

# TORAH...TORAH...

## WHAT IS TORAH?

### Part 5

## The Chicken Or The Egg?



# 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 הַמְבָרֵךְ!**

בָּרוּךְ יי הַמְבָרֵךְ 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.



# Soteriology



The study of religious doctrines of salvation

What do Christians believe is the means to salvation?



# Salvation



What is salvation?

An eternal intimate relationship with the Creator rather than eternal separation and judgment

John 3

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but rather so that through him, the world might be saved.



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# Christian Soteriology (Protestant)



What do Christians believe is the means to salvation?

8 For you have been delivered **BY GRACE** through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but **GOD'S GIFT**. 9 You were **NOT DELIVERED BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS**; therefore, no one should boast.



# Jewish Soteriology?



What is the most prevalent Christian belief of what the Jewish means of salvation is?

Keeping the law: obeying Torah

The typical Christian view is that Jews believe that legalistic observance of Torah is the means to salvation



# Jewish Soteriology?



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What is the result of this view in terms of Christians understanding of Torah?



# Jewish Soteriology?



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What is the result of this view in terms of Christians understanding of Torah?

The Torah is no longer valid...

Since the coming of Jesus, the means to salvation **HAS CHANGED** from legalism to grace



# Jewish Soteriology?



Where does this idea come from...

1) ...that the Jews believe that the means of salvation is legalistic observance of Torah?

and

2) ...that the Torah is no longer “necessary” – no longer valid – since the coming of Jesus?

Could it be a complete and utter misreading of what both Jesus as well as Paul taught?



# Jewish Soteriology?



What if someone told you that Jewish theology  
NEVER believed that legalistic observance of Torah  
was the means to an eternal relationship with God?

Would you believe him?



# Jewish Soteriology?



What if someone told you that neither Jesus nor Paul  
EVER taught that Jewish theology teaches that  
legalistic observance of Torah is the means to an  
eternal relationship with God?

Would you believe him?

And would you still believe the Torah was obsolete?



# Soteriology In Torah



When was the eternal relationship between God and the Jewish people first mentioned?



# Soteriology In Torah



## Genesis 12

Now Adonai said to Avram, “Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 **I will make of you** a great nation, **I will bless you**, and **I will make your name great**; and you are to be a blessing. 3 **I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you**; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”



# Soteriology In Torah



## Genesis 13

14 Adonai said to Avram...“Look all around you from where you are, to the north, the south, the east and the west. 15 All the land you see **I will give to you and your descendants forever**, 16 and **I will make your descendants** as numerous as the specks of dust on the earth — so that if a person can count the specks of dust on the earth, then your descendants can be counted. 17 Get up and walk through the length and breadth of the land, because I will give it to you.”



# Soteriology In Torah



## Genesis 17

1 When Avram was 99 years old Adonai appeared to Avram and said to him, "I am El Shaddai [God Almighty]. Walk in my presence and be pure-hearted. 2 **I will make my covenant** between me and you, and **I will increase your numbers** greatly." 3 Avram fell on his face, and God continued speaking with him: 4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations. 5 Your name will no longer be Avram [exalted father], but your name will be Avraham [father of many], **because I have made you** the father of many nations.



# Soteriology In Torah



## Genesis 17

6 **I will cause you** to be very fruitful. **I will make** nations of you; kings will descend from you. 7 “**I am establishing my covenant** between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation,

**AS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT, TO**  
**BE GOD FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR**  
**DESCENDANTS AFTER YOU.**



# Soteriology In Torah



## Genesis 17

8 **I will give you** and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land of Kena'an, as a permanent possession; and **I WILL BE THEIR GOD.**”

9 **God said to Avraham, “As for you, you are to keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation after generation.**



# Soteriology In Torah



What did God require of Avraham BEFORE he and his descendants were promised an ETERNAL Covenant?

**NOTHING!**



# Soteriology In Torah



What did God require of Avraham AFTER he and his descendants were given an ETERNAL Covenant?

**OBEDIENCE**



# Soteriology In Torah



God's relationship with Avraham and Avraham's descendants is ETERNAL.

His promise to be their God is based on His grace – His unmerited favor.

There is nothing Avraham or his descendants are required to do to receive God's PERPETUAL commitment.

Only after the relationship was consecrated by God did He place any requirements on Avraham to keep the covenant.



# Soteriology In Torah



What about the Mosaic Covenant?

Genesis 15

12 As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell on Avram; horror and great darkness came over him. 13 Adonai said to Avram, “Know this for certain: your descendants will be foreigners in a land that is not theirs. They will be slaves and held in oppression there four hundred years. 14 But I will also judge that nation, the one that makes them slaves. Afterwards, they will leave with many possessions.



# Soteriology In Torah



What did the Israelites, the promised descendants of Avraham, do to earn a relationship with God?

What did they do to earn His redemption?

What did God require of Israel for Him to SAVE them out of slavery in Egypt?



# Soteriology In Torah



Exodus 6:6

Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Adonai. **I WILL FREE YOU** from the forced labor of the Egyptians, **RESCUE YOU** from their oppression, and **REDEEM YOU** with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

Exodus 13:3

Moshe said to the people, "Remember this day, on which you left Egypt, the abode of slavery; **BECAUSE ADONAI, BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS HAND**, has brought you out of this place.



# Soteriology In Torah

## The First “Commandment”



Exodus 20:2

I am Adonai your God, **WHO BROUGHT YOU**  
**OUT** of the land of Egypt, out of the abode of  
slavery.



# Soteriology In Torah



What did God require of Israel BEFORE He  
SAVED them from slavery in Egypt?

**NOTHING!**



# Soteriology In Torah



Jeremiah 31

2 Thus says the Lord:

“The people who survived the sword

**FOUND GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS;**

when Israel sought for rest,

3 the Lord appeared to him from far away.

**I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE;**

therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you.



# Soteriology In Torah



## The Giving of Torah

### Genesis 19

3 Moshe went up to God, and Adonai called to him from the mountain: “Here is what you are to say to the household of Ya‘akov, to tell the people of Isra’el:

4 **‘YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT I DID TO THE EGYPTIANS, AND HOW I CARRIED YOU ON EAGLES’ WINGS AND BROUGHT YOU TO MYSELF.**



# Soteriology In Torah



What did God require of Israel BEFORE He gave them the Torah?

**NOTHING!**



# Soteriology In Torah



## The Giving of Torah

### Exodus 19 (ESV)

5 **NOW THEREFORE**, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and **you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”



# Soteriology In Torah



What did God require of Israel AFTER He gave them the Torah?

**OBEDIENCE!**



# The Torah



1 “Now, Isra’el, listen to the **laws** and **rulings** I am teaching you, **in order to FOLLOW them**, so that you will live; then you will go in and take possession of the land that Adonai, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 In order to **OBEY** the **mitzvot** of Adonai your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it. 3 You saw with your own eyes what Adonai did at Ba‘al-P‘or, that Adonai destroyed from among you all the men who followed Ba‘al-P‘or; 4 but you who stuck with Adonai your God are still alive today, every one of you. 5 Look, I have taught you **laws** and **rulings**, just as Adonai my God ordered me, **so that you can behave** accordingly in the land where you are going in order to take possession of it. 6 Therefore, **observe** them; and **follow** them; **for then all peoples will see you as having wisdom and understanding. When they hear of all these laws, they will say, ‘This great nation is surely a wise and understanding people.’**



# The Torah



7 For what great nation is there that has God as close to them as Adonai our God is, whenever we call on him? 8 What great nation is there that has laws and rulings as just as **THIS ENTIRE TORAH** which I am setting before you today?

9 Only **be careful**, and **watch yourselves diligently** as long as you live, so that you **won't forget** what you saw with your own eyes, so that **these things won't vanish from your hearts**. Rather, make them known to your children and grandchildren — 10 the day you stood before Adonai your God at Horev, when Adonai said to me, 'Gather the people to me, and **I will make them hear my very words, so that they will learn to hold me in awe as long as they live on earth, and so that they will teach their children.**'



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



Whether we are the eternal covenant with Avraham and his descendants, or the Mosaic covenant with Avraham's descendants...

GOD'S GRACE – HIS UNMERITED FAVOR – WAS  
THE MEANS OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH  
THEM.

ONLY THEN DID HE REQUIRE OBEDIENCE



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



...AND WHAT ABOUT THE NEW  
COVENANT?



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



Jeremiah 31 – The New Covenant

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.



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



Jeremiah 31 – The New Covenant

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.**”



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



Jeremiah 31 – The New Covenant

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.**"



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What was REQUIRED of the descendants of Avraham by God BEFORE the New Covenant was given?

**NOTHING!!!**



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What does Paul teach is required of New Covenant believers as the means to salvation?

Ephesians 2

8 For you have been **DELIVERED BY GRACE** through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but **GOD'S GIFT**. 9 You were **NOT DELIVERED BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS**; therefore, no one should boast.



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What does Paul teach is required AFTER salvation by is given by grace?

Ephesians 2

8 For you have been delivered **BY GRACE** through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but **GOD'S GIFT**. 9 You were **NOT DELIVERED BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS**; therefore, no one should boast.

**10 FOR WE ARE OF GOD'S MAKING, CREATED IN UNION WITH THE MESSIAH YESHUA FOR A LIFE OF GOOD ACTIONS ALREADY PREPARED BY GOD FOR US TO DO.**



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What does Paul teach is required AFTER salvation by is given by grace?

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8 For you have been delivered **BY GRACE** through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but **GOD'S GIFT**. 9 You were **NOT DELIVERED BY YOUR OWN ACTIONS**; therefore, no one should boast.

**10 FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.**



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What is first in the New Covenant?

**RELATIONSHIP IS CONFIRMED!**

**GRACE IS GIVEN!**

**UNMERITED FAVOR IS PROVIDED!**

**REDEMPTION FROM SIN COMES FIRST!**



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



What does God require AFTER the New Covenant relationship is established?

**OBEDIENCE!!**



# The Chicken Or The Egg?



Malachi 3

6 “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

Numbers 23:19

9 God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Hebrews 13:8

8 Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever.



# Paul & Jewish Soteriology



## 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; 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." 25 For circumcision is indeed of value if you do what Torah says. But if you are a transgressor of Torah, 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 and have Torah written out but violate it! 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.