



**TORAH...TORAH...**

**WHAT IS TORAH?**

**Part 10**

**Will The Real Paul Please Stand Up**

# Torah – To Obey & To Teach



## Matthew 5

17 **“DON’T THINK that I have come TO ABOLISH [DESTROY] THE TORAH OR THE PROPHETS. I have come not to abolish BUT TO COMPLETE [FULFILL].**

# Torah – To Obey & To Teach



## 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 – To Obey & To Teach



## 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 – To Obey & To Teach



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** will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven.

# Torah – To Obey & To Teach



**ABOLISHING OR  
DESTROYING TORAH  
IS DEFINED BY YESHUA AS  
DISOBEYING IT AND  
TEACHING OTHERS TO  
DISOBEY IT**

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# Torah – To Obey & To Teach



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.

# Torah – To Obey & To Teach



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**FULFILLING OR  
COMPLETING TORAH  
IS DEFINED BY YESHUA AS  
OBEYING IT AND  
TEACHING OTHERS TO  
OBEY IT**

# What About Gentiles?



In preparation for the next few weeks:

Study Acts 15, 21-24

Study Romans 8

Study Matthew 6

Study Matthew 13

# Paul & Torah



Will the real Paul please stand up?

# Paul & Torah



## 2 Peter 3

14 Therefore, dear friends, as you look for these things (the Messiah's return), **do everything you can to be found by him without spot or defect and at peace.** 15 And think of our Lord's patience as deliverance, just as our dear brother Sha'ul also wrote you, following the wisdom God gave him. 16 Indeed, he speaks about these things in all his letters. **They contain some things that are hard to understand, THINGS WHICH THE UNINSTRUCTED AND UNSTABLE DISTORT, TO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION, as they do the other Scriptures.**

# What About Paul?



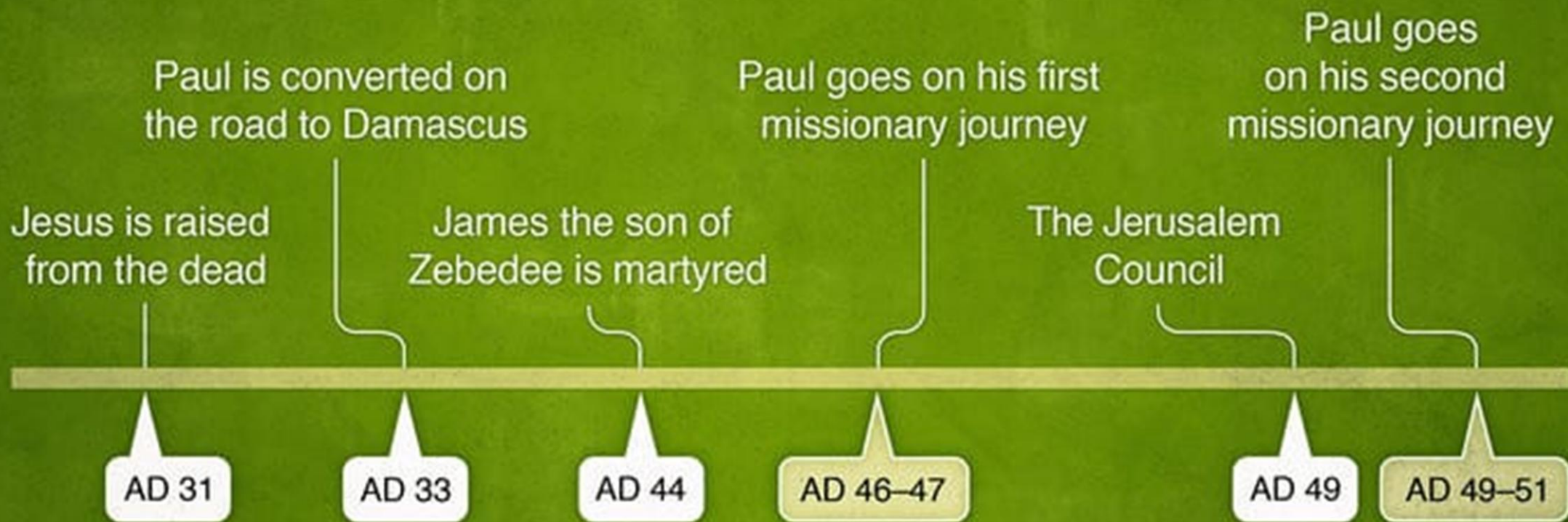
Didn't Paul abandon his "Jewishness" after he was "saved" on the road to Damascus? Didn't He convert?

Didn't Paul stop keeping the Torah after he was "saved"?

Didn't he teach that keeping the Torah was legalism and contrary to God's grace and the New Covenant?

# TIMELINE

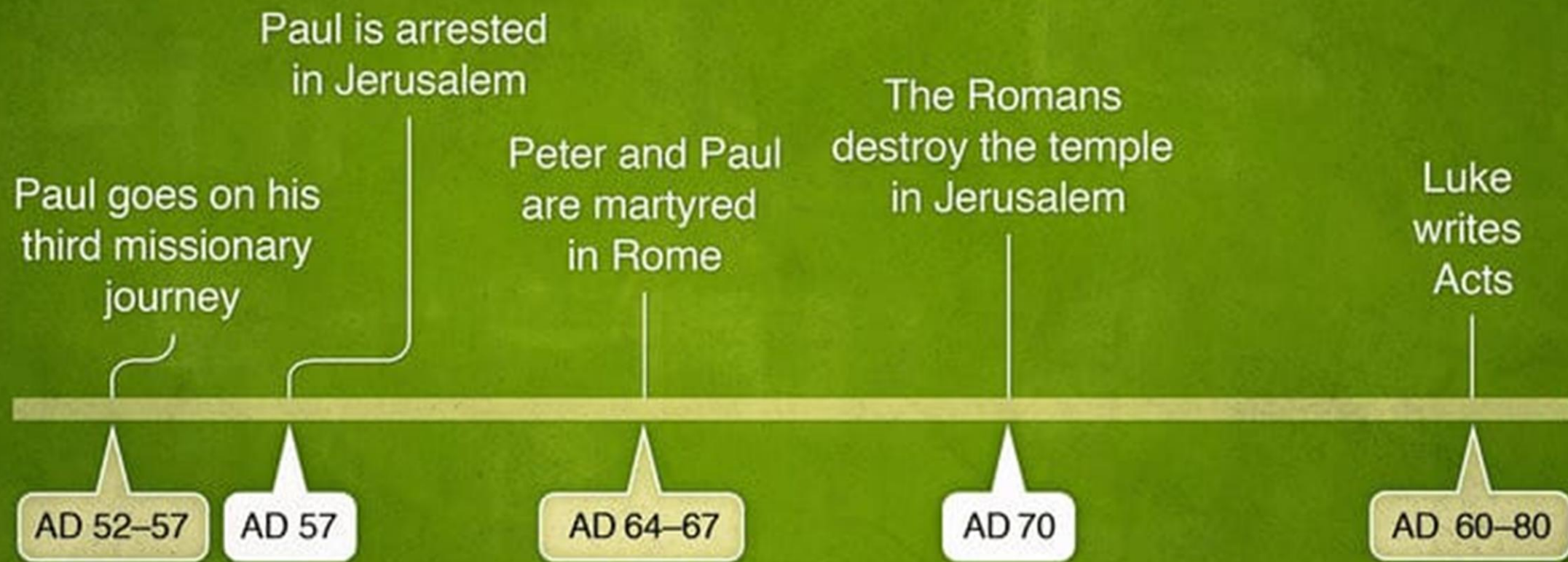
# ACTS



\* All dates are approximate

# TIMELINE CONTINUED

ACTS



\* All dates are approximate

# Paul, The Jew



Acts 22

3 “**I AM A JEW**, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city and trained at the feet of Gamli’el in every detail of the Torah of our forefathers. I was a zealot for God, as all of you are today.

Acts 23

6 But knowing that one part of the Sanhedrin consisted of Tz’dukim and the other of P’rushim, Sha’ul shouted, “Brothers, **I myself AM A PARUSH [pharisee]** and the son of P’rushim...”

# Paul, The Jew



## Philippians 3

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 **circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; AS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS UNDER THE LAW [TORAH], BLAMELESS.**

# Paul, The Jew



Romans 11

1 “In that case, I say, isn’t it that God has repudiated his people?”  
Heaven forbid! For **I myself AM A SON OF ISRA’EL, from the  
seed of Avraham, of the tribe of Binyamin.**

2 Corinthians 11

But if anyone dares to boast about something — I’m talking like  
a fool! — I am just as daring. 22 Are they Hebrew-speakers? **So  
am I.** Are they of the people of Isra’el? **So am I.** Are they  
descendants of Avraham? **So am I.**

# Acts 16



1 Sha'ul came down to Derbe and went on to Lystra, where there lived a talmid named Timothy. He was the son of a Jewish woman who had come to trust, and a Greek father. 2 All the brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of Timothy. 3 **SHA'UL WANTED TIMOTHY TO ACCOMPANY HIM; SO, HE TOOK HIM AND DID A B'RIT-MILAH (CIRCUMCISION)**, because of the Jews living in those areas; for they all knew that his father had been a Greek.

# Acts 21



17 In Yerushalayim, the brothers received us warmly.

18 The next day Sha'ul and the rest of us went to Ya'akov, and all the elders were present. 19 After greeting them, Sha'ul described in detail each of the things God had done among the Gentiles through his efforts. 20 On hearing it, they praised God; but they also said to him, "You see, brother, **HOW**

**MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BELIEVERS THERE ARE AMONG THE JUDEANS, AND THEY ARE ALL ZEALOTS FOR THE TORAH.**

# Acts 21



21 Now what **THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD** about you is that **you are teaching all the Jews living among the Goyim TO APOSTASIZE FROM MOSHE, telling them not to have a b'rit-milah for their sons and not to follow the traditions.** 22 “What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

# Acts 21



22 “What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. 23 So do what we tell you.

We have four men who are under a vow. 24 Take them with you, be purified with them, and pay the expenses connected with having their heads shaved.

**Then everyone will know that THERE IS NOTHING TO THESE RUMORS which they have heard about you; but that, ON THE CONTRARY, YOU YOURSELF STAY IN LINE AND KEEP THE TORAH.**

# Acts 21



26 The next day Sha'ul took the men, **PURIFIED HIMSELF** along with them and **ENTERED THE TEMPLE** to give notice of when the period of purification would be finished and **THE OFFERING WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE** for each of them.

# Sanhedrin



- The Sanhedrin of Paul's time was the supreme Jewish religious, legal, and political council in Jerusalem.
- It was composed of 71 leading priests, elders, scribes and presided over by the High Priest.
- It was composed of a mix of Tzedukim (Sadducees – the priestly aristocracy) and Perushim (Pharisees – the Torah legal experts).
- Under Roman supervision, they managed Jewish internal affairs, with high authority on religious law, though their power to execute judgment was restricted.

# Acts 23



1 Sha'ul looked straight at them (his accusers from the Sanhedrin) and said, “Brothers, **I HAVE BEEN**

**DISCHARGING MY OBLIGATIONS TO GOD WITH A PERFECTLY CLEAR CONSCIENCE, RIGHT UP UNTIL**

**TODAY.**” 2 But the cohen hagadol, Hananyah, ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. 3

Then Sha'ul said to him, “God will strike you; you whitewashed wall! Will you sit there judging me according to the Torah, yet in violation of the Torah order me to be struck?”

# Acts 23



4 The men nearby said, “This is the cohen hagadol of God that you’re insulting!” 5 Sha’ul said, “I didn’t know, brothers, that he was the cohen hagadol; for it says in the Torah, ‘You are not to speak disparagingly of a ruler of your people.’”

Exodus 22:27(28) – “You are not to curse God, and you are not to curse a leader of your people.”

# Acts 28



17 After three days Sha'ul called a meeting of the local Jewish leaders. When they had gathered, he said to them: “Brothers, although **I HAVE DONE NOTHING AGAINST EITHER OUR PEOPLE OR THE TRADITIONS OF OUR FATHERS**, I was made a prisoner in Yerushalayim and handed over to the Romans.

# Acts 28



21 They said to him, “We have not received any letters about you from Y’hudah, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. 22 But we do think it would be appropriate to hear your views from you, yourself; for all we know about this sect is that people everywhere speak against it.”

# Acts 28



23 So they arranged a day with him and came to his quarters in large numbers. From morning until evening, he explained the matter to them, **giving a thorough witness about the Kingdom of God and MAKING USE OF BOTH THE TORAH OF MOSHE AND THE PROPHETS to persuade them about Yeshua.** 24 Some were convinced by what he said, 25 while others refused to believe.

# The Jerusalem Council



Freeing Gentiles from the Torah?

...Or...

Freeing Gentiles to grow in Torah?

# Acts 15



1 But some men came down from Y'hudah [Judea] to Antioch and began teaching the brothers, "**YOU CAN'T BE SAVED UNLESS** you undergo b'rit-milah [circumcision] in the manner prescribed by Moshe."

2 This brought them into no small measure of **discord and dispute with Sha'ul and Bar-Nabba**. So, **the congregation** assigned Sha'ul, Bar-Nabba and some of themselves to go and put this **sh'eilah** before the emissaries and the elders up in Yerushalayim.

# Acts 15

שְׁאִילָה

Sh'eilah

a question, request, or petition

An individual or community brings a sh'eilah to a rabbi or other Jewish leader to determine the correct religious action for a specific, often complex, situation.

It specifically refers to legal (halachic) inquiries – questions on interpreting the Torah on matters that often require nuance to properly interpret.