



## Should We Keep the Law (Torah)?

### PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed.

If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God, we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham did.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

Note: Whenever the Torah is mentioned it referres to the Written Torah that was given to Moshe at Mt. Sinai and not the "Oral" torah of rabbinic Judaism which is identified in the text.

Numbers 6:24-26

שִׁמְעוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה | אֶחָד:

## Should We Keep the Law (Torah)?

This is a question that has been the source of many Christian theological debates over the millennia, many Christian leaders are in favour of following at least some of the moral commandments that Almighty God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai but most if not all of Christendom believe that Yeshua (Jesus) abolished all the laws and we are now, as they say, “under grace”. When asked about keeping the commandments of Almighty God as given to Moshe at Mt Sinai most of the Christians today will tell you that, whilst the principle is a good one to follow, we are under no obligation to keep them as were the Jews... is this true?

It is most important that we know exactly where we stand concerning the keeping of the commandments of Almighty God for our eventual salvation depends on how we approach this subject. In this study we will look at the law of the written torah in some detail however, it is not the aim of this study to produce a work that contains all the details as this would make this study into an encyclopaedia of gargantuan proportions. I will focus on the common misconceptions many of us have been taught by our religion, it is up to you, the individual, to prove to yourself whether what you have been told is the truth that is found in the pages of God’s word, or whether what you have been told is a result of the doctrines and traditions of men.

To get an accurate overview of what the laws really are and why they were given to Moses we need to recap on some basic principles.

When **יְהוָה** created the universe we often forget that he also gave the laws that enable the universe to exist, what we, as humans call “the laws of nature” are these laws. Every scientist is profoundly aware of these laws which form the very fabric of the universe. For example, most people are familiar with Albert Einstein’s theory of relativity  $E=mc^2$  but Einstein did not create this formula, he only discovered it like all the other scientific laws that govern the universe. We did not “make” electricity, we discovered it, electricity has been in the universe since its creation and we learned how to harness that energy. It would be fair to say that human beings have never actually created anything, we just learn how to manipulate elements that already exist. That is a sobering thought I feel sure you will agree.

The TaNaKh tells us that, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day YeHoVaH created man (Adam=Man) and at some stage He gave the man instructions as to how he should live, telling him what was good and what was bad for him. In order to maintain the close relationship with his Father Adam was to teach his family all the things that Almighty God had told him, just as the husband of the family is required too today.

This torah was given to Adam for his and all his family’s benefit (including us) but things went wrong when the adversary eventually deceived Eve causing her to disobey her husband Adam but, instead of reprimanding his wife and relying on

Almighty God, Adam took it upon himself to listen to his wife and join her in disobedience but Adam's disobedience was directed against Almighty God as he was directly in conflict with the creator of the universe, the result of which we are still suffering from to this day.

Due to Adams disobedience sickness and death entered the once paradisaic kingdom, it was not God's intention for it to be so and it grieved Him so much that He made a way out of this hopeless situation for those that would be truly obedient to Him, this plan saw its fulfilment through His son Yeshua who gave his life, shedding his precious blood in order to pay the price of Adams disobedience. Yeshua gave this sacrifice in complete obedience to his Fathers will, a perfect man just as Adam was before he disobeyed, Yeshua had no sin therefore death had no hold on him and he was legally released from death by his Father, this is the ultimate justice and true reward for complete lifetime obedience.

When we break the law, we can expect to be punished, that is justice and that is what happened to the first human family, they disobeyed and brought the consequence of that disobedience to all of us. Whatever we are told we must always keep in mind that the creator of the universe is pure justice, to some that consider the creator to be a sadistical tyrant I would say that they do not know His justice, He is the very personification of love, and remains so, He is quick to forgive and is full of compassion as reflected by His son Yeshua but He is also governed by His own Justice and will execute adverse judgement on those who wilfully disobey Him, we can be sure that His judgement will be righteous.

### **A quick word about baptism...**

For those that have been baptised in the name of Yeshua it is most important to

**Galatians 3:26-29** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.  
<sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

recognise how your baptism ties in with becoming a true follower of Yeshua. As we have come to understand the gravity and importance of being baptised recognising the acceptance and responsibility that it places on our heads when we, in effect die to sin and are reborn into a lifetime of obedience and commitment to follow our Master Yeshua, we also become a citizen of the commonwealth of Israel, we are grafted into Israel

just as a natural born Hebrew. We cease to be identified as "gentile", the word "gentile" means "pagan", there is no such entity as a "gentile" believer for we are all one in Mashiach. (Galatians 3:26-29).

Now we know the consequences of disobedience let us look deeper into the subject of this booklet.

## Torah.

The torah (Law or Commandments), was given to Moses at Mount Sinai 50 days after Almighty God Yehovah (YHVH) lead the Nation of Israel out of Egypt. We have all heard of the ten commandments, but not many Christians are aware that there are, in fact another 603 laws or commandments that were given to Moses, these are called 'mitzvot' by the Hebrew observers.

It is of the utmost importance at this stage to know that there has never been a human being in history that has kept all of the 613 mitzvot, not even Yeshua as it is impossible. This will come as a shock to most people, but we have to remember that, within the 613 mitzvot there are specific laws for the priesthood, women, farmers and many more professions.

What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. (Rom 7:7)

The 10 Moral Commandments	
#	Commandment
1	You shall have no other Gods but me.
2	You shall not make for yourself any idol, nor bow down to it or worship it.
3	You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4	You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.
5	Respect your father and mother.
6	You must not commit murder.
7	You must not commit adultery.
8	You must not steal.
9	You must not give false evidence against your neighbour.
10	You must not be envious of your neighbour's goods. You shall not be envious of his house nor his wife, nor anything that belongs to your neighbour.

The torah was given because Yehovah knew that the heart of man is sinful, the Hebrews were included in this too, and they soon proved just how sinful they were as, even when Moses spent the first 40 days with Yehovah on Mount Sinai, they started to worship an idol, not a very good start for them! They were given to the Hebrew

(Israelite) nation as a guide and teacher to what is acceptable to Almighty God Yehovah. This was the way in which they could remain within the limits of what would be acceptable to Yehovah without jeopardising their relationship with Him. This is why Paul (Sha'ul) tells us that, without the torah he would not know sin. From this we see just how important the law or torah that was given to the Israelite nation thorough Moses is.

Apart from the 10 moral laws there are a further 613 commandments, rules and instructions that cover the daily life of the people, how they should conduct themselves in commerce, work, family, worship and judicial law. These can be found mostly in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

All the instructions given were designed to keep the Israelites in step with Yehovah's requirements and, if they kept them, they would be showing works of faith.

It is only when the Israelites broke the torah that Yehovah's anger blazed on them, sending them into exile twice for the sins that they had committed.

Indeed, this is the very meaning of sin, that you break His commandments.

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

(1Jn 3:4 KJV)

Unfortunately, it seems to skip the attention of many people that the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were not Jews, in fact Abraham was a Syrian. Moses wasn't even a Jew; he was a Levite and Joshua, who's birth name was Hoshea, was from the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:16). Ephraim was the son of Joseph and, as such, can be classified as part of the Israelite nation. So here we can identify the misconception that torah was only given to one tribe of the twelve tribes, namely Judah. The torah was given to ALL of the twelve tribes of Israel\* (Jacob), along with the lineage of their sons.

Another important fact to note is that, not only did the Israelite nation came out of Egypt with Moses, there were many non-Israelites that followed Moses out of Egypt in the exodus, these were so-called people of the nations, the Egyptians and their servants that accepted Yehovah as their God too, these non-Israelites became what we could call as 'adopted' and were subject to the same torah as the natural born Israelites. (Leviticus 24:22; 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:19). Just as we are today.

So, for those people that think that the torah was just given to the Jews, we can see just how wrong they are, the torah of Almighty God was given primarily to the Israelite nation, the people that were chosen to keep those commandments for the glory of Almighty God Yehovah and for the benefit of all the nations that accept and keep His laws, not just for one tribe alone.

\*Not to be confused with the modern state of Israel.

## Setting the Scene.

### **Where did the idea that Paul taught against the law of Moses originate?**

Let us start with the ministry of our mentor Yeshua. The gospel records show that, all through Yeshua's ministerial commission he taught the Jews, proselytes and 'God Fearers' (people of the nations that feared the God of Abraham). Most, if not all his followers in those days were Jews, Yeshua himself was a pharisaic Jew from the line of David, he was a pharisee because he primarily taught the resurrection and he believed in angels, something that the Sadducees denied.

### The two torahs

Yeshua was perfectly versed in the written **Torah of Yehovah** as given to Moses (which is fundamentally different to the law of the Pharisees which is highlighted by the many altercations between Yeshua and the religious leaders), even at the age of twelve he astounded the torah scholars in the temple in his knowledge and understanding of torah. All through his life Yeshua lived and breathed torah, he always quoted from torah when he said "it is written" and "you have heard it said "however, at this time not many people realise that there were two versions of torah,

- 1- The Written torah of Almighty God as given to the Israelite nation (not just Jews) through Moses and,
- 2- The Oral torah of the rabbis that, although reportedly based on the torah of God, added extra laws that were not written in the torah of God and were mostly based on this fictitious 'oral' torah which was formulated whilst in captivity in Babylon and made its way into Pharisaic Judaism after the release from captivity. The basis for the Mishna and Gemara is found in this torah.

Unfortunately, many Orthodox Jews rank their Mishna as of more importance than the TaNaKh when it comes to definition of how the written torah should be interpreted.

During his lifetime, Yeshua never taught that the written torah Almighty God gave to Moses on mount Sinai had been altered in any way, shape or form, on the contrary, it is quite clear from the Bible accounts that he taught all those who wish to follow him must be acquainted with God's laws as given to Moses.

For those that are not familiar with torah it is easy to be confused with covenants which are completely different. Christendom of today teaches that Yeshua introduced the "New" covenant which is partly correct, it would be more accurate to say that

(Deuteronomy 4:2 KJV) Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

(Deuteronomy 12:32 KJV) What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

(Revelation 22:18 KJV) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Yeshua introduced a “*Renewed*” covenant with mankind, this is the gospel (good news) or Brit ha’Dashah in Hebrew that he announced throughout his ministry. Many people confuse the term covenant with law, whilst a covenant is a legal document it itself has no connection other than to be legally binding contract, such as a marriage vow, between the parties mentioned in that covenant. Covenants do not change the law, on the contrary, **a covenant is upheld by the law** and any breaches in the covenant (contract) are expected to be dealt with in the law courts.

All throughout his ministry Yeshua quoted from the written torah many, many times in his parables and answers to questions however, he did speak out against the (oral) torah of the rabbis with all their additions, just as the people of today that are walking in the ruach ha’kodesh (Holy Spirit) speak out against the false doctrines and teachings of todays so-called Bible based religions. Yeshua’s whole 70-week ministry had its foundation on the written torah as given to Moshe (Moses) at Sinai.

### **The stoning of Stephen.**

Let us consider the first messianic martyr Stephen, there can be no doubt in our minds that Stephen was a zealous follower of Yeshua, who can deny the passion of his speech to the Sanhedrin recorded in Acts 7: 1-53 concerning their treatment of the prophets by a large number of Jewish Kings and religious leaders. Stephen was clearly educated in torah and, like his master Yeshua, he kept the written torah of Moses to the letter however, from the account found in Acts 7 it is clear that the early followers of Yeshua kept the written torah of Moses, it also highlights the two versions of torah that was circulating at the time. Stephen was put to death not for opposing the written torah of Almighty God but the “oral” torah of the Pharisees, as was his master, Yeshua. This fact is also prevalent in all the epistles of Sha’ul who was in constant opposition to the Pharisaic Judaizers (Jewish believers in Yeshua who were unwilling to give up their Pharisaic Jewish traditions). It is for this reason that rabbinic Judaism, the sect that has its roots in Pharisaic Judaism rejects and profoundly opposes the Master Yeshua as their Mashiach. The final nail in the coffin was driven home the emergence of the gentile Christendom with all its own invented torah which is mostly based on paganism.

### **Digging a little deeper.**

Now we know exactly what the torah is we can now dig a little deeper into the facts concerning torah from a scriptural perspective.

We know that torah was given to all the tribes of Israel (Jacob [*Heb. Yaakov*]) along with those that chose to worship Yehovah with the Israelites during the Exodus, there were no two-tier modes of worship, all were one in the written torah of Almighty God.

What we term today as Judaism bears little resemblance to the worship of the one true God Yehovah in the way that He instructed the Israelites, the Pharisaic Judaism we find today emerged after the last prophet Malachi and the Jewish nation descended into what became known as the ‘quiet time’ which lasted just over 400 years when it seemed

that Yehovah had lost interest in them. It is interesting to note that Exodus 12:40 records that the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt 430 years. It has always intrigued me that the period of time between the two are all if not the same.

At this time Alexander the Great conquered the Holy Land and all Israel and Judea fell under Hellenistic rule. This is the time when Juda Maccabeus led the Jewish uprising to push the Greek's out of their land, incidentally, in 161 BCE Judas Maccabeus made a pact with the Roman army to push the Greeks out. (1 Maccabees 17-20). but that is also another story.

The Jewish revolt erupted when the Greek 'king' Antiochus Epiphanes issued his decrees forbidding Jewish religious practice, a rural Jewish priest from Modiin, Mattathias the Hasmonean, sparked the revolt against the Seleucid Empire by refusing to worship the Greek gods. Mattathias killed a Hellenistic Jew who stepped forward to offer a sacrifice to an idol in Mattathias' place and he and his five sons fled to the wilderness of Judea. After Mattathias' death about one year later in 166 BCE, his son Judas Maccabee led an army of Jewish dissidents to victory over the Seleucid dynasty in guerrilla warfare, which at first was directed against Hellenizing Jews, of whom there were many. The Maccabees destroyed pagan altars in the villages, circumcised boys and forced Jews into outlawry. The term Maccabees as used to describe the Jewish army is taken from the Hebrew word for "hammer".

During Hasmonean period two religious factions came onto the scene, the Sadducees, the Pharisees. The Sadducees religious beliefs were centred around the temple whilst the Pharisees set up the synagogue system and relied on the use of local teachers (rabbi's) to lead the congregations as is the practice today. As previously mentioned, the Pharisees developed the Mishna and Talmud (Babylonian and Jerusalem versions) from the fictitious "oral" torah. They also added in the region of 267 extra laws or takkanot that the Jews were to follow as traditions in order to keep associating with the temple. This is how the Pharisees kept the people bound to their particular sect of worship.

This is the world that the young Yeshua (Ha'Mashiach) grew up with in Nazaret (Nazareth). He, along with his parents, brothers and sisters, would attend the local synagogue every Shabbat (7<sup>th</sup> day) and travel to the temple at Jerusalem for the three pilgrimage festivals that are commanded in the written torah each year. All his life, Yeshua followed his Fathers written torah, he is the only one in recorded history that ever kept ALL the commandments that were applicable to him perfectly.

When Yeshua commenced his ministry, he selected twelve of his closest followers which were all Jews that followed the written torah and preached the gospel (good news) throughout Judea and gathered many followers, both Jews and non-Jews. He kept on spreading the gospel along with his many apostles until he was executed by the Romans on the insistence of the Jewish religious leaders on a charge of blasphemy and sedition, but the real reason for Yeshua's death is that he was exposing their false



doctrine and traditions as written in their oral torah, they had to silence him if they were to retain their privileged status.

As a matter of interest, the word “gentile” refers to people of the nations that did not know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In the New Testament the word “gentile” is used to describe the “Hellenistic” peoples who lived with the Jews in Judea at the time, the Greek word used in the text is “Ἑλλην” (“*Hellēn*” (G1672) From G1671; a Hellen (Grecian) or inhabitant of Hellas; by extension a Greek speaking person, especially a non-Jew: - Gentile, Greek). It is worthy of note that there are no “gentile” believers in Yeshua, this is a contradictory of terms as it would be akin to saying that there are “Pagan Christians”. When one accepts the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and are baptised in the name of Yeshua they become “grafted in” to the commonwealth of Israel and are no longer “gentile” but are subject to the same laws of the written torah as their natural-born Hebrew brothers and sisters. That is something that the religions of Christendom fail to mention when they teach against keeping the written torah. (*Read Romans 11: 11-24*).

#### **Illustration...**

To say that, as followers of Yeshua (Jesus) are no longer under the Law (Torah) of Moses because Yeshua “nailed” the Torah to the cross is like the driver who was pulled over for speeding by the Police, when the officer asked the driver why he was exceeding the speed limit the man told the officer that, a few months ago his friend was pulled over for speeding too and, because his friend had paid the penalty for speeding he was now exempt from the law because his friend had paid the price. How do you think he fared in court?

### **Enter Sha’ul of Tarsus.**

A few years after the death and resurrection of Yeshua an extremely zealous Pharisee from Tarsus came onto the scene, his name was Sha’ul (Saul). He was an extremely devout follower of the oral torah, being taught by the revered Gamaliel, a well-respected rabbi and member of the ruling Sanhedrin. Sha’ul started persecuting the followers of Yeshua with a zeal that is almost hard to imagine, to him the followers of Yeshua were opposing all that he had understood to be the truth. He became implicit in many acts of violence including the stoning of Stephen, the first martyr in ‘the way’ as it was then called.

Sha’ul’s hatred of the followers of Yeshua can be seen when he approached the High Priest for letters of introduction and authority to be issued to the rabbinical leaders in Damascus, authorising him to take into custody those spreading teachings of Yeshua and return them to Jerusalem for trial, imprisonment or death. I feel sure that we are all aware of the occurrence which happened to Sha’ul as he drew close to Damascus.

It is also useful to note that until Israel’s (Jacob’s) son Judah had a family there were no Jews on the face of the earth. It is common practice to confuse Judaism with the Hebrews, Hebrews are not only Jews. Furthermore, the father of many nations Abraham was a gentile, his father Terah was an idol maker in Ur. Moses and his brother Aharon

were not Jews, they were Levites. The first notable “Jew” recorded in the TaNaKh (Old Testament) was king David of the house of Judah.

### **Torah, Salvation and Grace.**

It is dangerous to confuse grace with salvation. At the present time we all benefit from Yehovah’s grace period. As our forefather Adam disobeyed Yehovah and brought sin into the world, and death through sin has plagued all mankind as a result of Adam’s disobedience, by rights we should all be dead through our inherent sin however, in His lovingkindness, Yehovah has granted all mankind a stay of execution for a period of time in which we can make a choice whether to adhere to His (God’s) righteous written torah in these adverse conditions or choose to follow what we consider to be acceptable, that is the meaning of God’s grace and it has little to do with salvation other than give us the time to make that important decision. The account recorded in Deuteronomy 30:18-20 has its parallel in His wonderful grace that we are privileged to be blessed with today, just as Moshe gave the Hebrews two choices, one lead to life and the other death, this is the same choice we all have today, we can either be obedient to our heavenly Father who loves us more than we can ever comprehend or we can chose to disobey Him as Adam and all people who reject Yeshua do, a path that can only result in destruction. That is the choice we face and we **MUST** make the decision **NOW**, it means our life.

When we die, we are no longer under grace, the grace period has expired for us and we reap the rewards of sin which is death. (Romans 6:23). **Grace gives us the opportunity to obey our wonderful creator Yehovah whilst we are alive.** If we make the wise choice and choose to follow Yehovah’s written torah as did Yeshua and all his Disciples and followers, we will avail ourselves with the opportunity (not guarantee) for salvation (Matthew 24:13), in other words, **we do not follow the torah to be saved,** rather **we follow His torah because we love our heavenly Father** and wish to follow Him on His terms and enter His Kingdom. The terms and conditions by which we can enter into His kingdom are non-negotiable and are laid out for us in the torah, if we choose to ignore the torah, how can we possibly know what Almighty God requires of us in His kingdom? How could we possibly be rewarded with salvation if we do not know His torah? This demonstrates just how important the torah is and by adhering to His torah we show that we are suitable candidates for our ultimate salvation and entry into His kingdom.

### **Do Followers of Messiah Need to Keep torah?**

Most of the religious leaders in the thousands of denominations and sects of Christendom teach that when Yeshua gave his life, he removed all the constraints of the torah. They often quote scriptures such as Romans 10:4 and Colossians 2:14 as a basis for their belief that the followers of Yeshua do not have to follow the torah, they believe

that torah has been ‘superseded’ by ‘grace’ and ‘faith’. Is this true? Did Yeshua really abolish the laws of his Father? Let’s find out for ourselves using the scriptures. (See Appendix A)

Firstly, let us examine Yeshua’s own words at Matthew 5:17-18.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 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. (Mat 5:17-18 KJV)

This is quite an apocalyptic statement from Yeshua, the key to understanding this statement is the word ‘fulfil’. Let us take a closer look at the context of what Yeshua is telling us here, is he telling us that he is doing away with the law of his Father and introduce a new

In Greek the word for ‘**destroy**’ is καταλύω kataluo (kat-al-oo'-o) v.1. to loosen down (disintegrate) 2. (by implication) to demolish. 3. (specially) to halt for the night {literally or figuratively} KJV: destroy, dissolve, be guest, lodge, come to nought, overthrow, throw down. [G2647].

law, one of just grace?

If this be the case, why does he tell us that he didn’t come to destroy the law and the prophets? Surely, if he had come to replace the law he would have, by necessity, destroyed and nullified the old.

So, we can comprehend what Yeshua meant by “not to destroy” in this context. Yeshua is the goal of the torah, he is what torah is all about.

In this context we can plainly perceive that Yeshua is telling his close disciples that he makes the law complete, he is the very epitome of the torah as he never in his life broke one command.

Using the Greek translation for ‘**fulfil**’ πληρόω pleroo (play-roh'-o) v. 1. to fully, completely fill 2. (literally) to cram (a net), level up (a hollow) 3. (figuratively) to fully supply, satisfy, execute (an office), finish (a period or task), verify (or coincide with a prediction), etc. KJV: accomplish, X after, (be) complete, end, expire, fill (up), fulfil, (be, make) full (come), fully preach, perfect, supply.

To illustrate the context, let’s say you are a driver and you set out on a particular journey, there are laws that govern our driving, we must have the appropriate license for the vehicle, insurance, the vehicle must be road worthy, we must observe the highway regulations such as speed limits, signs etc, when you reach your destination. You switch off the engine and you leave the vehicle in a safe condition. During the journey you observed and satisfied all the regulations and you have fulfilled your objective but the laws still apply for your return.

What about the Brit HaDashah (New Covenant) teachings, do the apostles of Yeshua teach that we no longer need to keep torah?

**Romans 7:6 KJV** But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

**Colossians 2:14 KJV** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

It is a fact that, for millennia, Christendom has taught that the old torah has been superseded by Yeshua's sacrificial death and that Christians need not keep the old laws given in the first five books of the Tanakh (Old Testament), they use Bible verses like Romans 7:6 and Colossians 2:14.

It is common misconception among Christendom that the apostle Paul was in opposition to the other Apostles concerning his teaching, many suggest that he was teaching against the messiah, teaching his 'Gentile' converts that they did not have to keep the torah, as it seems by the scriptures in Romans and Colossians above. It is unfortunate that so many people just take sound bites of the scriptures, reading eisegesically into them without understanding what Sha'ul (Paul) was focusing on. I believe that Sha'ul is one of the most misquoted people in the entire Bible.

Let us find out the real purpose for torah. The torah was given to Moses as a set of instructions on how to live your life, a life that is pleasing and acceptable to Almighty God Yehovah, it was never intended as a direct means of salvation on its own. It was never the intention of torah to 'save' anyone and all the apostles, including Sha'ul knew this.

Yehovah, who can read the hearts of individuals, knew just how sinful humans can be, the torah was a result of the sins committed by the Israelite nation in an effort to give them Yehovah's requirements as a written set of laws or instructions that they could use to judge what is acceptable in the eyes of Almighty God.

Rabbi Sha'ul tells us that, without torah there would be no sin, which is quite logical as, if there is no law, how can you break it? So, we can see that without torah, sin does not exist, ergo... if the torah is now abolished then all of us are now sinless and Yeshua died for nothing. Is this really the case? Of course not! (See Romans 7:7).

Let us take a closer look at Sha'ul... Sha'ul of Tarsus was a zealous and devout Pharisaic Jew, from an early age he studied torah under the distinguished guidance of Gamaliel, a much-respected Kohan and distinguished member of the Sanhedrin. To Sha'ul, the torah laws were in his soul, he lived and breathed them in his life. We are all aware of how zealous he was for torah when he was present at the stoning of the first martyr of Yeshua, Stephen. Whilst he did not personally throw any physical stones, he was present, thereby showing his support for Stephens stoning by holding the coats of those that were throwing the stones.

Sha'ul became a zealous and most feared opponent of the followers of Yeshua, he had mind to travel to Damascus to round up all followers of Yeshua and bring them back to

Jerusalem for trial and punishment, we all know what happened to him on the way to Damascus, Sha'ul made the largest and most memorable 'U' turn in all the history of mankind. The Jewish zealot Sha'ul turned from a bloodthirsty persecutor of the followers of Yeshua to become a follower of Yeshua himself. In today's thinking this would be akin to Adolf Hitler becoming a rabbi, shocking to say the least. Please don't be misled, Sha'ul certainly knew his stuff when it came to Pharisaic Judaism.

So, did Sha'ul (Paul) preach the end of torah? **Absolutely NOT!** And here's why...

Let us allow the Bible itself prove that Paul did not teach that God's law (torah) had been abolished. Our journey starts with the stoning of Stephen. The scripture found at Acts 6:13,14 we find that the rabbinic Jewish religious leaders and opposers of the followers of Yeshua orchestrated the trial of Stephen on the grounds that he had been speaking blasphemy against Almighty God and Moses, they produced false witnesses to testify against Stephen, saying that they had heard him speaking against the temple and the (*oral*) law (torah), they also claimed that Stephen, like Yeshua were exposing the (*oral*) torah and on this basis Stephen was stoned on the assumption that he had broken the law as stated in Deuteronomy 13.

Acts 6:11-14 KJV Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and *against* God. (12) And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon *him*, and caught him, and brought *him* to the council, (13) And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: (14) For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

When we read the account of the trial of Stephen in Acts 7, we will find no trace of Stephen speaking against the temple or any attempt to change the written law of Almighty God that was given to Moses. However, like his master Yeshua, Stephen did condemn the false oral torah of the religious leaders and for this, as was his master, he was put to death. The key words in this scripture in Acts is "false witnesses", this clearly shows that Stephen was not teaching against the written torah and neither was Yeshua, these were false charges that were brought in order to silence them, just as the false accusations against those who rejected the teachings of the early universal church in its diabolical inquisitions.

Acts now introduces us to a man that would become a fierce oppressor of the early first century church, his name was Saul (Acts 7:58). Saul was consenting to the death of Stephen (Acts 8:1), he had been completely overtaken by his zeal for the traditions that he had learned in his studies of rabbinic Judaism under the auspices of Gamaliel, the distinguished rabbi and member of the Sanhedrin and grandson of the revered Jewish teacher Hillel the Elder. Although Saul played no physical part in the stoning of Stephen, after the stoning of Stephen his zealous adherence to the traditions and beliefs of the Pharisees soon became apparent in his pogroms of persecution of the followers of Yeshua (identified as "the Way" Acts 9:2). Saul was extreme in his

persecution of the early followers of Yeshua, this is evident in what happened when Paul set out for Damascus to gather those followers of “the Way”, his persecution was so thorough that Yeshua himself felt it necessary to intervene, which caused Saul to make what is possibly the most significant U-turn in history.

There is no doubt that Sha’ul’s miraculous experience on the road to Damascus caused a paradigm shift in Paul’s understanding of both oral and written torahs, he turned from being the most fearful persecutor of the followers of Yeshua who he thought were teaching against the torah that was given to Moses on mount Sinai, into one of the most prolific supporters of the gospel teachings of Yeshua. Being a Jew, he came to realise that the charges that Yeshua and Stephen were accused of were false. There would be no way that such a devout Jew like Saul would ever consider becoming part of a sect that taught against the torah of Almighty God, that would be impossible for a zealous keeper of God’s torah as Saul was.

Saul was no ordinary man, he was a Hebrew scholar of the highest degree, he could speak Hebrew, Koine and classical Greek and Latin and possibly more. We can be sure that he had committed to memory both the oral and written torah but an early age. The selection process for the shiva of Gamaliel consisted of 1000 applicants and only one was picked... Saul. This is the reason why the rabbis were so afraid of this hunter turned gamekeeper, this fear still exists today. By this fact, anyone that considers that Saul (Paul) taught against or changed the written torah of Almighty God is in accord with those rabbinic Jewish leaders who accused Yeshua and Stephen of attempting to change the torah of Almighty God.

Turning to our master Yeshua, when we consider his ministry, he never attempted any addition, subtraction or alteration of the written torah as was given to Moses on the contrary, he was one of the most outspoken instructors of the Fathers written torah. This is further supported by what he told his followers concerning the religious leaders in the synagogues, “... *The torah scholars and Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses. So whatever they tell you, do and observe. But don’t do what they do; for what they say, they do not do.*” (Matthew 23:3, 4). Yeshua was telling his listeners that the Pharisees had the authority of Moses when they read from the torah scroll and the people must follow Moses’ written torah when read by the Rabbi, but the Pharisees also practiced the laws that they had added to the torah making them hypocrites.

All through his ministry Yeshua never spoke of his own laws or teachings as he was the Apostle of his Father (*Hebrews 3:1*) he spoke the words of his God and Father Yehovah. “*For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*” (John 12:49 KJV). In light of this, it would be ridiculous indeed to assume that Yeshua was not teaching anything other than God’s words, he was “*the word was made flesh...*” (John 1:14), this would mean that Almighty God was opposing Himself!

## The Kingdom of Almighty God

As a part of the ‘sermon on the mount’, Yeshua gave an example of how we should pray to Almighty God Yehovah, we find this at Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”. The operative word here is “kingdom” and where that kingdom will physically be.

As we can clearly see, Yeshua told us that this new kingdom will be on earth, not in heaven as some religions teach and this new kingdom will encompass the whole earth, this is the theme of all the gospels, it is the good news. This is Yehovah's plan ever since the disobedience of Adam in the garden of Eden. He has given mankind enough time to prove that they can manage the earth without assistance from its creator and they have failed miserably for Adam handed the title deeds to the Satan when he disobeyed Almighty God Yehovah, making the Satan ruler of the earth for a pre-determined time.

Isaiah 65:17 KJV For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.  
Revelation 21:5 KJV And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

The coming of this physical kingdom is yet still in the future, many people speculate as to the coming of the kingdom, they examine worldly events and signs in an attempt to predict the ‘last day’ but, up to now, all these predictions have been false. This does not mean to say that it will not come, on the contrary, the true followers of Yeshua know that Yehovah's word NEVER fails to bear fruit, they know that it is coming and that is enough for them.

Meanwhile, Yeshua told us that “...the kingdom of God is within you” *Luke 17:21*. This is a prelude to the coming of the physical kingdom at a later date.

This concept is quite hard to understand for many people, the meaning depends on a number of conditions to be taken under consideration to allow us to arrive at the true meaning of what Yeshua was telling the people. Let me try to explain it in terms that I hope newcomers.

### **How is an Israelite defined?**

It is the general consensus that the term “Israel” refers to the Jewish nation, this is not so. When Yaakov (Jacob: [*Held by the heel*]) wrestled with the angel of Yehovah on the banks of the Jabbok River his name was changed from Yaakov to Israel (*Wrestles with God*) therefore the household of Yaakov became the household of Israel, the Israelites. Moses was not a Jew, he was from the family of Levi, he was a Levite which made him an Israelite. A Jew is a person that descends from the family of Judah.

When we study Yehovah's inspired word we find that the nation of Israel (not the modern state of Israel) is comprised mostly of the descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel (Yaakov) but it is categorically not limited to those descendants, it is also open to people of the nations to be “grafted in” to this Israelite nation, becoming equal in status to those natural born descendants of Yaakov. See Leviticus 19:34; Exodus 23:9; Romans 11:11-24. However, this does not mean that the ‘stranger’ can do whatever they want to whilst enjoying the privileges of the Israelite nation. To avail themselves of the blessings that fell upon the Israelites they too had to comply with the requirements of the Israelites, they had to follow the commandments just as the natural-born Israelites, without exception. By adhering to the commandments (torah) they were recognised as Israelites by Almighty God Yehovah.

It would be correct to assume that, if a person emigrates from their land of birth and takes up residence in a new country that they would agree to apply the rules and regulations of the country that they now reside. This would obviously be an entry requirement. This is also true for the person that wishes to become a resident in the kingdom of Almighty God Yehovah and His son Yeshua. Given that all nations of the earth have constitutions and rules that must be obeyed, it would be reasonable that Yehovah would have similar constitutions and rules too. These rules are recorded in the Bible as given to the Israelite nation directly from Yehovah through Moses, this is called torah which means Law/Instruction. It also would be reasonable to assume that, to take up residence in the new kingdom, one would be expected to abide by the laws of the new kingdom.

### Are you an Israelite?

Earlier we quoted Yeshua's words in Luke 17:21 where he told us that “... the kingdom of God is within you.” If Yeshua is correct (and he is!), his true followers

should already be living in that coming kingdom, just as Yeshua was. If this is the case then it would require his followers to adhere to the commandments and statutes of His kingdom would it not?

#### The torah (Law) given to Moses is:

- Perfect. (Psalms 19:7)
- Light. (Isaiah 8:20).
- Just. (Nehemiah 9:13).
- Good. (Proverbs 4:2).
- Way. (Malachi 2:8).
- Freedom. (Psalms 119:45).
- Life. (Proverbs 6:23).
- Truth. (Psalms 119:142).
- Holy. (Romans 7:12).

When we are baptised into Yeshua we become a part of that true Israelite nation, irrespective of your background or nationality, in fact, **by the act of baptism you have forsaken the country of your birth and are now a natural Israelite, a part of the commonwealth**

**of Israel.** This may have come as a shock to many people, but it is a fact that, if you wish to truly follow Yeshua ha’Mashiach you have to be “born again” as a new person with a new identity, you are no longer part of this world but you have become a citizen in the kingdom of Almighty God Yehovah and His son Yeshua. **This rather negates all**



**the arguments concerning whether we should keep or reject the written torah does it not?**

Yeshua told the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate that “*My kingdom is not of this world...*” *John 18:36*. At your baptism you are reborn into this kingdom that Yeshua speaks about, you are living in it now and the way you live your life should reflect that fact.

You cannot live in two kingdoms, there is no such thing as “dual nationality” where God’s kingdom is concerned, the nation that we are now part of we carry around with us wherever we go in the world and this means that we keep His torah as our first priority.

In the kingdom of Almighty God Yehovah there are no Jews, Christians, Muslims or any other worldly religious bodies, there is only one nation and one Almighty God, one King and Kohan Gadol (High Priest) in the kingdom which we now profess to belong. All people of all nations will want to be obedient to Almighty God, it is not slavery or bondage when you want to be obedient, we want to because we love Him as He loves us. Likewise, it is not cruelty or spite that He will adversely judge all those that want to follow their own ideas which inevitably lead to sin and death, they have the choice which master to serve and no one else can be blamed for their choice, it is the just and merciful righteousness of our Father that He brings justice to the wicked.

## Conclusion

In this day and age, we need to be absolutely clear about how we should offer our worship to Almighty God Yehovah, it would be disastrous if we were to accept without question what we are told without searching the scriptures to confirm the authenticity of a doctrine. Things that we may consider to be of less importance will seriously affect our standing with the creator of the universe and cause Yeshua to say to us the words recorded in Matthew 7:21.

During this study we have seen how, by misunderstanding of scripture, the idea that Paul taught that, as followers of Yeshua, we no longer need to keep the instructions of Almighty God and how this deception by those who sought to separate the from its source and fuel what is now identified as dispensationalism. It is a fact that **Yeshua kept ALL the commandments of the father that were applicable to him, so did ALL his disciples, including Sha'ul (Paul).**

The scriptures were, are and will always be applicable to those who choose to follow Almighty God's anointed King, if you wish to follow Yeshua it is imperative that you keep his torah, and the commandments of Yeshua are exactly the same as the torah of the Father, just as they were for those early disciples in the first century, before the gradual introduction of pagan practices (the Satan's leaven) permeated the pure teachings of Yeshua. Remember our baptismal vow to be obedient, if we were to wilfully disobey the torah we would be in breach of our baptismal vow, this is extremely serious if we do not t'shuvah (repent) and turn back to obedience as it is a salvation issue, no one is "saved" until the end. (Matthew 24:13).

We have also discussed the difference between covenant and torah and how they are completely separate from each other. This negates the argument that we are now under the Brit ha'Dashah (renewed covenant) and have dispensed with the torah that was given to Moses. It is a fact that the Brit ha'Dashah is based on the TaNaKh and they cannot be separated be any human being.

In conclusion it is quite clear that **the followers of Yeshua must keep the torah, not for salvation but for love and obedience.** We cannot say that we love Almighty God then ignore His commandments as we know that the love of God means that we keep His commandments. (1 John 5:3). To teach that we no longer have to keep Almighty God's torah means that we are joining in with the rebellion against the authority of Almighty God Himself.

*I pray that this study has stirred you to consider what you believe and that you will do further study to draw even closer to Yehovah whilst He can still be found for, I hope to meet you in that wonderful new earth.*

Shalom aleichem...

## **Appendix A**

A list of scriptures that put the “salvation by faith alone” into question:

- Romans 2:6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.
- 1 Peter 1:17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
- Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.
- Psalm 62:12 And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work.
- Proverbs 24:12 If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?
- Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
- 1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labour.

You decide!

## **Appendix B**

One of the most misunderstood scriptures concerning Sha'ul and the written torah can be found at:

**Ephesians 2:11-22** Because of this, remember that you, the nations, were then in the flesh from the beginning and you were called Uncircumcision, differing from those called Circumcision, which is the work of the hands in the flesh; <sup>12</sup>that at that time you were without Mashiach, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers of the covenants of promise, having no hope and without YEHOVAH in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now, in Yeshua ha'Mashiach you who then were afar off, are brought near by the blood of Mashiach. <sup>14</sup>For He is our peace, who has made both one (*echad*), and has broken down the wall of separation between them, <sup>15</sup>in His flesh He has caused to cease the enmity due to the (*manmade*) laws in regulations, that He might in Himself create the two into one new man, making peace, <sup>16</sup>and He reconciled both in one body to YEHOVAH and destroyed the enmity through the crucifixion. <sup>17</sup>And coming, He proclaimed "Peace to you, the ones afar off, and to the ones near." (*Isa. 57:19*) <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So, then, you are no longer strangers and family members living abroad, but you are natives of the same family of the saints and children of the family of YEHOVAH, <sup>20</sup>being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yeshua Mashiach Himself being the cornerstone of the building, <sup>21</sup>in whom all the building being fitted together grows into a holy sanctuary in YEHOVAH, <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of YEHOVAH in the Spirit.

Sha'ul is not speaking of the written torah in these verses, to gain insight into the context of Sha'ul's words we must understand what was happening in the early part of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. The Pharisaic (oral) law forbid any Jew to mix with the believing non-Jews, they could neither eat or fraternise with them, if they did, they could face excommunication and be banned from the temple. This is the enmity that is spoken of in v14. He (Yeshua) destroyed this enmity by his crucifixion v16 and we have become ONE in Mashiach, neither Jew or gentile. It was this manmade tradition of the Oral Torah that was nailed to the cross, not the Written Torah of Moshe as is the popular belief.

## GLOSSARY

<b>YHVH [ יהוה ]</b>	The personal Name of Almighty God. YeHoVaH.
<b>Yehoshua (Yeshua)</b>	The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Latin: Jesus).
<b>Ruach Ha'Kodesh</b>	Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
<b>Kohen Gadol</b>	High Priest.
<b>Shaúl</b>	Saul (Paul).
<b>Israel</b>	The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
<b>Gentile</b>	Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
<b>Tanakh</b>	The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
<b>B'rit HaDashah</b>	The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
<b>Torah</b>	The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
<b>Oral Torah</b>	The additional instructions (Takkanot) added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah, Gemara, Talmud and other Jewish religious books.
<b>Gospel</b>	Good News.
<b>Christendom</b>	All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
<b>Apostolic Fathers</b>	The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.
<b>Eisegesis</b>	Reading into scripture something that is out of context with the true meaning in order to fit a particular theory or doctrine.
<b>Exegesis</b>	Reading out of the scripture to arrive at the true meaning
<b>Moshe</b>	The Hebrew name of Moses.