



# TORAH...TORAH...

## WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 3



# The Word of God

## Definition

- Hebrew **תּוֹרָה** = **Torah**: instruction, doctrine, teaching, guidance, principles, law
- Greek **νόμος** = **Nomos**: law, custom, rule, or principle
  - First used in the Greek Septuagint, the first translation of the Hebrew bible into another language
  - When “nomos” [law] is used by Jewish writers of the “New Testament” it refers to the word Torah

# Root of Torah



Root word of Torah: **יָרַח** = **Yarah**

- Literally: “to shoot straight, to a target” (as in shooting an arrow), implying targeted direction/hitting the mark
- Figuratively: to show, to direct, to instruct

# YARA



# sin

*Hebrew: Chata  
Greek: Hartia*

*Meaning: To miss  
the mark, flawed*

# The Word of God



## Definition

- Law
  - The principles and commands of the Torah
- Lawlessness
  - The disregard or rejection of Torah as the law of God
- Sin
  - Disobeying God's law – not walking in the principles or commands of Torah



# Torah - The Foundation of Who We Are

## Matthew 5

17 “**DON'T THINK** that I have come **TO ABOLISH THE TORAH OR THE PROPHETS**. I have ~~come~~ not to abolish **BUT TO COMPLETE**.

Πληρόω – plēroō

to make replete, to cram (a net), to furnish, satisfy, execute (an office), verify, accomplish, complete, fulfil, fully preach, perfect, supply

Καταλύω – kataluō

down, disintegrate, to abolish, specifically to halt the night, destroy, dissolve, come to nought, overthrow



# Torah - The Foundation of Who We Are

## 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. [KJV]

Πληρόω – plēroō

To correctly interpret, teach, and obey it in both word and deed

Καταλύω – kataluō

Incorrectly interpret and teach it and thereby disobey it in both word and deed

# Torah - The Foundation of Who We Are



## Matthew 5

18 Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, NOT SO MUCH AS A YUD OR A STROKE WILL PASS FROM THE TORAH — not until everything that must happen has happened.



# Torah - The Foundation of Who We Are

## Matthew 5

18 Yes indeed! I tell you that until heaven and earth pass away, not so much as a **YUD** or a **STROKE** will pass from the Torah — not until everything that must happen has happened.



# Torah - The Foundation of Who We Are



## Matthew 5

19 So whoever **DISOBEYS THE LEAST OF THESE  
MITZVOT AND TEACHES OTHERS TO DO SO**

will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

But **WHOEVER OBEYS THEM AND SO TEACHES**

will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

# Torah – The Foundation of Who We Are



17 “Don’t think that I have come to **ABOLISH** **[destroy]** the Torah or the Prophets.

19 So whoever **DISOBEYS** the least of these mitzvot [commands] and **TEACHES** **OTHERS TO DO SO** **[destroys]** will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.



# Torah – The Foundation of Who We Are

17 I have come not to abolish but to **COMPLETE**  
**[fulfil]**.

19 But whoever **OBEYS**  
them and so **TEACHES**  
**[fulfils]** will be called great  
in the Kingdom of Heaven.



# The Word of God

## Matthew 4

1 Then the Spirit led Yeshua up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Adversary. 2 After Yeshua had fasted forty days and nights, he was hungry. 3 The Tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread.” 4 But he answered, “The Tanakh says, ‘Man does not live on bread alone,

**BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES**  
**FROM THE MOUTH OF ADONAI”**



# The Word of God

## Deuteronomy 8

1 “All the mitzvot [commands, instructions] I am giving you today you are to take care to obey... 2 You are to remember everything of the way in which Adonai led you these forty years in the desert, humbling and testing you in order to know what was in your heart — **WHETHER YOU WOULD OBEY HIS MITZVOT OR NOT.** 3 He humbled you, allowing you to become hungry, and then fed you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, **to make you understand that a person does not live on food alone BUT ON EVERYTHING THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF ADONAI.**

11 “Be careful not to forget Adonai your God **BY NOT OBEYING HIS MITZVOT, RULINGS AND REGULATIONS THAT I AM GIVING YOU TODAY.**



# b'Tselem Elohim – In His Image

## Genesis 1

26 Then God said, “Let Us make humankind **in OUR IMAGE, in the likeness of ourselves**; and let them rule over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the animals, and over all the earth, and over every crawling creature that crawls on the earth.” 27 So God created humankind **in HIS OWN IMAGE; in the IMAGE OF GOD**, He created him: male and female, He created them.

בצָלָם אֱלֹהִים

B'tselem Elohim



# The Word of God

## John 1

1 In the beginning was the **WORD**, and the **WORD**  
was with God, and **THE WORD WAS GOD.**



# b'Tselem Elohim – In His Image

## Leviticus 11

45 For I am Adonai, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. Therefore, **YOU ARE TO BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY.**

## Leviticus 19

1 Adonai said to Moshe, 2 “Speak to the entire community of Isra’el; tell them, ‘You people **ARE TO BE HOLY BECAUSE I, ADONAI YOUR GOD, AM HOLY.**

## Leviticus 20

7 Therefore consecrate yourselves — you people **MUST BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM ADONAI YOUR GOD.**



# The Word of God

## Exodus 24

1 To Moshe [Adonai] said, “Come up to Adonai — you, Aharon, Nadav, Avihu, and seventy of the leaders of Isra’el. Prostrate yourselves at a distance, 2 while Moshe alone approaches Adonai — the others are not to approach, and the people are not to go up with him.” 3 **Moshe came and told the people**

**EVERYTHING Adonai had said, INCLUDING ALL THE RULINGS.** The people answered with one voice: “We will **OBEY EVERY WORD** Adonai has spoken.” 4 Moshe **WROTE DOWN ALL THE WORDS** of Adonai.



# The Word of God

## Exodus 34

27 Adonai **SAID** to Moshe, “Write these **WORDS** down, because they are the terms of the covenant I have made with you and with Isra’el.” 28 Moshe was there with Adonai forty days and forty nights, during which time he neither ate food nor drank water. [Adonai] wrote on the tablets the **WORDS** of the covenant, the Ten **WORDS**.

# The Word of God



God and His Word are ONE and THE SAME  
God is HOLY

God's Word is HOLY

If we are to be HOLY as GOD IS HOLY, it follows that we  
are to obey (follow, align with, not deviate from)  
HIS WORDS – HIS TORAH

The only WORDS EVER DOCUMENTED that have come  
DIRECTLY out of GOD'S MOUTH were WRITTEN BY  
MOSES and designated as TORAH – and throughout  
scripture they are referred to as HIS WORD

# The Word of God



All of God's scripture is divinely inspired...there is nothing in the canonized bible that is not ordained by God. That said, the only WORDS dictated by God out of His mouth directly and commanded to be written down, studied, spoken about, proclaimed, and lived, IS THE Torah.

All else that is written is meant to point to Torah...to challenge and correct behavior that is outside of Torah, to instruct in the application of Torah.

# The Word of God



Obedience to Torah is “being holy as He is  
Holy”

Disobedience to Torah is the opposite

# The Torah & The Ruach



The letter to the Romans is Paul's  
doctrinal thesis

It is the basis of our theological  
understanding of the New  
Covenant

The letter to the Romans contains answers to some of the most important questions as to how to live as New Covenant believers

1. What is God's **MEASURE** of our  
obedience and holiness as New  
Covenant believers?

Paul's answer: TORAH

2. What is God's **MEANS** of our eternal relationship with God as New Covenant believers?

Paul's answer: FAITH – Trusting in the grace and mercy of God through the sacrifice of Yeshua

3. In light of our eternal relationship with God through trust in Yeshua, must we still keep Torah – are we still required to walk holy before God?

Paul's answer: Absolutely – nothing has changed

4. In light of the fact that we are desperately sinful and that no one has been able to keep the Torah perfectly, how is it possible for us to meet the requirement of keeping Torah – of being Holy as God is Holy?

Paul's answer: Not in our own strength – there's only one way to keep Torah...



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

5 But by your stubbornness, by your unrepentant heart, you are storing up anger for yourself on the Day of Anger, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed; 6 **FOR**

**HE WILL PAY BACK EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS**

**DEEDS**. 7 To those who seek glory, honor and

immortality **by perseverance in DOING GOOD**, he will pay back eternal life. 8 But to those who are self-seeking,

**who DISOBEY THE TRUTH AND OBEY EVIL**, he will

pay back wrath and anger.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

9 Yes, he will pay back misery and anguish to every human being who does evil, to the Jew first, then to the Gentile; 10 but glory and honor and shalom to everyone **who keeps DOING WHAT IS GOOD, to the Jew first, then to the Gentile.** 11 For God does not show favoritism.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

12 All who have **sinned (disobeyed Torah)** outside the framework of Torah will die outside the framework of Torah; and all who have **sinned (disobeyed Torah)** within the framework of Torah will be judged by Torah. 13 **For it is not merely the hearers of Torah whom God considers righteous; rather, IT IS THE DOERS OF WHAT TORAH SAYS WHO WILL BE MADE [ARE SEEN AS] RIGHTEOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT.**



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

14 For whenever Gentiles, who have no Torah, do naturally **WHAT THE TORAH REQUIRES**, then these, even though they don't have Torah, for themselves are Torah! 15 For their lives show that **THE CONDUCT THE TORAH DICTATES** is written in their hearts.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rest on Torah and boast about God 18 and know his will and give your approval to what is right, because you have been instructed from the Torah; 19 and if you have persuaded yourself that you are a guide to the blind, a light in the darkness, 20 an instructor for the spiritually unaware and a teacher of children,

**SINCE IN THE TORAH YOU  
HAVE THE EMBODIMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND  
TRUTH;**



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

21 then, you who teach others, don't you teach yourself? Preaching, "Thou shalt not steal," do you steal? 22 Saying, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? Detesting idols, do you commit idolatrous acts?

23 You who take such pride in Torah, do you, **BY DISOBEYING THE TORAH, DISHONOR GOD?** — 24 as it says in the Tanakh, "For it is because of you that God's name is blasphemed by the Goyim."



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

25 For circumcision is indeed of value **IF YOU DO WHAT TORAH SAYS**. But if you are a **transgressor of Torah (sin)**, your circumcision has become uncircumcision! 26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man **KEEPS THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE TORAH**, won't his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 27 Indeed, the man who is physically uncircumcised **BUT OBEYS THE TORAH** will stand as a judgment on you who have had a b'rit-milah (circumcision) and have Torah written out **BUT VIOLATE IT!**



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 2

28 For the real Jew is not merely Jewish outwardly: true circumcision is not only external and physical. 29 On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; **SO THAT HIS PRAISE COMES NOT FROM OTHER PEOPLE BUT FROM GOD.**

**Who is Paul talking to in this portion of Romans 2?**

**He's talking to Jews who think that circumcision without obedience to Torah is equal to righteousness. But only OBEDIENCE to Torah is the measure of righteousness, not merely circumcision.**



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

Romans 3

1 Then what advantage HAS THE JEW? What is THE  
VALUE OF BEING CIRCUMCISED?



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

**2 MUCH IN EVERY WAY!** In the first place, **the Jews**

**were entrusted WITH THE VERY WORDS OF**  
**GOD [TORAH]**. 3 If some of them were unfaithful,

so what? Does their faithlessness cancel God's  
faithfulness? 4 **HEAVEN FORBID**! God would be true  
even if everyone were a liar! — as the Tanakh says, “so  
that you, God, may be proved right in your words and win  
the verdict when you are put on trial.”



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

19 Moreover, we know that whatever the Torah says, it says to those living within the framework of the Torah, in order that every mouth may be stopped and the whole world be shown to deserve God's adverse judgment.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

20 For in his sight no one alive will be considered righteous on the ground of legalistic observance of Torah commands, because what Torah really does is show people how sinful (disobedient to Torah) they are.

Since it is impossible to keep the principles and laws of Torah perfectly, it is not possible that keeping Torah is the means to eternal relationship with God.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

21 But now, quite apart from Torah, God's way of making people righteous in his sight has been made clear — although the Torah and the Prophets give their witness to it as well — 22 and it is a righteousness that comes from God, through the faithfulness of Yeshua the Messiah, to all **WHO CONTINUE TRUSTING**. For it makes no difference whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, 23 since all have sinned (disobeyed Torah) and come short of earning God's praise.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

24 **BY GOD'S GRACE**, without earning it, all are granted the status of being considered righteous before him, through the act redeeming us from **our enslavement to sin (disobedience to Torah)** that was accomplished by the Messiah Yeshua. 25 God put Yeshua forward as the kapparah for **sin (disobedience to Torah)** through his faithfulness in respect to his bloody sacrificial death.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

This vindicated God's righteousness; because, in his forbearance, he had passed over [with neither punishment nor remission] the **sins (disobedience to Torah)** people had committed in the past; 26 and it vindicates his righteousness in the present age by showing that he is righteous himself and is also the one who makes people righteous **on the ground of Yeshua's faithfulness.**



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

27 So what room is left for boasting? None at all! What kind of Torah excludes it? One that has to do with legalistic observance of rules? No, rather, a Torah that has to do with trusting. 28 Therefore, we hold the view that a person comes to be considered righteous by God on the ground of trusting, which has nothing to do with legalistic observance of Torah commands.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

29 Or is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, he is indeed the God of the Gentiles; 30 because, as you will admit, God is one. Therefore, he will consider righteous the circumcised on the ground of trusting and the uncircumcised through that same trusting.



# Keeping Torah...Impossible?

## Romans 3

31

**DOES IT FOLLOW THAT WE ABOLISH TORAH BY THIS TRUSTING? HEAVEN FORBID! ON THE CONTRARY, WE CONFIRM TORAH.**

ἵστημι – histēmi  
continue, establish,  
hold up, stand up

Καταργέω – katargeō  
cease, destroy, do  
away, fail, put away  
(down), vanish away,  
make void

1. What is God's **MEASURE** of our  
obedience and holiness as New  
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