



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

**WHAT IS TORAH?**

**Part 14**

**The Keys to the Kingdom of God**

# 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.

**ABOLISHING THE TORAH**

=

**DISOBEYING IT AND  
TEACHING OTHERS TO  
DISOBEY**

**FULFILLING THE TORAH**

=

**OBEYING IT AND  
TEACHING OTHERS TO  
OBEY**

# Hebrew Mindset



## HEBREW/JEWISH MINDSET OF TIME AND MATTER:

- Judaism views the physical and the spiritual as an integrated whole
- 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
  - It views history and time 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



1<sup>st</sup> 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 bound by time or space.

God's law – His Torah principles – reigns within His Kingdom, as does Eternal Life – the absence of sin and death.

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



## **JEWISH APOCALYPTICISM:**

It is the Jewish worldview that anticipates God's intervention, which will end the Current Age, resurrect the living and the dead, remove the potential for oppression, sin and death, and **FULLY ESTABLISH HIS DIVINE KINGDOM AT THE COMING OF MESSIAH.**

## **THE JEWISH GOSPEL:**

**THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM** is revealed throughout scripture and declares that the age to come is available by way of REPENTANCE [TURNING], by establishing citizenship in the Kingdom of God both in this age and the age to come.

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



Our hypothesis:

1. If the universe is to be fully understood, it must be grasped from a **HEBRAIC (JEWISH) PERSPECTIVE.**
2. **THE TORAH** as well as the entire bible must be understood and lived out through that same Hebraic lens.

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



Why is confirming or denying that hypothesis essential to our journey with God?

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



Because, if true, it gives us ammunition to successfully debate with people who are “Christian Supersessionist” or who believe the Torah is done away with!

**NO**

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



Because we are called to be holy:  
a life of repentance, to live as citizens of the  
Kingdom of Heaven within a fallen world  
by the power of the Ruach, and to proclaim  
the Good News of the Kingdom, making  
disciples of those who are seeking  
righteousness.

# Jewish Apocalypticism & The Gospel



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Universe

Hypothesis: Yeshua Himself as well as 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

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

11 How can you possibly think I was talking to you about bread? Guard yourselves from the hametz of the P'rushim and Tz'dukim!" 12 Then they understood — they were to guard themselves not from yeast for bread but from the **TEACHING** of the P'rushim and Tz'dukim.

διδασχῆ

didachē

Doctrine, instructions, rulings, legal application of Torah

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

13 When Yeshua came into the territory around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his talmidim, “Who are people saying the **SON OF MAN** is?” 14 They said, “Well, some say Yochanan the Immerser, others Eliyahu, still others Yirmeyahu or one of the prophets.”

**What does the term “Son of Man” mean?**

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## What does the term “Son of Man” mean?

### “Son of Man”

From a Hebraic lens, the Son of Man is a figure who exhibits his humanity, is prone to suffering and maltreatment, and who is ultimately vindicated as righteous by God. A Son of Man may describe a Messianic-like figure, but always in his relation to *man*.

[Yochanan the Immerser, Eliyahu, Yirmeyahu or one of the prophets...]

# The Keys To The Kingdom



Matthew 16

...he asked his talmidim...

15 “But you,” he said to them, “who do you say I am?”

15 “But you,” he ~~said~~ to them, “who do YOU say I am?”

15 “But you,” he said to them, “who do you say I am?”

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

16 Shim'on Kefa answered, "**YOU ARE THE MASHIACH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**"

**What does the term "Son of God" mean?**

# The Keys To The Kingdom



**What does the term “Son of God” mean and how does it differ from “Son of Man”?**

## The “Son of God”

The King Messiah, THE chosen agent of God whose identity and status is royalty and of the lineage or likeness of King David. He is the One who will usher in the eternal Kingdom of God on Earth in the Age to Come.

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

15 “But you,” he said to them, “who do you say I am?” 16 Shim‘on Kefa answered, “**YOU ARE THE MASHIACH, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**”

17 “Shim‘on Bar-Yochanan,” Yeshua said to him, “how blessed you are! For no human being revealed this to you, no, **IT WAS MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.**”

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

18 I also tell you this: you are Kefa,” [which means ‘rock,'] “and on **THIS ROCK** I will build my Community, and the gates of Sh’ol will **not** **overcome IT**.

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

19 I will give you **THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

Κλείς – kleis  
The instrument  
that locks and  
unlocks access

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

19 I will give you **THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Gr: Δέω – deō  
To bind

Heb: Asar – אָסַר  
To forbid, restrict, declare prohibited

Gr: λύω – luō  
To loose

Heb: hitir – הִתִּיר  
To untie, release, to permit

# The Keys To The Kingdom



## Matthew 16

What opens access to the Life of the Kingdom of Heaven?

What closes access to the Life of the Kingdom of Heaven?

**WHAT ARE THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?**

*Interpreting this through a Hebraic lens, Jesus is using the language of “halakhic” responsibility—the language of interpreting and applying God’s Torah correctly: the key to accessing the Life of the Kingdom of Heaven is in correctly interpreting and applying the Torah. By walking in a state of rebellion to Torah [SIN], access to the Kingdom life is “bound.” By walking in a state of obedience to Torah [RIGHTEOUSNESS], access to Kingdom life is “loosed.”*

# The Keys To The Kingdom



1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

What About The Kingdom And The Gentile Question?

Ephesians 2

1 You used to be dead because of your sins and acts of **disobedience**. 2 You walked **IN THE WAYS OF THE 'OLAM HAZEH** [the current age] and obeyed the Ruler of the Powers of the Air, who is still at work among the **disobedient**.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

3 Indeed, we all once lived this way — we followed the passions of our old nature and obeyed the wishes of our **OLD NATURE** and **OUR OWN THOUGHTS**. In our natural condition **we were headed for God's wrath, just like everyone else.**

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

4 But God is so rich in mercy and loves us with such intense love 5 that, even when we were dead because of our acts of disobedience, he brought us to life along with the Messiah — it is by grace that you have been delivered.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

6 That is, **God raised us up with the Messiah Yeshua and SEATED US WITH HIM IN HEAVEN**, 7 in order to exhibit **IN THE AGES TO COME** how infinitely rich is his grace, how great is his kindness toward us who are united with the Messiah Yeshua.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

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 Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

11 Therefore, remember your former state: you Gentiles by birth — called the Uncircumcised by those who, merely because of an operation on their flesh, are called the Circumcised — 12 at that time had no Messiah.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

You were estranged from **THE NATIONAL LIFE**  
[Gr. Πολιτεία Politeia: citizenship] **OF ISRA'EL**. You  
were foreigners to **THE COVENANTS**  
**EMBODYING GOD'S PROMISE**.  
You were in **THIS WORLD WITHOUT HOPE**  
**AND WITHOUT GOD**.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

13 But now, you who were once far off have been brought near through the shedding of the Messiah's blood. 14 For he himself is our shalom — he has made us both one and has broken down the m'chitzah which divided us

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

15 by destroying in his own body **THE ENMITY**  
occasioned by the Torah, with its commands set  
forth in the form of ordinances.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

He did this in order to create in union with himself from the two groups a single new humanity and thus make shalom, 16 and in order to reconcile to God both in a single body by being executed on a stake as a criminal and thus in himself killing that enmity.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

17 Also, when he came, he announced as Good News shalom to you far off and shalom to those nearby, 18 news that through him **WE BOTH HAVE ACCESS**  
**IN ONE SPIRIT TO THE FATHER.**

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

19 So then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers. On the contrary, you are fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's family. 20 You have been built on the foundation of the emissaries and the prophets, with the cornerstone being Yeshua the Messiah himself.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

21 In union with him the whole building is held together, and it is growing into a holy temple in union with the Lord. 22 Yes, in union with him, you yourselves are being built together into a spiritual dwelling-place for God!

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

1 It is a consequence of this that I, Sha'ul, am a prisoner of the Messiah Yeshua on behalf of you Gentiles. 2 I assume that you have heard of the work God in his grace has given me to do for your benefit, 3 and that it was by a revelation that this secret plan was made known to me.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

I have already written about it briefly, 4 and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.  
5 In past generations it was not made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his emissaries and prophets

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

6 that in union with the Messiah and through the **GOOD NEWS** the Gentiles were to be joint heirs, a joint body and joint sharers **WITH THE JEWS IN WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED**. 7 I became a servant of **THIS GOOD NEWS** by God's gracious gift, which he gave me through the operation of his power.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

8 To me, the least important of all God's holy people, was given this privilege of announcing to the Gentiles the Good News of the Messiah's unfathomable riches, 9 and of letting everyone see how this secret plan is going to work out.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

This plan, kept hidden for ages by God, the Creator of everything, is for the rulers and authorities in heaven to learn, through the existence of the Messianic Community, how many-sided God's wisdom is. 11 This accords with God's age-old purpose, accomplished in the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

12 In union with him, through his faithfulness, we have boldness and confidence when we approach God. 13 So I ask you not to be discouraged by the troubles I endure on your behalf — it is all for your glory.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

4 For this reason, I fall on my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its character. 16 I pray that from the treasures of his glory he will empower you with inner strength by his Spirit, 17 so that the Messiah may live in your hearts through your trusting.

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

Also I pray that you will be rooted and founded in love, 18 so that you, with all God's people, will be given strength to grasp the breadth, length, height and depth of the Messiah's love, 19 yes, to know it, even though it is beyond all knowing, **SO THAT**

**YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH ALL THE**

**FULLNESS OF GOD.**

# The Gospel & The Gentiles



1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Understanding of the Gospel

Ephesians 3

20 Now to him **who by his power working in us is able to do far beyond anything we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the Messianic Community and in the Messiah Yeshua from generation to generation forever. Amen.**