



TORAH...TORAH...

WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 6

What About Love?

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.

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יי הַמְּבָרָךְ!
בְּרוּךְ יי הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

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

What is Soteriology?



The study of religious doctrines of salvation

– It asks the following question –

What is the **MEANS** to an eternal relationship with God in a particular belief system?

Jewish Soteriology?



The Torah **NEVER** teaches that legalistic observance of its laws and commands is the **MEANS** to an eternal relationship with God.

What is Jewish Soteriology?



What does the Torah teach us is the means to an eternal relationship with God?

Jewish Soteriology?



The Torah teaches that God provided the means to an eternal relationship with Abraham and his descendants AS A GIFT based entirely on God's grace – His unmerited favor –

Soteriology In Torah



Genesis 17

7 “**I AM ESTABLISHING** my covenant between me and you, **along with your descendants after you,** generation after generation, **AS AN EVERLASTING COVENANT [B’rit Olam], 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 ask of Avraham AFTER he and his descendants were promised an ETERNAL Covenant?

OBEDIENCE

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

Exodus 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

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 ask of Israel AFTER He gave them the Torah?

OBEDIENCE!

Soteriology In Torah



God's relationship with Avraham and Israel is ETERNAL.

His promise of relationship – to be their God – is and always has been 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 of obedience on Avraham through circumcision or his descendants through Torah.

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 is first in the New Covenant?

RELATIONSHIP IS CONFIRMED!

GRACE IS GIVEN!

UNMERITED FAVOR IS PROVIDED!

REDEMPTION FROM SIN COMES FIRST!

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



If the Torah was never the **MEANS** to relationship with God, what did Jesus teach about the purpose of Torah?

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship



Annul, make
of no effect

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**.

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

Fulfill, Unveil,
Exemplify

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



ABOLISHES

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.

FULFILLS

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



Matthew 5

20 For I tell you that **UNLESS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS IS FAR GREATER** than that of the Torah-teachers and P'rushim, you will certainly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

What is Yeshua saying here?

“Unless the **MEASURE** of your relationship with God is FAR GREATER than that of...”

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



Jesus taught that the Torah is not the means
but the **MEASURE** of the healthiness of
your relationship with God?

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



...JESUS AFFIRMED THAT...

EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
NEW COVENANT, FOLLOWING AND
TEACHING TORAH REMAINS THE
MEASURE OF TRUE
RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Measure Of Relationship



If you could describe a **MUTUALLY HEALTHY** and **INTIMATE** relationship in one word, what would that word be?

The Measure Of Relationship



LOVE

The Measure Of Relationship



John 3

14 Just as Moshe lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life.

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.

The Measure Of Relationship



1 John 4

19 We ourselves love now because
he loved us first.

The Measure Of Relationship



Matthew 22

36 “Rabbi, which of the mitzvot in the Torah is the most important?” 37 He told him, “YOU

ARE TO LOVE ADONAI YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’

The Measure Of Relationship



Matthew 22

38 This is the greatest and most important mitzvah. 39 And a second is similar to it, 'You are to **love your neighbor** as yourself.'

The Measure Of Relationship



Matthew 22

40 **ALL OF THE TORAH AND THE
PROPHETS ARE DEPENDENT ON
THESE TWO MITZVOT.”**

The Measure Of Relationship



What is the **MEASURE** of our relationship with God?

What is the **MEASURE** of our intimacy with God?

What is the **MEASURE** of our love for God?

The Measure Of Relationship



John 14

15 “If you love me, you will keep my
commands;

The Measure Of Relationship



John 14

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him.

The Measure Of Relationship



John 14

23 Yeshua answered him, “If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Someone who doesn’t love me doesn’t keep my words

The Measure Of Relationship



Deuteronomy 6

1 “Now this is the mitzvah, the laws and rulings which Adonai your God ordered me to teach you for you to obey in the land you are crossing over to possess, 2 so that you will fear Adonai your God and observe all his regulations and mitzvot that I am giving you — you, your child and your grandchild — as long as you live, and so that you will have long life.

The Measure Of Relationship



Deuteronomy 6

3 Therefore listen, Isra'el, and take care to obey, so that things will go well with you, and so that you will increase greatly, as Adonai, the God of your ancestors, promised you by giving you a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 "Sh'ma, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad [Hear, Isra'el! Adonai our God, Adonai is one];

The Measure Of Relationship



Deuteronomy 6

5 and you are to love Adonai your God with all your heart, all your being and all your resources.
6 These words, which I am ordering you today, are to be on your heart; 7 and you are to teach them carefully to your children.

The Measure Of Relationship



Deuteronomy 6

You are to talk about them when you sit at home, when you are traveling on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them on your hand as a sign, put them at the front of a headband around your forehead, 9 and write them on the door-frames of your house and on your gates.

Torah – Means or Measure of Relationship?



ABOLISHES

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.

FULFILLS

The Measure Of Relationship



Matthew 22

40 **ALL OF THE TORAH AND THE
PROPHETS ARE DEPENDENT ON
THESE TWO MITZVOT.”**

And Then Came Paul...

Paul & Jewish Soteriology



As exhibited in the book of Romans:

- Paul is thoroughly Jewish
- Paul wrote entirely within the context of Judaism
- Paul gave priority to Israel and was even willing to give his life in the place of the Jewish people in the tradition of Moses
- Paul's goal was to ensure the Jewish people's irrevocable stature as God's beloved for whom restoration is certain

Paul & Jewish Soteriology



- Paul's dispute was not with righteous Torah-observant behavior
- Paul never suggested that Jews who pursued Torah sincerely did so to win God's favor
- Paul asserted that the Torah was God's gift to Israel, his covenant people and that Jews observe Torah in response to God's mercy as a privileged obligation (Romans 2; 3:2, 31; 7:12-14; 11:28-29)

Paul & Jewish Soteriology



- Paul's problem was with a Jewish ethnocentric exclusivism that denied equal access to God's mercy for non-Jews
- He has issue with the “works of the Law” by which Jewish privilege became a weapon instead of a tool, a sword instead of a plowshare (Romans 3:27-30; 9:30-10:4; 11:6)
- To Paul, the purpose of Israel's special call was in the service of universal redemption, not triumphant exclusivism

The Chicken Or The Egg?



What does Paul teach is required BEFORE salvation is provided?

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