



TORAH...TORAH...

WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 11

Torah & The Jerusalem Council

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.

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.

**YESHUA DEFINED
DESTROYING TORAH AS
DISOBEYING IT AND
TEACHING OTHERS TO**

**YESHUA DEFINED
FULFILLING TORAH AS
OBEYING IT AND
TEACHING OTHERS TO**

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 "s~~X~~ed" on the road to Damascus? Didn't He convert?

Didn't Paul stop keeping the Torah after he was "s~~X~~ed" saved"?

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

The Jerusalem Council



Freeing Gentiles from the Torah?

...Or...

Freeing Gentiles to grow in Torah?

The Jerusalem Council



What is the common Christian doctrine and interpretation of Acts 15 and the conclusion of the Jerusalem Council?

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



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.”

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



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 – The Jerusalem Council



שְׂאֵלָה

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.

PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



4 On arrival in Yerushalayim, they were welcomed by the Messianic community, including the emissaries and the elders; and they reported what God had done through them.

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



5 But some of those who **had come to trust** were from the party of **THE P'RUSHIM**; and they stood up and said, “**It is NECESSARY to CIRCUMCISE** them and **DIRECT THEM** to **OBSERVE** the Torah of Moshe.”

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



5 But some of those who **had come to trust** were from the party of **THE P'RUSHIM**; and they stood up and said,

“It is **NECESSARY** [Gr: dei – a rational requirement] to **CIRCUMCISE** [gentiles] and **DIRECT THEM** [Gr: paraggello – give the message] to **OBSERVE** [Gr: Tereo – guard from theft or injury] the Torah of Moshe.”

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



12 Then the whole assembly kept still as they listened to Bar-Nabba and Sha'ul **tell what signs and miracles God had done through them among the Gentiles.**

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



13 Ya‘akov **broke the silence** to reply.

“Brothers,” he said, “hear what I have to say.

14 **Shim‘on** has told in detail what God did when he first began to show his concern for **taking from among the Goyim a people TO BEAR HIS NAME**.

Acts 10 – The First Gentile



¹⁰ He [Shim'on Kefa] began to feel hungry and wanted something to eat; but while they were preparing the meal, he fell into a trance ¹¹ in which he saw heaven opened, and something that looked like a large sheet being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals, crawling creatures and wild birds. ¹³ Then a voice came to him, "Get up, Kefa, slaughter and eat!" ¹⁴ But Kefa said, "No, sir! Absolutely not! I have never eaten food that was unclean or *treif*." ¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time: "Stop treating as unclean what God has made clean." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and then the sheet was immediately taken back up into heaven.

Acts 10 – The First Gentile



28 He [Shim'on Kefa (Simon Peter)] said to them, “You are well aware that for a man who is a Jew to have close association with someone who belongs to another people, or to come and visit him, is something that just isn't done. But God has shown me not to call any person common or unclean; 29 so when I was summoned, I came without raising any questions. Tell me, then, why did you send for me?”

Acts 10 – The First Gentile



30 Cornelius answered, “Three days ago around this time, I was at minchah prayers in my house, when suddenly a man in shining clothes stood in front of me 31 and said, ‘God has heard your prayer and remembered your acts of charity. 32 Now send to Yafu and ask for Shim‘on, known as Kefa; he is staying in the house of Shim‘on, a leather-tanner, by the sea.’ 33 So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now all of us are here in the presence of God to hear everything the Lord has ordered you to say.”

Acts 10 – The First Gentile



34 Then Kefa addressed them: “I now understand that God does not play favorites, 35 but that whoever fears him and does what is right **IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM, NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE HE BELONGS TO.** 36 “Here is the message that he sent to the sons of Isra’el announcing shalom through Yeshua the Messiah, who is Lord of everything.

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



15 And the words of the Prophets are in complete harmony with this for it is written, 16 “After this, I will return; and I will rebuild the fallen tent of David. I will rebuild its ruins, I will restore it, 17 **so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, that is, ALL THE GOYIM WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED BY MY NAME,**” 18 says Adonai, who is doing these things.’ **All this has been known for ages.**

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



19 “Therefore, my opinion [a response to the Sheila) is that **WE SHOULD NOT**

PUT OBSTACLES IN THE WAY of the
GOYIM WHO ARE TURNING TO
GOD.

παρενοχλέω
parenochleō

To add more burden;
add further trouble

ἐπιστρέφω – epistrephō
turn in a direction

≠

Heb. Teshuvah - תשובה
Returning to

Teshuvah



Teshuvah (literally "return") is the **JEWISH** process of repentance and returning AGAIN to one's highest calling and AGAIN to God. It involves recognizing wrongdoing, expressing regret, ceasing the action, confessing, and resolving not to repeat it, often focusing on repairing AGAIN a relationship that was once there.

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



20 Instead, we should write them a letter telling them to **ABSTAIN FROM THINGS POLLUTED**

[Gr: alisgema – to make unclean] BY IDOLS, FROM FORNICATION [Gr: porneia – adultery, incest, harlotry, homosexuality, bestiality], FROM WHAT IS STRANGLED AND FROM BLOOD.

TREIF (טריף): *The flesh of a torn animal. Meat from an animal that dies of an injury other than ritual slaughter.*

NEVELAH (נבלה): *The flesh of an animal that dies of disease or natural causes. Meat from an animal that dies naturally without ritual slaughter.*

Things Polluted By Idols



Exodus 34

15 Do not make a covenant with the people living in the land. It will cause you to go astray after their gods and sacrifice to their gods. Then they will invite you to join them in eating their sacrifices, 16 and you will take their daughters as wives for your sons. Their daughters will prostitute themselves to their own gods and make your sons do the same!

Deuteronomy 7:5

25 You are to burn up completely the carved statues of their gods. Don't be greedy for the silver or gold on them; don't take it with you, or you will be trapped by it; for it is abhorrent to Adonai your God. 26 Don't bring something abhorrent into your house, or you will share in the curse that is on it; instead, you are to detest it completely, loathe it utterly; for it is set apart for destruction.

Things Polluted By Idols



1 Corinthians 10

19 So, what am I saying? That food sacrificed to idols has any significance in itself? or that an idol has significance in itself? 20 No, what I am saying is that the things which pagans sacrifice, they sacrifice not to God but to demons; and I don't want you to become sharers of the demons! 21 You can't drink both a cup of the Lord and a cup of demons, you can't partake in both a meal of the Lord and a meal of demons.

Fornication



Adultery – Exodus 20:14

Incest & Prohibited Relationships – Leviticus 18, 20

Bestiality – Leviticus 18:23

Homosexual Relations – Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

Cult Prostitution – Deuteronomy 23:17-18



What Is Strangled & From Blood

Prohibition of Consuming Blood & Laws of Slaughter

Leviticus 3:17, 7:26-27, 17:10-14, 22;
Deuteronomy 12

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



21 For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city THOSE WHO PROCLAIM HIM, with HIS WORDS BEING READ in the synagogues EVERY SHABBAT.”

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



22 Then the emissaries and the elders, together with the whole Messianic community, decided to select men from among themselves to send to Antioch with Sha'ul and Bar-Nabba. They sent Y'hudah, called Bar-Sabba, and Sila, both leading men among the brothers, 23 with the following letter:

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



From: The emissaries and the elders, your brothers

To: The brothers from among the Gentiles throughout Antioch,
Syria and Cilicia

Greetings! 24 We have heard that some people went out from among us without our authorization, and that they have upset you with their talk, unsettling your minds. 25 So we have decided unanimously to select men and send them to you with our dear friends Bar-Nabba and Sha'ul, 26 who have dedicated their lives to upholding the name of our Lord, Yeshua the Messiah. 27 So we have sent Y'hudah and Sila, and they will confirm in person what we are writing. 28 For it seemed good to the Ruach HaKodesh and to us not to lay any heavier burden on you than the following requirements: 29 to abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will be doing the right thing.

Shalom!

Acts 15 – The Jerusalem Council



30 The messengers were sent off and went to Antioch, where they gathered the group together and delivered the letter. 31 After reading it, **the people were delighted by its encouragement.**

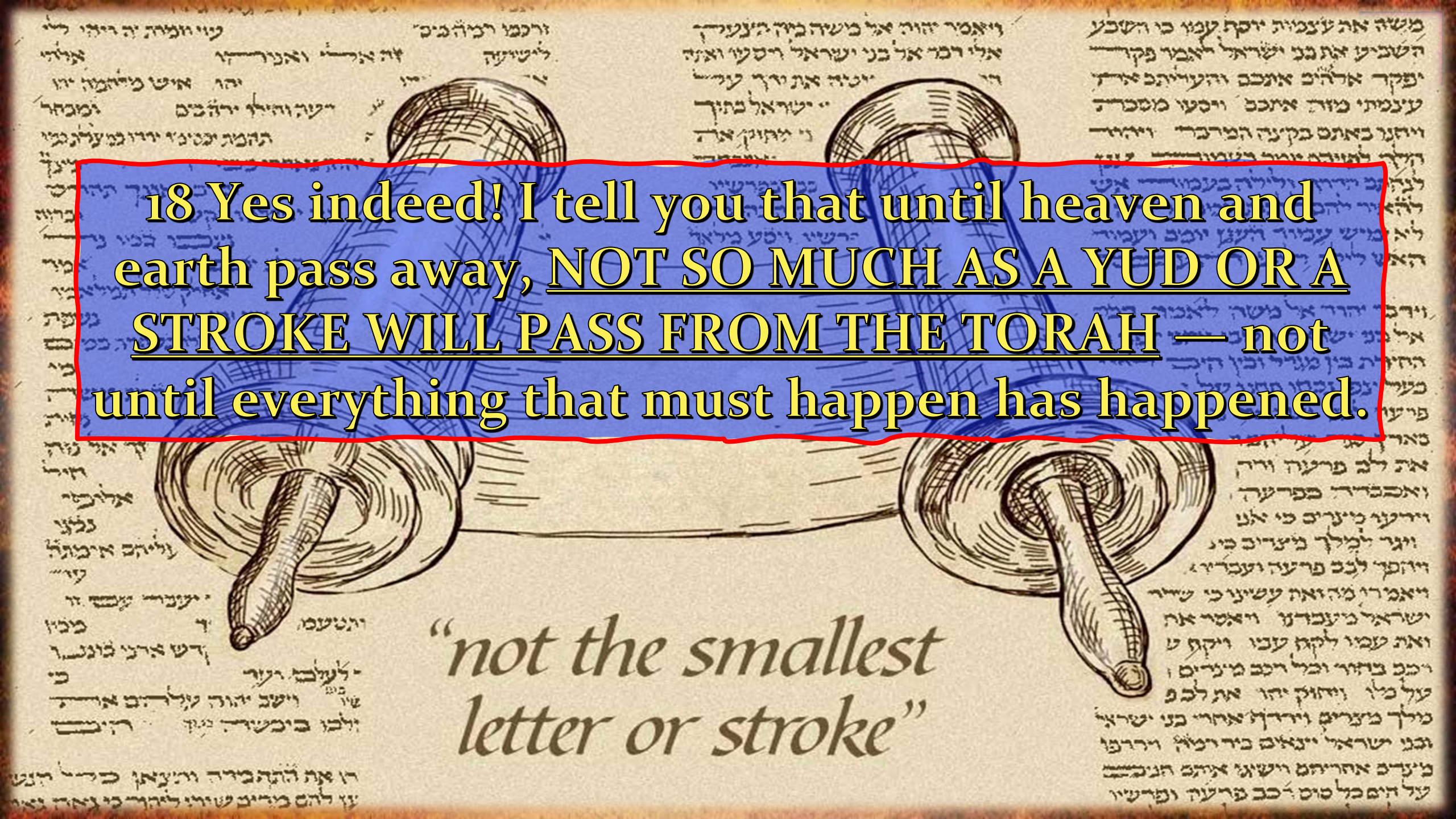
The Jerusalem Council



Did the Council ever recommend that Gentiles
NOT keep Torah?

Were any of the Council's recommendations
contradictory to Torah commands?

Did the Council's recommendations
compromise Torah in any way?



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.

“not the smallest letter or stroke”