

TORAH...TORAH...

WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 4

Torah & The Spirit



# Torah



**Barchu** et Adonai ham'vorach!

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va'ed!

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech

ha'olam, asher bachar banu mikol

ha'amim, v'natan lanu et Torato.

Baruch atah, Adonai, notein haTorah.

**בָּרְכוּ-אֶת יי הַמְּבָרָךְ!**  
**בָּרוּךְ יי הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ  
הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל  
הָעַמִּים, וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ.  
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

**Bless** Adonai who is blessed!

Blessed is Adonai who is blessed forever and ever!

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has  
chosen us from all the peoples and given us Your Torah.

Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.



# Torah



## Definition

- Hebrew **תּוֹרָה** = **Torah**: instruction, doctrine, teaching, guidance, principles, law
- Root word **יָרָה** = **Yarah**: “to shoot straight into a target” (as in shooting an arrow), hitting the mark



# The Word of God



## Definition

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



# The Torah In Written Form

## – The Chumash –



- The Five books of Moses (Greek: Pentateuch)
  - Bereishiyt (Genesis), Shemot (Exodus), Vayikra (Leviticus), Bamidbar (Numbers), and Devarim (Deuteronomy)
- From the Hebrew חמש (Chamesh) = 5



# The Written Torah



- The word Torah: Used to refer to the Chumash or can be used to refer **to the entire Tanakh** (Hebrew Bible)
- The entire Hebrew Bible is often referred to in the New Covenant writings as the “Law & the Prophets”



# The Written Torah



- TaNaKh תנ"ך
- Torah [Chumash (Five Books of Moses)]
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Ketuvim (Writings)



# The Written Torah



- TaNaKh תנ"ך
- Torah
- Nevi'im
- Prophets

|                |                     |        |
|----------------|---------------------|--------|
| נביאים ראשונים | <i>Joshua</i> ..... | יהושע  |
|                | <i>Judges</i> ..... | שופטים |
|                | <i>Samuel</i> ..... | שמואל  |
|                | <i>Kings</i> .....  | מלכים  |

|                |       |                        |        |
|----------------|-------|------------------------|--------|
| נביאים אחרונים | Major | <i>Isaiab</i> .....    | ישעיהו |
|                |       | <i>Jeremiah</i> .....  | ירמיהו |
|                |       | <i>Ezekiel</i> .....   | יחזקאל |
|                | Minor | <i>Hosea</i> .....     | הושע   |
|                |       | <i>Joel</i> .....      | יואל   |
|                |       | <i>Amos</i> .....      | עמוס   |
|                |       | <i>Obadiab</i> .....   | עבדיה  |
|                |       | <i>Jonah</i> .....     | יונה   |
|                |       | <i>Micah</i> .....     | מיכה   |
|                |       | <i>Nabum</i> .....     | נחום   |
|                |       | <i>Habakuk</i> .....   | חבקוק  |
|                |       | <i>Zephaniab</i> ..... | צפניה  |
|                |       | <i>Haggai</i> .....    | חגי    |
|                |       | <i>Zachariah</i> ..... | זכריה  |
|                |       | <i>Malachi</i> .....   | מלאכי  |



# The Written Torah



- Tanakh תנ"ך
- Torah
- Nevi'im
- Ketuvim
- Writings


|                  |     |                            |            |
|------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Wisdom</i>    | — [ | <i>Psalms</i> .....        | תהלים      |
|                  |     | <i>Proverbs</i> .....      | משלי       |
|                  |     | <i>Job</i> .....           | איוב       |
| <i>Megillot</i>  | — [ | <i>Song of Songs</i> ..... | שיר השירים |
|                  |     | <i>Ruth</i> .....          | רות        |
|                  |     | <i>Lamentations</i> .....  | איכה       |
|                  |     | <i>Ecclesiastes</i> .....  | קהלת       |
|                  |     | <i>Esther</i> .....        | אסתר       |
| <i>Histories</i> | — [ | <i>Daniel</i> .....        | דניאל      |
|                  |     | <i>Ezra</i> .....          | עזרא       |
|                  |     | <i>Nehemiah</i> .....      | נחמיה      |
|                  |     | <i>Chronicles</i> .....    | דברי הימים |



# Why Do Religiously Inclined Jews Revere The Torah?







# Sefer Torah



# Sefer Torah



- The Torah Scroll
  - Made from a series of connected kosher animal parchments (k'laf) sewn together
  - Written in “kosher” ink made with gallnut powder, gum Arabic crystals, copper sulfate crystals, and fine black carbon powder
  - Handwritten by a specially trained scribe (Sofer) who must know over 4,000 laws before even starting to write
  - It is kept in a holy ark (Aron Kodesh) in a synagogue and is treated with extreme reverence
  - The entire process takes a Sofer—working full time—about one year to complete



# Sefer Torah



- Every day the Sofer makes special preparations before beginning his work
  - First, he must immerse in a mikvah (ritual bath)
  - Then he spends some time in silent meditation as he contemplates the significance of the task ahead
  - The entire process must be done with the intent that it is for the sake of heaven and not for his own sense of personal achievement
- There are 304,805 letters in a complete scroll and each letter must be exact and perfect, or the entire scroll is considered unworthy



# Sefer Torah



## Rules of the soferim

- The top margin must be four fingerbreadths
- The bottom margin must be three fingerbreadths
- The space between each column must be two fingers wide
- Each column contains forty-two lines of text
- Each line of the column is thirty-two letters wide
- Each book of the Torah is separated by four empty lines



## What is antinomianism?

It literally means “against the law” in Greek. It is the belief that Christians are freed by grace from the obligation to obey moral or religious laws, specifically the laws contained in the Torah.

It argues that faith alone replaces the need for adhering to the Mosaic law. It is often viewed as the opposite extreme to legalism.



# Does antinomianism support grace?

It does not strengthen grace. It cheapens and compromises grace, mistaking it for liberty and neglects God's enduring means of accountability – Torah.

Neglecting the principles and commands of God in Torah clearly promotes an excuse for sin and a denial of the consequences of disobedience.



# Against The Law



How does one respond to someone who says  
that the Torah is no longer valid?





# Sin and Torah



As a believer, is it ever OK to sin?

What is Sin?

How do you know what sin is?

How do you know if you are  
committing a sin?





# *Sin*

***Hebrew: Chata***

***Greek: Hartia***

***Meaning: To miss  
the mark, flawed***



# Sin and Torah



## 1 John 2

1 My children, **I am writing you these things SO THAT YOU WON'T SIN.**

But **if anyone does sin, we have Yeshua the Messiah,** the Tzaddik, who pleads our cause with the Father.

2 Also, **he is the kapparah for our sins** — and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.



# Sin and Torah



## 1 John 2

3 The way WE CAN BE SURE we know him is IF  
WE ARE OBEYING HIS COMMANDS.

*Obedience to Torah is God's MEASURE of our holiness*

4 Anyone who says, "I know him," BUT ISN'T  
OBEYING HIS COMMANDS IS A LIAR — THE  
TRUTH is not in him.



# Sin and Torah



## 1 John 2

5 But if someone **KEEPS DOING WHAT HE SAYS**,  
then truly **love for God has been brought to its goal**  
**in him**. This is **HOW WE ARE SURE THAT WE**  
**ARE UNITED WITH HIM**.

6 A person who claims to be continuing in union  
with him **OUGHT TO CONDUCT HIS LIFE THE**  
**WAY HE DID**.



# Sin and Torah



## 1 John 2

7 Dear friends, I am **not writing you a new command**. On the contrary, it is an old command, **WHICH YOU HAVE HAD FROM THE BEGINNING**; the old command **IS THE MESSAGE** which you have heard before.



# Sin and Torah



## 1 John 2

28 And now, children, **REMAIN UNITED WITH HIM**; so that when he appears, we may have confidence and **not shrink back from Him in shame at his coming**. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you should also know that he is the Father of everyone **WHO DOES WHAT IS RIGHT**.

5 But if someone **KEEPS DOING WHAT HE SAYS**, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is **HOW WE ARE SURE THAT WE ARE UNITED WITH HIM**.



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

7 Therefore, what are we to say? That the Torah is sinful? Heaven forbid! Rather, **the function of the Torah was that without it, I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN WHAT SIN IS**. For example, I would not have become conscious of what greed is if the Torah had not said, “Thou shalt not covet.”



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me; and through the commandment, sin killed me. 12 So **THE TORAH IS HOLY**; that is, **THE COMMANDMENT IS HOLY, JUST AND GOOD**.



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

13 Then did something good become for me the source of death? Heaven forbid! Rather, it was sin working death in me through something good, **SO THAT SIN MIGHT BE CLEARLY EXPOSED AS SIN**, so that sin through the commandment might come to be **EXPERIENCED AS SINFUL BEYOND MEASURE.**



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

14 For we know that **THE TORAH IS OF THE SPIRIT**; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, **SOLD TO SIN AS A SLAVE**.

15 I don't understand my own behavior — I don't do what I want to do; instead, I do the very thing I hate!

16 Now if I am doing what I don't want to do, **I AM AGREEING THAT THE TORAH IS GOOD**.



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

21 So I find it to be the rule, a kind of perverse  
“torah,” that although **I WANT TO DO WHAT IS  
GOOD**, evil is right there with me!

*“I am agreeing that the Torah is good.”*

*Doing what is good is obeying Torah!*



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

21 So I find it to be the rule, a kind of perverse “torah,” that although **I WANT TO DO WHAT IS GOOD**, evil is right there with me!

22 For in my inner self **I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH GOD’S TORAH**; 23 but in my various parts, I see a different “torah,” one that battles with the Torah in my mind and makes me a prisoner of sin’s “torah,” which is operating in my various parts.



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

24 What a miserable creature I am! **WHO WILL RESCUE ME** from this body bound for death?

25 Thanks be to God [he will]! — through Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord! To sum up: with my mind, I am a slave of God's Torah; but with my old nature, I am a slave of sin's "Torah..."



# Sin and Torah



## Romans 7

25 ...To sum up: with my mind, I am a slave of **GOD'S**  
**TORAH**; but with my old nature, I am a slave of  
**SIN'S "TORAH."**

14 For we know that

**[GOD'S] TORAH IS OF THE SPIRIT**



# Torah And The Ruach



## Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua. 2 Why? Because

**THE TORAH OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH PRODUCES THIS LIFE IN UNION WITH MESSIAH YESHUA**, has set me free from the “Torah” of sin and death.



# Torah And The Ruach



## Jeremiah 31

30 (31) “Here, the days are coming,” says Adonai, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra’el and with the house of Y’hudah. 31 (32) It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them,” says Adonai.



# Torah And The Ruach

פָּרַר – pârar



## Jeremiah 31

because they, for their part, **VIOLATED** my covenant,

to break, to violate,  
frustrate, cast off,  
disappoint, dissolve,  
divide, make of none  
effect

## Deuteronomy 31

16 Adonai said to Moshe, “You are about to sleep with your ancestors. But this people will **BREAK** and offer themselves as prostitutes to the foreign gods of the land where they are going. When they are with those gods, they will abandon me and **BREAK** my covenant which I have made

פָּרַר – pârar  
to break, to violate,  
frustrate, cast off,  
disappoint, dissolve,  
divide, make of none  
effect



# Torah And The Ruach



## Jeremiah 31

32 (33) “For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra’el after those days,” says Adonai: “**I WILL PUT MY TORAH within them and write it on their hearts**; I will be their God, and they will be my people. 33 (34) No longer will any of them teach his fellow community member or his brother, ‘Know Adonai’; for all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest; **because I will forgive their wickednesses and remember their sins no more.**”



# Torah And The Ruach



## Romans 8

3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate, God did by sending his own Son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [but without sin]. God did this in order to deal with sin, and in so doing he executed the punishment against sin in human nature, 4 **so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us** who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants



# Torah And The Ruach



## Romans 8

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