing* today with the Christmas Tree. Just like the Israelites did with the golden calf, we also do this in the name of YHWH in celebration of His Son Yeshua. But these things have nothing to do with either!

Some reject that “erecting” a Christmas Tree in our homes is a form of worship, yet it being the center piece in most family living rooms and people bowing before it to present and receive gifts on December 25th serves as very compelling evidence that it is. It’s simply become an accepted form of idolatry. Jeremiah warns against this practice:

JEREMIAH 10:

1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

If that’s not the perfect description of a Christmas Tree, I don’t know what is! But how often have we heard people say, “We’re just getting into the spirit of Christmas...” or make similar statements? Well, have you ever wondered exactly what “spirit” it is that we are supposedly “getting into” when we say such things? We know from the Scriptures^[9] that Yeshua was **not** born on December 25th, and we know from history that lots of pagan sun gods *are* associated with that date.^[10] So, if it is not the Spirit of YHWH, what spirit is it? We should carefully consider such things because there is a rule in Biblical hermeneutics known as the “Law of First Mention” which may be defined as...

The law of first mention may be said to be the principle that requires one to go to that portion of the Scriptures where a word, doctrine, or concept is mentioned for the first time and to study the first occurrence of the same in order to get the fundamental inherent meaning of that word, doctrine or concept.

When we see repetitive references to “green tree” and worship of false gods as the heathen do, we should take notice of that and evaluate our own practices. The “spirit” behind such activity is always pagan idolatry, which is of the Fallen Ones and not of YHWH. Thus, in our “spirit man” it matters not what we *call* it. The inherent *spirit* of the matter still exists, whether we’ve slapped YHWH/Yeshua’s name on it or not. I once heard Dr. Michael Lake^[11] describe it as the desktop icons on our computers. I’m paraphrasing, but he basically said, “*You can change the names of the icons, but it won’t change the programming they represent. So, changing the name of Microsoft Word to PacMan won’t change the coding that will come up when you click on that icon.*” There are inherent meanings behind the various traditions — which unfortunately are practiced all too often in the Church today — that are not in any way, shape or form accepted by YHWH as being holy or representative of Him and/or His ways.

9. Yeshua was born during the Fall Feasts, not in the Winter.

10. For more on this subject, see Chapter Eight of my book, *Babylon Rising: And The First Shall Be Last* available at www.babylonrisingbooks.com.

11. Dr. Michael K. Lake, Th.D., D.R.E. is the Chancellor, Educational Consultant & Biblical Life Educator of Biblical Life College & Seminary in Marshfield, MO.

The warnings of Scripture continue...

2 KINGS 21:2 *And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, **after the abominations of the heathen**, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.*

ISAIAH 57:

4 Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood,

*5 **Enflaming yourselves with idols under every green tree**, slaying the children in the valleys under the cliffs of the rocks?*

JEREMIAH 3:6 *The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? **she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.***

JEREMIAH 3:13 *Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and **hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice**, saith the LORD.*

EZEKIEL 20:32 *And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, **We will be as the heathen**, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.*

Why is YHWH so concerned about this? Because He's our Husband! He is jealous because He loves us. A few years ago, I drove this story home for people through a Facebook post. It came about from hearing Christians say, "But God knows my heart..." Thinking about that response, I posted the following question on my Facebook page on December 13, 2011:

If your spouse cheated on you with someone else, but you were gracious enough to woo him/her back (and did so at great personal cost) and then after coming back to you, they started to celebrate your birthday on the day the person they committed adultery with was born—while doing so in your name—how would that make you feel? Even if they said, "But I'm thinking of you. Honest. Oh come on, honey, you know my heart." Would you be OK with that? Seriously?

I received over 150 responses! Before people realized what I was really asking, these were some of the responses and my interaction with them:

***Male Friend A:** This situation actually hurts to think of!*

Me: I think so too.

***Male Friend B:** Where did you hear about this situation? Is this something you read, or based upon some folks you know?*

Me: It was a disturbing situation I discovered that was happening to someone I love dearly.

***Male Friend A:** Oh gosh! I'm sorry to know that.*

***Male Friend C:** I know that Person as well. I agree, very disturbing. [this person got it!]*

Me: Me too. Yeah [Friend C], quite a few have heard about it. Most just don't care. I appreciate your concern guys. Pray that the wayward spouse realizes what they are doing and has a change of heart. The other one doesn't deserve this.

Female Friend A: *That is just so wrong*

Me: I agree. How can someone do that? Especially to a spouse willing to love them so much!

Female Friend A: *They only get away with what one lets them get away with.*

Male Friend D: *Do you think the spouse knows the correct day to celebrate and just chooses not to? Or do you think it's unintentional?* [this person got it!]

Male Friend E: *It's like your spouse knowing your day off but, takes her day off on her ex-lover's day off. Hmm, Probably just a "bad habit." What's another word for habit? Oh yeah "tradition"...* [this person got it!]

Female Friend B: *Betrayal once is hard enough; betrayal twice is unacceptable; betrayal thrice(?), hmmm... Forgive and forget which would mean to forget the one who betrayed you, end the relationship, and move on...*

Me: Well, when you're married to someone, I would think you'd at least do them the courtesy of remembering their birthday. I mean, that's almost as bad as saying someone else's name while being intimate. Can't be good.

Thing is, this girl should know better. Her husband is truly an amazing guy. I know him. He's crazy in love with her even though she constantly does things that hurt him. I asked him why he puts up with it. He said, "I just love her so much. More than my own life!" I was reading a story once that showed how far he went to woo her back. Wow. I mean it was insane how much he did to get her back. And she does this? It's criminal. Yet he still wants to stay with her.

Some people just don't know what they've got.

Female Friend A: *Sounds like a addiction, he needs to go cold turkey. Once a cheat always a cheat. They just get better at hiding it. Not to mention he is now making her a idol. And we know the commandment about idols.*

Me: Yeah... I hear ya. How in love can someone be to take that kind of continual abuse? I know I couldn't deal with it. My previous wife slept with someone else. Short of crucifixion, or a terminal illness, I don't know if I can imagine anything more painful than that was. We ended up divorced. But if I took her back and she did that... wow. Game over. But he keeps pursuing her—to the ends of the universe if need be.

I don't think it's idolatry though. It's the best example of unconditional love I've ever seen—because he knows that she has a lot of damage from the physical and emotional abuse of her previous relationships. He's willing to love her through it though.

Female Friend C: *This is an awesome perspective... I wish more would see it this way.* [this person got it!]

Female Friend A: *But even God punished Israel for adultery!*

Me: Yeah [Female Friend C], he tells me all the time that I have a lot to learn. In many ways I wish I could love like he does. What an amazing role model! I am so blessed to know him.

Yes, He did [Female Friend A]... but He also pursues her even to this day. And one day Israel will turn back to Him because of it. My friend reminds me of that all the time.

Male Friend F: *That's an interesting scenario. Call it quits, but that's my personal opinion. Adultery is biblical ground for divorce. The most disrespectful part is celebrating your birthday on the day they*

committed adultery. Maybe I misunderstood, but the day they chose to celebrate is not the spouse's actual birthday right? Anyone that will commit adultery, then rub it in your face by making a celebration of it has not been "wooed" back. Cut your losses and move on. Sometimes people get in God's way, and again, just my opinion, but it seems 100% clear that the cheating spouse was in a RELATIONSHIP with another person. There is a huge difference between a random sexual encounter and having two relationships going on in which special dates are remembered. If it was just cheating, I'd say, to each their own, but that scenario is way out of line. Cheating is forgivable, starting another relationship is not.

Female Friend A: *Sorry, but your friend is a fool! As long as he takes it, she will do it.*

Me: Maybe so. But the Bible gives a great illustration of this whole scenario in the book of Hosea. God pursues and pursues His bride!

Female Friend A: *But he also wants repentance!*

Me: Indeed, He does.

Those were just a few highlights of the passionate responses that thread generated and my interaction with those Facebook friends. Similar responses continued for awhile until someone exposed what I was really saying.

A little over 3,000 years ago, the prophet Nathan used a similar parable to get King David's attention.^[12] The results were the same in that Facebook thread as they were in that Old Testament story. People got emotional and drew from personal experiences (pain) to give their opinions — and then they realized that *they* were the ones being rebuked as the unfaithful spouse.

GENESIS 1:

*26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, **after our likeness**; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

*27 So **God created man in his own image**, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Man was created in the physical appearance of God as well as in His *likeness*. At the realization that we are the bride who has confused our Groom's birthday with that of His arch-enemy, this should give us pause to think about our usual defense of Christmas. If we feel this way as humans made in the image and *likeness* of God, why should we think that God does not feel the same way? In that light, "*Oh, but you know my heart*" just doesn't seem to cut it, does it? If your spouse said that to you, would it work? No, and I don't think it flies too well with our Heavenly Spouse either.

It's not just Christmas. It's also exchanging the Sabbath for SUNday. It's Valentine's Day. It's Easter and so many other practices that utterly fail the Deuteronomy 12 Test. Church, the call of the Last Days is to come out of Babylon!

REVELATION 18:4 *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

Swine Flu is not a coincidence. I believe many of the plagues we currently suffer and will suffer in the near future will come as a direct result of the very things we do that are contrary to YHWH's Torah. In essence, if we choose to remain in willful disobedience, we will get what we want/deserve in spades. I like bacon as much as the next guy, but the health risks and plagues that come from disobedience to Torah are just not worth it. As for me and my house, we will serve YHWH and test all things by His Torah.

12. See 2 Samuel 12

One more thing concerning pagan holidays: Like many, I used to “celebrate Easter.” Think about that for a moment. If you have never searched out this matter, I encourage you to do so now. Easter traces back to Ishtar/ Isis/Semiramis. Do we really want to “celebrate Ishtar” in the name of our Savior? I think not. Yet, for most of my life, I did. I even wrote, directed and played Jesus in Passion Plays on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. How we get “three days and three nights” dead and in the grave from Friday to Sunday, I will never know, but we all played the game. Additionally, go back and study the 40 days of Lent, which trace back to the practice of “weeping for Tammuz” and consider what the prophet Ezekiel has to say concerning this matter:



EZEKIEL 8:

1 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell there upon me.

2 Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber.

*3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; **where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.** {probably an obelisk}*

4 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

*5 Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar **this image of jealousy in the entry.***

6 He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.

7 And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall.

8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door.

*9 And he said unto me, **Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here.** {in God's house!}*

*10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and **all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.***

11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up.

12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, the Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth.

*13 He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and **thou shalt see greater abominations that they do.***

*14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the Lord's house which was toward the north; and, behold, **there sat women weeping for Tammuz.***

*15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and **thou shalt see greater abominations than these.***

*16 And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and **they worshipped the sun toward the east.***

*17 Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that **they commit the abominations** which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.*

*18 **Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.***

Learn the origins of our various “holiday” practices and you will see we are still doing many of the same things today! The 40 days of Lent trace back to the practice of weeping for Tammuz. Easter traces back to Ishtar. Sunday traces to sun god worship. And we eat the “Easter ham” (an unclean animal we are forbidden by Torah to eat) in celebration of killing the animal, which killed the false god Tammuz!

Something else that caught my attention as I looked into all of this is the story of Matthew 12, when the Pharisees demanded a sign to prove Yeshua’s Messiahship. Note the **one** sign He gave:

MATTHEW 12:

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

*39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 **for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***



We see a reference to three days and three nights, which equates to a total of 72 hours. The problem is, you do not have three days and three nights between Friday and Sunday. So, if that was *the* sign that would be given, to “celebrate Easter (Ishtar) Sunday” and say that He died on a Friday and rose on a Sunday is actually to deny Him as the Messiah! How crafty it was of the Serpent to get us to believe such non-sense. So, was YHWH pleased with me as I played the part of Jesus on Good Friday and Easter in all of those plays I wrote and directed? I don’t know. I suppose there is grace for that which we’ve done in ignorance. But I am ignorant no longer. Once we know the truth, we have a decision to make.

I’ve tried to share these truths in many ways with many people. Some accept it, but many do not. To the latter, I cannot help but wonder if this is what Yeshua would say...

MARK 7:

6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

*7 **Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.***

*8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men**, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.*

*9 And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.***

People often ask me if God is honored by our worship of Him on Christmas and Easter. They will cite how many come to Christ on those days because of the SUN-day worship services done in His name. Indeed, I’ve seen many people come to salvation on Sundays. I’ve seen many people come to salvation as a result of the Christmas, Good Friday and Easter plays we produced too. But do the ends justify the means? Can we call evil good?

ISAIAH 5:20 *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

I tell people all the time, not to believe me, but to spend the time and look into these matters for themselves. I believe it is critically important that we do this! As I said before, plagues are coming. If we refuse to “come out of Babylon” then the wrath that is not appointed to fall on us, will. If we heed not the warnings, we’ll get what is not meant for us.

EZEKIEL 8:18 *Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.*

REVELATION 18:4 *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her [Babylon], my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

These are certainly things worth considering — so much the more as we see the day of His return approaching.

THE DEUTERONOMY 13 TEST

There is an excellent on-line teaching by 119 Ministries called, “*The Deuteronomy 13 Test*” that I highly recommend you watch/read. You can do so by going to this URL:

<http://119ministries.com/the-deuteronomy-thirteen-test>

In this teaching, they direct our attention to (as you may have guessed) what is said in the thirteenth chapter of Deuteronomy, wherein we find...

DEUTERONOMY 13:

- 1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,*
- 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;*
- 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*
- 4 Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.*
- 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

We have some rather clear instructions given to us in this passage of Deuteronomy. By this “test” we can identify who we should be listening to and who we should not — even if they are miracle workers. The Jews understand this very well. In fact, I posted the previous section (The Deuteronomy 12 Test) to my Facebook page and this was one of the responses from a Jewish brother:

I can trace my family to Mount Sinai... Christianity can only trace back to the vision of one man Paul, who had a vision, with no witnesses.... Much like Joseph Smith and the Mormons... Do you really think G-d would forgo His chosen people and prophets to hand it over to pagan Romans and build His new “Church” in Rome. The same Romans that slaughtered His people and occupied His land and destroyed His Temple??? C’mon man... And “mysteriously” blind His people...

* * *

The pagans call HASHEM’s Holy Days and eating unprofitable... you’re preaching Pro- Roman NT doctrine and don’t even know it...

...Although your lack of study in Torah and Tanakh has you confused, it's okay cause it's not your book. It was written by my Jewish people for our Jewish people. We are His chosen, we follow His instructions. Not the words of pagans from Rome! Our faith is headquartered in Jerusalem, not Rome. We have no idol, you have the idol of J-Man and violated the a First Commandment: Thou shall have no other gods before Me... What's so hard about that and you Christians can't get over that??? You want to follow G-d except when it hard... That's why His Chosen People, we Jews will always be few. Cause only a few have the obedience to stick with it. The Romans have sold you a bill of goods like Mohammed sold Islam! I like to say "Judaism, often imitated, never duplicated and the rest are just counterfeits." — A Facebook friend^[13]

He, like many Jews reject both Yeshua as well as Paul (and the whole New Testament for that matter). This is largely because, as my brother so well put it in another thread response to this same Note, *"Christianity comes from Rome, not Jerusalem and His Holy Land of Israel!!"*

Sadly, he is right! Most of the beliefs and practices of modern Christianity *do* come from Rome and from other anti-Torah/anti-Semitic Gentile interpretations of the Holy Scriptures, going back to the likes of Nicolas, the Acts 6:5 proselyte of Antioch (from whom came the Nicolaitans, who are likened unto Balaam, who got the people of YHWH to disobey Him through whoredom), Marcion, Constantine, and much later folks such as Darby and Scofield (among many others) who all taught an Antinomian message, causing many to veer away from the clear teachings of the Torah. As soon as Gentiles became the dominant majority of "followers" and "believers" in "Jesus" we began to see a falling away from all things Hebrew. The Torah and Tanakh became the "Old Testament" and a mentality developed, which basically has us thinking that anything preceding the book of Matthew is not really relevant for us today.

But if we ever want to reach the Jew for Christ, we must be able to present Yeshua as a Messiah/Prophet who kept the Torah. The same is true of the writings of Paul. If we want to present the Scriptures Paul wrote as a tool for witnessing (such as using the "Romans Road" as it has come to be known in some evangelical circles), we had better be certain that we're understanding Paul to be a man who passes the Deuteronomy 13 test. Otherwise, the Jew who knows his Torah will *never* accept anything we may have to say concerning his writings. And rightfully so. A Jew who knows his Torah and tries to live by it is absolutely justified in his rejection of the pagan, Torah abolishing Greek "Jesus" we all too often portray as *their* Messiah. In this regard, we may do well to learn a thing or two from Nehemiah Gordon's teaching on the Greek Jesus vs the Hebrew Yeshua:

<http://youtu.be/tddCNY6U77Y>

In the About section of this video, Nehemiah writes:

An astonishing realization has recently gripped the Christian world: "Jesus Christ" was not a blond-haired, blue-eyed Gentile. Yeshua of Nazareth was raised in an observant Jewish family in a culture where the Torah (five books of Moses) was the National Constitution. Yeshua's teachings, which supposedly form the basis for Western Christianity, are now filtered through 2000 years of traditions born in ignorance of the land, language, and culture of the Bible. The issues over which Yeshua wrestled with the Pharisees are simply not understood by modern Christians; nor are his most important instructions followed by those who claim to be his disciples. Former Pharisee, Nehemia Gordon, a Dead Sea Scrolls scholar and Semitic language expert, explores the ancient Hebrew text of the Gospel of Matthew from manuscripts long hidden away in the archives of Jewish scribes. Gordon's research reveals that the more "modern" Greek text of Matthew, from which the Western world's versions were translated, depicts "another Jesus" from the Yeshua portrayed in the ancient Hebrew version of Matthew. Gordon explains the life-and-death conflict Yeshua had with

13. For other responses to this Facebook Note, see:

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/rob-skiba/the-deuteronomy-12-test-read-at-your-own-risk/10153046087627506>

the Pharisees as they schemed to grab the reins of Judaism in the first century, and brings that conflict into perspective for both Jew and Christian alike.

Unfortunately, in the Church today, many Christians actually believe that Yeshua violated the Torah because of their misconceptions concerning what we see Him doing on the Sabbath among other things. Those who believe and teach this clearly have not thought these things through. The Bible makes it crystal clear that “sin is transgression of the Law” (1 John 3:4). So, if Yeshua violated *any* of that Law, then He was a sinner! If He was a sinner, then He could not be the sinLESS Lamb that takes away our sins. If He is not the sinless Lamb, then our faith in Him is completely and totally in vain, and we are all lost.

Many also believe and teach that Paul was against the Torah, imagining that he taught us all that “Old Testament” stuff has been “nailed to the cross” and is thus no longer applicable for the Believer in Yeshua today. We’ve supposedly been “set free from the **curse**” — that in their mind is the Torah — so we no longer need to pay any attention to it. Nothing can be further from the truth! I believe the Devil has done an outstanding job of twisting and distorting the Christian Church’s view of Paul’s writings in order to cause a stark division between Christian and Jew. Indeed, Peter warned against this in 2 Peter 2:14-18, when he said that ignorant and unstable people would twist and distort the writings of Paul and fall into the “error of lawLESSness.” Until we correct this massive problem in our understanding of the Scriptures, the Jew will *never* come to know their Jewish Messiah and the (former) Gentile^[14] will remain ignorant to what it actually means to “love” the God they claim to believe in. Neither will our Messiah return until the Jews repent and call upon His name. Can you see why this is a seriously important issue for all of us?

The Jews who know their Torah and Tanakh, have read Deuteronomy 13 and Jeremiah 31:31-33. They know that no true prophet of YHWH will *ever* violate Torah and they know about a “new covenant” that is to be written on their hearts and minds. They know the Holy Spirit leads them to truth. They know the Torah is the standard upon which truth and life is to be judged. It is a permanent standard. Indeed, Yeshua Himself declared that the Law of YHWH will remain so long as heaven and earth remain and that not one “jot or tittle” is to be changed.

MATTHEW 5:

*17 **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.***

*18 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.***

19 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.

It should be noted that not **all** of the Torah and the Prophets has been fulfilled. Yeshua still has yet to fulfill *many* prophetic passages of Scripture. Furthermore, to suggest that something YHWH said would be “everlasting” and be a “permanent statute” and be in existence “forever” has somehow been abolished will never make sense to the Torah observant Jew. To be honest, it shouldn’t make sense to us either! Either YHWH changes not or He is a liar.

DEUTERONOMY 13:

17 And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

*18 **When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord thy God.***

14. A Gentile is one who is out of covenant. Once we “cross over” from death to life and live in covenant, the Believer in Yeshua becomes a Hebrew and a grafted in child and member of the commonwealth of Israel according to Romans 11 and Ephesians 2 (among other similar Scriptures).

Christians believe the New Testament is the truth. The Jew believes the Old Testament is the truth. We however, believe the *whole thing* is true from Genesis to Revelation — and it is all in agreement with itself!

DEUTERONOMY 12:32 *What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: **thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.***

According to the Deuteronomy 13 test, if anyone teaches that YHWH's commandments have been diminished, abolished, and/or done away with, he is a liar and the truth is not in Him, which is exactly what the "beloved apostle" John (who was the last living Apostle of Yeshua) reiterated.

1 JOHN 2:

1 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, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

*6 **He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.***

As noted earlier, Yeshua clearly told us in many places in the New Testament that He and His Father are one.

JOHN 10:30 *I and my Father are one.*

However, many seem to operate under the misguided assumption that Yeshua had different (or newer) commandments that somehow supersede those of His Father. That simply *cannot* be true. John 10:30 says they are one. This means they are 100% in unity with One Another. It means that whatever the Father commanded, He did too. Whatever the Father said or did, He did too. In fact, He even said that if He did not do as the Father does, that we should not believe Him!

JOHN 10:

*37 **If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.***

*38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that **the Father is in me, and I in him.***

If we are to now claim to be in Him (Yeshua), then we must "walk even as He walked" (1 John 2:6). This is true for all Believers who claim Him as their Savior and Messiah. Thus, it also has to be true of the Apostle Paul, who boldly proclaimed that we should imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Paul passed the Deuteronomy 13 test. Will we?

DON'T BE AN ANTINOMIAN (CHRISTIAN ANARCHIST)

Here is what Berean Publishers^[15] have to say concerning Antinomianism...

So what does Antinomian mean?

'Antinomian' is pronounced [an-ta-nome '-ee-ann]. The word itself can be traced back to the Greek of the New Testament. It comes from putting two Greek words together: 'anti (anti) and nomos (nomos). The first word "anti" taken by itself means, "over against or instead of", and corresponds to our English word "anti", which means "opposed to".

15. See: <http://www.bereanpublishers.com/the-antinomians-are-coming/> [Retrieved 5/24/14]

The second half of the word 'Antinomian', which is the word "nomos", means: (1) a law, rule, standard; (2) a rule of life or moral conduct. This is the same word that is translated "law" in "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."-KJV. Rom. 3:31. Consequently, when these two Greek words are combined, it gives the meaning: lawlessness; without, opposed to or against laws, standards, or rules of moral conduct.

* * *

What is the Basic Doctrine of the Antinomian?

In his late book, Paths to Power, A.W. Tozer defined it this way. "Fundamental Christianity in our times is deeply influenced by that ancient enemy of righteousness, Antinomianism. The creed of the Antinomian is easily stated: We are saved by faith alone; works have no place in salvation; conduct is works, and is therefore of no importance. What we do cannot matter as long as we believe rightly. The divorce between creed and conduct is absolute and final. The question of sin is settled by the Cross; conduct is outside the circle of faith and cannot come between the believer and God. Such in brief, is the teaching of the Antinomian. And so fully has it permeated the Fundamental element in modern Christianity that it is accepted by the religious masses as the very truth of God. Antinomianism is the doctrine of grace carried by uncorrected logic to the point of absurdity. It takes the teaching of justification by faith and twists it into deformity."

I know there are some (maybe you, dear reader) who might say, "That's the gospel! That's Grace! That's what I believe and practice!" Oh, if we would only take the time to seek God, pray and read the Gospel, unfettered by the "Doctrines of Men", we would surely find that Antinomianism is ANOTHER GOSPEL (i.e.- not Christianity).

Charles Finney in the 1800's spoke of it "as the opposite extreme to legalism. Legalist are all work, Antinomians no work. Professing to have yielded up their whole agency to Christ, they throw all responsibility upon Him and do nothing. Under pretense of being led by the Spirit and of waiting for God to reveal His will to them, they give themselves up very much to spiritual indolence (idleness)." — Charles Finney

Noah Webster, in his 1878 Dictionary, defined Antinomianism as: "one of a sect who were charged with maintaining that, under the gospel dispensation, the moral law is of no use or obligation."

A Brief History

Interesting enough, the Church is being plagued today with Antinomianism more than ever. In fact, it has almost "leavened the whole lump". This is not the first time that it's crept into the hearts of God's people unawares. Historically, in Jeremiah's day when Israel was deeply backslidden and God's prophets were crying out against their wickedness, Antinomianism was the root cause. It was also one of the first signs of decay to hit the early Church. As the Bible teaches, the early Church fathers were well acquainted with what it was, and like Paul, found themselves in an ever present battle against its deadly effects.

By the 1700's, Antinomianism had established itself so deeply in most of the colleges that produced pastors, that almost anyone simply professing faith in God was considered a Christian. This condition having spread to this country as well, found heart-motivated morality in the Church almost non-existent. After much sincere prayer and true repentance, a real 'Revival' did come from God during that time through men such as George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and others. This revival reversed the course of Antinomianism but for a short while. By the start of the 19th. century, Antinomianism had made a strong comeback. Charles Finney and other Godly persons, who lived during that time, again found themselves facing it's damning effects. Although Finney and others succeeded in stamping out numerous strongholds, it didn't take long for it to make a comeback in this century.

This century has seen a huge rise of those who promise many 'would be Christians' liberty, while "they themselves are the servants of corruption" (2 Peter 2:19). Never before have there been so many who profess Christianity with their mouth, but live like and love the world. Why? Because Antinomianism has been the accepted gospel almost universally since the 50's.

Yeshua said in...

MATTHEW 7: (NASB)

21 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*

22 *"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'*

23 *"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.**'*

So the ones who are told to depart, are those who practice law**LESS**ness. They are the Antinomians.

I find it interesting how the New Living Translation renders the following passage from the book of James...

JAMES 4: (NLT)

11 *Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. **But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.***

12 *God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?*

Keeping YHWH's Law is not about "working for salvation" for that is a **free gift** we acquire by Grace through Faith in the finished work of Yeshua on the cross (Ephesians 2:8). Keeping the Law is the evidence of having it written on our heart and mind (Hebrews 8:10) as a result of coming into the "New Covenant", which should compel us to show our love for YHWH who loved us in that while we were yet sinners (Antinomian transgressors of the Law), He sent His only Son to pay the penalty for that sin (Romans 5:8).

1 JOHN 5:

2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.*

3 ***For this is the love of God,** that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

John clearly agrees with James, who agrees with Yeshua, who agrees with Moses, who agreed with YHWH. But were Yeshua, James and John contradicting Paul or were they being contradicted by Paul? Or... could it be that Paul is simply misunderstood due to "ignorant and unstable" people twisting and distorting what he said - just as Peter warned would be the case?

2 PETER 3:

14 *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

15 *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;*

16 *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.*

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, {Antinomians} fall from your own stedfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

In my understanding, Paul is in *perfect* harmony with all of these guys and in no way did he contradict the rest of Scripture.

ROMANS 6:

15 What then? Shall we sin {transgress the Law - 1 John 3:4} because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin {transgression of the Law} leading to death, or of obedience {to the Law} leading to righteousness?

Peter warned us ahead of time, not to misinterpret Paul. Moses, Yeshua, Peter, James and John were not Antinomians... and neither was Paul! So we should not allow ourselves to become Antinomian Christian Anarchists either. God's Law has always been there for our benefit. It was always designed to help us to be more like Him and to enable us to treat people right and to live healthier, more productive lives. But contrary to 1 John 2-5, modern Christian doctrine basically amounts to a belief in anarchy. Webster defines anarchy as...

anarchy:

1 a : absence of government

b : a state of **lawlessness** or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority

YHWH is the governmental authority who established a Torah (instruction guide), which enables us to keep order on this planet, in our countries, in our homes and in our personal lives. What I find shockingly sad however, is that more and more Christians today seem to subscribe to the philosophy of Satanist Aleister Crowley (who taught "Do as thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.") than they do the clear teaching of the Bible. And worse, they think the Apostle Paul actually advocated and promoted such ideology too. This is sad indeed because...

PAUL TAUGHT AGAINST TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW (A.K.A. SIN)

One morning while Sheila and I were listening to the Bible, is reading of the first four chapters of Mark, we wondered what the Scriptures would look like if we actually used the Biblical definition of sin. Take situations such as:

MARK 2:

15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

What is sin according to the Bible?

1 JOHN 3:

*4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the **transgression of the law**.*

So, if this is the *Biblical* definition of sin, let's now use it to see how much of a clearer picture we have of what is really being said:

MARK 2: (revised)

*15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and {**transgressors the law**} sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.*

*16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and {**transgressors the law**}?*

*17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but {**transgressors the law**} to repentance.*

Wow! So much for Yeshua allegedly coming to take away (abolish) the Law! Let's take the story of the woman taken in adultery (a violation of the 7th Commandment) as another example:

JOHN 8:

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

*11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and {**transgress the law**} no more.*

Now that we can see the principle at work, let's see where Paul stood on the matter by replacing the generic word "sin" with what it actually means in his writings too:

Romans 3:9 *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under {**transgression of the law**};*

Romans 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of {**transgression of the law**} .*

Romans 4:8 *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute {**transgression of the law**}.*

Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man {**transgression of the law**} entered into the world, and death by {**transgression of the law**}; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have {**transgressed of the law**}:*

Romans 5:13 *(For until the law {**transgression of the law**} was in the world: but {**transgression of the law**} is not imputed when there is no law.*

Romans 5:20 *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where {**transgression of the law**} abounded, grace did much more abound:*

Romans 5:21 *That as {**transgression of the law**} hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in {**transgression the law**}, that grace may abound?*

Romans 6:2 *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to {**transgressions of the law**}, live any longer therein?*

Romans 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of {**transgression of the***

law} might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve {transgression of the law}.

Romans 6:7 *For he that is dead is freed from {transgressions of the law}.*

Romans 6:10 *For in that he died, he died unto {transgression of the law} once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

Romans 6:11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto {transgressions of the law}, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 6:12 *Let not {transgression of the law} therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

Romans 6:13 *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto {transgression of the law}: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Romans 6:14 *For {transgression of the law} shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

Romans 6:15 *What then? shall we {transgress the law}, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

Romans 6:16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of {transgression of the law} unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

Romans 6:17 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of {transgression of the law}, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

Romans 6:18 *Being then made free from {transgression of the law}, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

Romans 6:20 *For when ye were the servants of {transgression of the law}, ye were free from righteousness.*

Romans 6:22 *But now being made free from {transgression of the law}, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of {transgression of the law} is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Romans 7:7 *What shall we say then? Is the law {transgression of the law}? God forbid. Nay, I had not known {transgression of the law}, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

Romans 7:8 *But {transgression of the law}, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law {transgression of the law} was dead.*

Romans 7:9 *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, {transgression of the law} revived, and I died.*

Romans 7:11 *For {transgression of the law}, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

Romans 7:13 *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But {transgression of the law}, that it might appear {transgression of the law}, working death in me by that which is good; that {transgression of the law} by the commandment might become exceeding {full of transgressions of the law}.*

Romans 7:14 *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under {transgressions of the law}*

Romans 7:17 *Now then it is no more I that do it, but {transgression of the law} that dwelleth in me.*

Romans 7:20 *Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but {transgression of the law} that dwelleth in me.*

Romans 7:23 *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of {transgression of the law} which is in my members.*

Romans 7:25 *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of {transgression of the law}.*

Romans 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of {transgression of the law} and death.*

Romans 8:3 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of fleshly {transgressions of the law}, and for {transgression of the law}, condemned {transgression of the law} in the flesh:*

Romans 8:10 *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of {transgression of the law}; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

Romans 14:23 *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is {a transgression of the law}.*

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every {transgression of the law} that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication {transgresses the law} against his own body.*

1 Corinthians 8:12 *But when ye {transgress the law} so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye {transgress of the law} against Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:34 *Awake to righteousness, and not {transgression of the law}; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

1 Corinthians 15:56 *The sting of death is {transgression of the law}; and the strength of {transgressions} is the law.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be {an offering for transgression of the law} for us, who knew no {transgression of the law}; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Galatians 2:17 *But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found {transgressors of the law}, is therefore Christ the minister of {transgressions of the law}? God forbid.*

Galatians 3:22 *But the scripture hath concluded all under {transgression of the law}, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.*

Ephesians 4:26 *Be ye angry, and {do not transgress the law}: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

2 Thessalonians 2:3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of {transgression of the law} be revealed, the son of perdition;*

1 Timothy 5:20 *Them that {transgress of the law} rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*

Hebrews 3:13 *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of {transgressions of the law}.*

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without {transgression of the law}.*

Hebrews 9:26 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away {transgressions of the law} by the sacrifice of himself.*

Hebrews 9:28 *So Christ was once offered to bear the {transgressions of the law} of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without {transgression of the law} unto salvation.*

Hebrews 10:6 *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for {transgressions of the law} thou hast had no pleasure.*

Hebrews 10:8 *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for {transgressions of the law} thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

Hebrews 10:18 *Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for {transgression of the law}.*

Hebrews 10:26 *For if we {transgress the law} wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for {transgressions of the law},*

Hebrews 11:25 *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of {transgressing of the law} for a season;*

Hebrews 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the {transgression of the law} which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

Hebrews 12:4 *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against {transgressions of the law}.*

Hebrews 13:11 *For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for {transgressions of the law}, are burned without the camp.*

Call me crazy, but looking at *all* of the above, I just can't see Paul being an advocate for sin **{transgression of the law}**. That being the case, I wonder why so many teach that he was? Furthermore, it appears that even though we are "under Grace" that the Law is still important — especially since it is now supposed to be *in* us (Heb. 8:11).

Clearly there is no such thing as an "age of Law" and an "age of Grace" as if they are somehow separate and mutually exclusive. They have *always* been together and *always will be* so long as the present Heaven and Earth remain (Matthew 5:17-19). In fact, you cannot have one without the other. If there is no Law, what need is there for Grace?

The bottom line: Should we sin **{transgress the law}**? Paul says "God forbid" (several times in fact). He and John (and others) also state that if we do sin **{transgress the Law}**, we have an Advocate in Christ Who will plead our case for us (1 John 2). Thus, there is therefore now **no** condemnation for our failures (Romans 8), but there is also no excuse for continuing to sin **{transgress the Law}**. Praise YHWH!

WE FOLLOW PAUL'S EXAMPLE

Paul preached and he remained Torah observant to the day he died. He followed the example of Yeshua (Jesus) which is why he could say with confidence,

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

There is absolutely no way Paul could have “imitated Christ” without walking in the same way that Yeshua walked. You will never see the Messiah walking outside of His Father’s perfect, life-giving Law... EVER! He loved His Father and showed it through obedience. That obedience is what has led to our blessing through Him.

Deuteronomy explains what **loving** God actually means and how it relates to life and blessing. It also shows us that (contrary to what we’ve been taught in modern Christianity) the commandments of God are not burdensome (1 John 5:1-3).

DEUTERONOMY 30:

11 Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away.

12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?”

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?”

14 No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

Hopefully, by now it should be obvious that the writers of the New Testament were not writing in a void. There are many examples, which show us that to “love God” is to obey Him. So, when Yeshua gave His two commandments, the first one, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind...” requires obedience to the 10 Commandments. Everyone understood this. And just to be sure we understood, John wrote:

1 JOHN 5:

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

The Bible of the Bible was the Torah and virtually all of the writers of Scripture referred back to these writings of Moses, which were given to him directly from YHWH as he often spoke with the Lord “face to face as one speaks with a friend” (Exodus 33:11). Most importantly of all, the 10 Commandments were originally written in stone by the finger of God Himself. Should we not therefor consider all of those words to be exceptionally wonderful and important, worthy of obeying? David did. He delighted in them, which is why he was considered a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). He understood that the Law was perfect and extremely beneficial to us.

PSALM 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

How can something the Bible calls perfect and full of life and blessing (for those who obey it) be considered “bondage”? That makes no sense at all. Yet, that’s exactly what most Christians think Paul was saying. Therefore, I must say it appears to me that to the modern church, Paul has got to be — by far — the most misunderstood writer in all of Scripture.

I used to say what my detractors say myself. In fact, as recent as 5 years ago, I had also actively taught against

YHWH's Law just like they do. Then, back in 2010, I started reading the front of the book for myself and have done so every year since. After Sukkot 2014, we will be starting our 5th year of reading through the Torah, prophets and New Testament. When you see how it is **all** connected and in perfect harmony, you are forced to see Paul in the true light of what he was saying. Everything becomes crystal clear. Only a servant who is 100% in obedience to God can say with confidence, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."*

To imitate Christ is to walk in total obedience to His Father just as He did. 1 John 2 teaches that if we fail, no problem, we have an Advocate. Paul's message of Grace never contradicted any of that. And you'll note that he did not say, *"Imitate me, just as I counterfeit Christ or write a new Gospel that contradicts the rest of the entire Bible."* He was not a rogue writer of Scripture. He was a Torah scholar who figured out how it all works together — both Law and Grace. They go hand in hand.

Law without Grace is Tyranny. Grace without Law is Anarchy. You cannot have one without the other. The Law defines sin. Grace is given for when we do sin, because Yeshua paid the price for it, but that is not license for us to go on sinning. Even Paul says, God forbid!

Note also what Paul calls the Antichrist...

2 THESSALONIANS 2:

*3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition;*

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The NASB refers to him as the "*man of lawlessness*" and the NRSV calls him the "*lawless one*".

In a recent discussion, my wife asked, *"If the Law was supposedly done away with, why would it matter that the Antichrist is the lawless one?"* That's a great question and a valid observation. If there was no law, how could anyone be a "man of sin"? There is a "man of sin" because there is a law and he is 100% opposed to it.

In these Last Days, which "Christ" are you going to follow? Will you be like Paul who imitated Yeshua the Messiah (Christ), Who walked in total obedience to YHWH's Law or will you be like those who will follow the Antichrist, who is the man of sin, the lawless one, who rebels against YHWH's Law? As for me and my house, we will strive to be like Paul, who imitated Christ — and we will thank God every day for the Grace that covers us and the Advocate who intercedes for us when we fall. We have an amazing Heavenly Father who gave us a wonderful gift of salvation, by Grace through Faith alone in Yeshua's finished work on the cross. Thank you Yah! He has done so much for us, should we not at least try to show our love for Him through obedience? Paul did.

Finally, as you dive into this final book of Moses, I'd like to encourage you to proceed with this understanding, again, provided by the Torah observant Apostle Paul:

1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Each volume in this series consists of one book from the Torah, plus readings from the prophets and New Testament that go along with it. Drawing from a number of outside resources, we have assembled the traditional, weekly Torah, Haftarah and Brit Chadasha (KJV) Scripture readings along with some additional readings from my own related

studies into each volume. I have intentionally not put any of my commentary into this book however, because I want you to write your own. Get with people you know and read these Scriptures together. Talk about them. Debate. Share insights and grow as you let the Holy Spirit open up the Scriptures to you, leading you to all truth.

I always brought a lined notepad with me to our studies and found it very helpful for writing down the various insights and revelations people would share. Therefore, every Scripture reading page in this workbook has a column for you to take notes. At the end of each week's study, we have also included a few starter questions to get your group going and some additional lined pages for notes you may want to write down based on your discussions.

On our Virtual House Church website you can listen to archived services and see the notes we took from our 2012-2014 Torah reading cycles. There you will find lots of commentary, pictures, links, video and audio clips for you to explore and add to the insights that you discover in your own study of these Scriptures. Please keep in mind however, that we are still learning ourselves. We don't have it all right and would never claim to have the corner on truth. We are merely sharing our thoughts and insights as we seek to find the truth ourselves. Always remember, when reading/viewing/listening to any commentary, we are to test all things, letting the Holy Spirit be our guide to all truth and not man.



www.virtualhousechurch.com

The Bible study guide you have in your hands can be used to start your own church ministry, home group or personal Bible study. It is designed to show you how the themes, stories, and words of the Torah are woven throughout the writings of the prophets and New Testament. At the end of each week's study, you will find the following three questions, which can help you get the ball rolling:

- **How does this week's Torah Portion relate to the Haftarah and Brit Chadasha Portions?**
- **What did you find most interesting about this week's reading?**
- **What is the general theme of this reading and how does it apply to our lives today?**

These are very basic, general questions designed to get the conversation going. In the first one, you simply identify how all of the Scripture readings are related. Sometimes it will be very obvious. Other times, you may need to dig deeper either into the text itself, or even into history and cultural contexts to see why the ancients paired these readings together. The second question is designed to get you talking about those things, which stood out to you from the readings. And finally, the last question causes you to think about how the reading applies to you, your family, friends and life in general. What is the take-away moral value, theme or lesson we can learn from this week's study? We've kept it simple for a reason: We don't want anyone thinking they can't do this. You will be amazed at how much dialogue and learning can be gained by addressing these three basic questions.

By way of example, here are some of my own early notes from the first week's reading of Genesis:

How does this week's Torah Portion relate to the Haftarah and Brit Chadasha Portions? *It all starts with Genesis! The stage is set, the characters are introduced and the drama begins almost immediately. From there, we can see how the story plays out from the Beginning to the End. Take for instance, the story of Genesis 6. In that story, we learn about an incredible event: The unnatural union of angels (the sons of God) and human women. This produced the giants (Nephilim) that we will later see the Israelites having to defeat. However, there is more to the story. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:37 that the Last Days will be likened unto the days of Noah. In Revelation 12, we see Michael the archangel fighting against Satan, the Dragon. The*

Serpent is cast down to Earth and the story is picked up in the prophecy of Isaiah 14:12-21. There we see that Lucifer, the leader of the fallen angels, is not only “cut down to the ground” but also that he apparently has children (Isaiah 14:21), just like the angels of Genesis 6 did. Those angels were bound in everlasting chains of darkness and cast down into hell [Tartarus] (2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6).

What did you find most interesting about this week’s reading? *In like manner, we see that Lucifer must also be bound in chains and do time (a thousand years) in the pit in order to serve out his prison sentence (Revelation 20:1-2) for the same sin. I’ve always wondered, if the Devil’s ultimate destination is the Lake of Fire, why does he have to be bound in chains and put into prison for a thousand years first? Now, I know! He is serving the prescribed prison sentence that is specifically for angels who mate with human women. God would not be just if He didn’t impose the same prison sentence on every angel who commits this sin. Thus, when Satan has children (note Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 14:21), he must receive the same punishment, in addition to the final judgment for his other crimes/sins, which is the Lake of Fire.*

What is the general theme of this reading and how does it apply to our lives today? *Solomon told us that what has been done, will be again (Ecclesiastes 1:9). All through the Scriptures, we see many themes repeated. We see characters that were introduced “in the beginning” appear again “in the end.” Jesus said the Last Days (which may be our days) are going to be like the days of Noah. Thus, in order to understand the times we are living in today, we must understand the days of Genesis 6-11. We also see the cost of disobedience to the perfect will of God. Sin has consequences.*

In my answers to the three basic questions, I showed how the Torah portion relates to the reading from the prophets as well as the readings from the New Testament. I shared the things that I found intriguing and I showed how it is relevant for us today.

While certainly not an exhaustive collection of related Scriptures, we hope that this *Wisdom From The Torah* study guide will get you excited about diving into your Bible like never before. As you read about the characters of the Torah, then see repeats of their stories and/or the results of their actions played out centuries and even millennia later, we hope it causes you to think and to see how these themes may apply to your own life today and in the future.

Many blessings and shalom.

Rob Skiba
August 14, 2014



Deuteronomy 1

8 Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham,

[illegible]

Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

9 And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:

10 The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude.

11 (The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)

12 How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife?

13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do.

15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.

16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

18 And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do.

19 And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the Lord our God commanded us; and we came to Kadeshbarnea.

20 And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the Lord our God doth give unto us.

21 Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.

22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.

23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:

24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out.

NOTES

25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the Lord our God doth give us.

26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God:

27 And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the Lord hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

28 Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.

29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them.

30 The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the Lord thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God,

33 Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day.

34 And the Lord heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,

35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation
see that good land, which I swear to give unto your fathers.

36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the Lord.

37 Also the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither.

38 But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.

40 But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

41 Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the Lord, we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.

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42 And the Lord said unto me, Say unto them. Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.

43 So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill.

44 And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.

45 And ye returned and wept before the Lord; but the Lord would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

46 So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.

Deuteronomy 2

1 Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the Lord spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days.

2 And the Lord spake unto me, saying,

3 Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.

4 And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore:

5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

6 Ye shall buy meat of them for money, that ye may eat; and ye shall also buy water of them for money, that ye may drink.

7 For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

8 And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Eziongaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

9 And the Lord said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession.

10 The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims;

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11 Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites called them Emims.

12 The Horims also dwelt in Seir beforetime; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the Lord gave unto them.

13 Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered.

14 And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them.

15 For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

16 So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people,

17 That the Lord spake unto me, saying,

18 Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day:

19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

20 (That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims;

21 A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the Lord destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead:

22 As he did to the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, when he destroyed the Horims from before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead even unto this day:

23 And the Avims which dwelt in Hazerim, even unto Azzah, the Caphtorims, which came forth out of Caphtor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.)

24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.

25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying,

27 Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way,

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I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left.

28 Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet;

29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the Lord our God giveth us.

30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the Lord thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

31 And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land.

32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz.

33 And the Lord our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people.

34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain:

35 Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.

36 From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river of Arnon, and from the city that is by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the Lord our God delivered all unto us:

37 Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the Lord our God forbade us.

Deuteronomy 3

1 Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

2 And the Lord said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon.

3 So the Lord our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining.

4 And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

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5 All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwall'd towns a great many.

6 And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city.

7 But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves.

8 And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon;

9 (Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir;)

10 All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

11 For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

12 And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, and half mount Gilead, and the cities thereof, gave I unto the Reubenites and to the Gadites.

13 And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I unto the half tribe of Manasseh; all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants.

14 Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashanhavothjair, unto this day.

15 And I gave Gilead unto Machir.

16 And unto the Reubenites and unto the Gadites I gave from Gilead even unto the river Arnon half the valley, and the border even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon;

17 The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdothpisgah eastward.

18 And I commanded you at that time, saying, The Lord your God hath given you this land to possess it: ye shall pass over armed before your brethren the children of Israel, all that are meet for the war.

19 But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle, (for I know that ye have much cattle,) shall abide in your cities which I have given you;

20 Until the Lord have given rest unto your brethren, as well as unto you, and until they also possess the land which the Lord

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HAFTARAH PORTION (Prophets): Isaiah 1:1-27

Isaiah 1

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

7 Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

8 And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

9 Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

12 When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

13 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your

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hands are full of blood.

16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

24 Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

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BRIT CHADASHAH PORTION (New Testament):

**Mark 14:1-16; John 15:1-11; Acts 7:2-60; 9:1-21;
1 Timothy 3:1-7; Hebrews 3:7-4:11**

Mark 14

1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.

2 But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people.

3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?

15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found

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strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

9 And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

10 And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

11 Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

12 But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

13 And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

14 Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

15 So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

16 And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

17 But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,

18 Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

20 In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months:

21 And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

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26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

28 Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?

29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.

30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

31 When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him,

32 Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

33 Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

34 I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

35 This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

36 He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

40 Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us: for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

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17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

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18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

1 Timothy 3

1 This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Hebrews 3

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning

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of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

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DISCUSSION POINTS

How does this week's Torah Portion relate to the Haftarah and Brit Chadasha Portions?

What did you find most interesting about this week's reading?

What is the general theme of this reading and how does it apply to our lives today?

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