

TORAH...TORAH...

WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 13

**- Torah & The Good News -
The Kingdom of God**

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.

DESTROYING THE TORAH

=

**DISOBEYING IT AND
TEACHING OTHERS TO
DISOBEY**

FULFILLING THE TORAH

=

**OBEYING IT AND
TEACHING OTHERS TO
OBEY**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



The Gospel → Eternal Life

How did the 1st century Jew, John the Baptist, Jesus, and subsequently Paul view the universe?

How did they view history and time?

In light of their views on the universe and history, how did they view the Gospel and Eternal Life?

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



Let's hypothesize for a moment...that the universe must be understood from a purely Hebraic (Jewish) perspective.

Let's also hypothesize, that the Torah – indeed, the entire bible – and its teachings are to be understood through that same lens...

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Universe

There is no distinction between

– material and immaterial –

– physical and spiritual –

Greek vs Hebrew Mindset



GREEK AND OTHER SIMILAR PHILOSOPHIES:

- Most often see the body as a prison for the soul
- The goal is to break free of the physical world's limitations
- Because this philosophy has been historically applied to biblical hermeneutics, it has caused scholars and theologians to often misinterpret the foundation of the Jewish scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, and from Moses to Jesus to Paul

HEBREW/JEWISH MINDSET:

- Judaism views the physical and the spiritual as an integrated whole
– as partners
- Spiritual life is deeply embodied and fully expressed in the physical
- The goal is not to free the spiritual from the constraints of the physical, it is to imbue the physical with the holy and sacred

Greek vs Hebrew Mindset



GREEK AND OTHER SIMILAR PHILOSOPHIES:

- Greek concept of history and time is cyclical and aimless – an endless recurrence
- It is centered within the material world around inanimate chronos (quantitative, measurable time) and kairos (opportune moments) without a predetermined divine purpose

HEBREW/JEWISH MINDSET:

- Judaism views history as goal-oriented, moving from creation toward an ultimate future marked by sacred milestones embedded in natural cycles (Sabbath, Feasts, signs, wonders, and miracles)
- It emphasizes the sanctifying of time towards an ultimate purpose through intentional interaction with the holy God who exists eternally outside of time

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Universe

The Kingdom of Heaven (The Kingdom of God) exists both within and outside of time and space – that is, it is not limited by time or space.

The Kingdom of God is where God reigns, His truth (His Torah laws and principles) rules, and Eternal Life – the absence of sin and death – exists.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Universe

John the Immerser, Yeshua Himself, and certainly Paul clearly identified the universe in a very Jewish way:

1. Sin (disobedience to Torah – the laws and principles of God) is a spiritual issue expressed through words and deeds by submission to the evil inclination of the heart; and its consequence is exclusion from the Kingdom of God
2. Righteousness (obedience to Torah) is a spiritual issue expressed through words and deeds through submission to the Ruach HaKodesh – the good inclination in our hearts; and its consequence is access to the Kingdom of God

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

What is the Gospel – the Good News (בְּשׂוּרָה)?

“THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND”

Why is the Good News ultimately about the life, death, and resurrection AND the return of Messiah Yeshua?

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Yeshua's life is proof that the Kingdom of God is available now and that obedience to Torah provides access to its blessings now.

Yeshua's death and burial is proof that citizenship in the Kingdom of God is free, provided by God's grace through the sacrifice of Yeshua once and for all.

Yeshua's resurrection is proof that our resurrection is possible and His return initiates the final chapter and ultimate fulfillment of the redemption plan of God with eternal citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Universe

There is no distinction between

– material and immaterial –

– physical and spiritual –

History makes no distinction between

– temporal and eternal –

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

How does one obtain eternal life – in other words, how does one gain entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven – the Kingdom of God, the resurrection from the dead and escape the judgment at the coming of Messiah?

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Because there is no distinction between the material and immaterial, the physical and the spiritual, the temporal and the eternal, the Kingdom of God has been a present reality, a past reality, and a future reality all at the same time.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

How does one gain entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven – the Kingdom of God? In other words, how does one obtain that eternal life.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 3

1 It was during those days that Yochanan the Immerser arrived in the desert of Y'hudah and began proclaiming the message, 2 **“TURN FROM YOUR SINS TO GOD, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR!”**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 3

12 When Yeshua heard that Yochanan had been put in prison, he returned to the Galil; 13 but he left Natzeret and came to live in K'far-Nachum, a lake shore town near the boundary between Z'vulun and Naftali. 14 This happened in order to fulfill what Yesha'yahu the prophet had said, 15 "Land of Z'vulun and land of Naftali, toward the lake, beyond the Yarden, Galil-of-the-Goyim —

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 3

16 the people living in darkness have seen a great light; upon those living in the region, in the shadow of death, **light has dawned.** **17**

FROM THAT TIME ON, YESHUA BEGAN PROCLAIMING, "TURN FROM YOUR SINS TO GOD, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR!"

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 1

14 After Yochanan had been arrested, Yeshua came into the Galil proclaiming the Good News from God: 15

“THE TIME HAS COME, GOD’S KINGDOM IS NEAR! TURN TO GOD FROM YOUR SINS AND BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS!”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

17 As he was starting on his way, a man ran up, kneeled down in front of him and asked, “Good rabbi,

what should I do **TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE?**”

klēros – inherit
nomos – Torah’s

αἰώνιος aionios
Ζωή zoe
Perpetual
Life

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

18 Yeshua said to him, “Why are you calling me good? No one is good except God! 19 **YOU KNOW THE MITZVOT — ‘DON’T MURDER, DON’T COMMIT ADULTERY, DON’T STEAL, DON’T GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, DON’T DEFRAUD, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, . . .’**”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

20 “Rabbi,” he said, “I have kept all these since I was a boy.” 21 Yeshua, looking at him, **FELT LOVE FOR HIM** and said to him,

“YOU’RE MISSING ONE THING.”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

20 “Rabbi,” he said, “I have kept all these since I was a boy.” 21 Yeshua, looking at him, **FELT LOVE FOR HIM** and said to him,

“YOU’RE MISSING [THE] ONE THING.”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

“YOU’RE MISSING [THE] ONE THING...

**GO, SELL WHATEVER YOU OWN, GIVE TO
THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE RICHES
IN HEAVEN. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME!”**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

22 Shocked by this word, he went away sad; **because**
he was a wealthy man.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

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.**’

**“...GO, SELL WHATEVER YOU OWN...
...AND COME, FOLLOW ME...”**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 22

39 And a second is similar to it, **‘YOU ARE TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’** 40 All of the Torah and the Prophets are dependent on these two mitzvot.”

...GIVE TO THE POOR...

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

22 Shocked by this word, he went away sad; **because he was a wealthy man.**

23 Yeshua looked around and said to his talmidim,
“How hard it is going to be for people with wealth
TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD!”

Gr. εἰσέρχομαι – eiserchomai:
come into, enter into, grow
into

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

**“YOU’RE MISSING [THE] ONE THING...
GO,¹ SELL WHATEVER YOU OWN,² GIVE TO
THE POOR, AND YOU WILL HAVE RICHES
IN HEAVEN.³ THEN COME, FOLLOW ME!”**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

24 The talmidim were astounded at these words; but Yeshua said to them again, “My friends, how hard it is **TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD**! 25 It’s easier for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye than for a rich man **TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.” 26 They were utterly amazed and said to him, “Then **who can be saved?**”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

27 Yeshua looked at them and said, “**HUMANLY**, it is impossible, **BUT NOT WITH GOD; WITH GOD, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.**”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

28 Kefa began saying to him, “**Look, we have LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED YOU.**”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Mark 10

29 Yeshua said, “**YES!** I tell you that there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or fields, for my sake and **FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOOD NEWS**, 30 who will not receive a hundred times over, now, in the **‘OLAM HAZEH**, homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands — with persecutions! — **AND IN THE ‘OLAM HABA, ETERNAL LIFE.**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Living The Gospel – Living Torah Obedience
– Living Eternal Life – Entering God’s Kingdom

Matthew 6-7

Ephesians 2-3

Romans 7-8

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they **MAY BE SEEN** by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

“Our Father **IN HEAVEN**,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth **AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**.”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

11 Give us this day our *daily bread*

[**THE BREAD OF TOMORROW**],

12 and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves **TREASURES IN HEAVEN**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 **FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.**

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

25 “Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1st century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Matthew 6

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32

For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

33 **BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD**
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE
THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.