

TORAH...TORAH...

WHAT IS TORAH?

Part 15

**Torah & The Necessity of
Israel's Striving**

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**

Israel & Torah



God chose Abraham and His descendants with whom to make His covenant and to be the standard bearer as He carried out His plan of redemption for the world.

They would be the people He would give His Torah to – His truth and His laws – the ones that would be tasked with living out His principles and His calling as an example to the nations to reject the evil inclination.

They would be the people through which He would bring the Messiah and His complete and eternal redemption.

Israel & Torah



Did God know that Israel would rebel?

If God knew that Israel would rebel, would suffer the consequences of that rebellion, would be exiled from the land God gave them, would suffer endless persecution to the ends of the Earth because of that rebellion, why did He still choose them?

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

9 Then Moshe wrote down this Torah and gave it to the cohanim, the descendants of Levi who carried the ark with the covenant of Adonai, and to all the leaders of Isra'el. 10 Moshe gave them these orders: "At the end of every seven years, during the festival of Sukkot in the year of sh'mittah, 11 when all Isra'el have come to appear in the presence of Adonai at the place he will choose, you are to read this Torah before all Isra'el, so that they can hear it.

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

12 Assemble the people — the men, the women, the little ones and the foreigners you have in your towns — so that they can hear, learn, fear Adonai your God and take care to obey all the words of this Torah; 13 and so that their children, who have not known, can hear and learn to fear Adonai your God, for as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Yarden to possess.”

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

14 Adonai said to Moshe, “The time is coming for you to die. Summon Y’hoshua, and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, so that I can commission him.” Moshe and Y’hoshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. 15 Adonai appeared in the tent in a column of cloud; the column of cloud stood above the entrance to the tent. 16 Adonai said to Moshe, “You are about to sleep with your ancestors. But this people will get up and offer themselves as prostitutes to the foreign gods of the land where they are going.

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

When they are with those gods, they will abandon me and break my covenant which I have made with them.
17 Then my anger will flare up, and I will abandon them and hide my face from them. They will be devoured, and many calamities and troubles will come upon them. Then they will ask, 'Haven't these calamities come upon us because our God isn't here with us?' 18 But I will be hiding my face from them because of all the evil they will have done in turning to other gods.

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

19 “Therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the people of Isra’el. Have them learn it by heart, so that this song can be a witness for me against the people of Isra’el. 20 For when I have brought them into the land I swore to their ancestors, flowing with milk and honey; and they have eaten their fill, grown fat and turned to other gods, serving them and despising me, and broken my covenant;

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

21 then, after many calamities and troubles have come upon them, this song will testify before them as a witness, because their descendants will still be reciting it and will not have forgotten it. For I know how they think even now, even before I have brought them into the land about which I swore.”

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

24 Moshe kept writing the words of this Torah in a book until he was done. When he had finished, 25 Moshe gave these orders to the L'vi'im who carried the ark with the covenant of Adonai: 26 "Take this book of the Torah and put it next to the ark with the covenant of Adonai your God, so that it can be there to witness against you.

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

27 For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are! Here, even while I am still alive with you today, you have rebelled against Adonai; so how much more will you do so after my death?

Israel & Torah



Deuteronomy 31

28 Assemble for me all the leaders of your tribes and your officials, so that I can say these things in their hearing, calling heaven and earth to witness against them — 29 because I know that after my death you will become very corrupt and **turn aside from the way that I have ordered you; and that disaster will come upon you in the acharit-hayamim**, because you will do what Adonai sees as evil and provoke him by your deeds.”

Israel & Torah



Israel

יִשְׂרָאֵל - Yisra'el

Yisra (יִשְׂרָה): from the root שרה (sara) – meaning to fight, struggle, or contend

El (אֵל): referring to God

"one who struggles with God"

"he who strives with God"

Israel & Torah



Genesis 32

25 (24) and Ya'akov was left alone. Then some man wrestled with him until daybreak. 26 (25) When he saw that he did not defeat Ya'akov, he struck Ya'akov's hip socket, so that his hip was dislocated while wrestling with him. 27 (26) The man said, "Let me go, because it's daybreak." But Ya'akov replied, "I won't let you go **unless you bless me.**" 28 (27) The man asked, "What is your name?" and he answered, "Ya'akov."

Israel & Torah



Genesis 32

29 (28) Then the man said, “From now on, you will no longer be called Ya‘akov, **BUT ISRA’EL**; because you have *shown your strength to both God and men and have prevailed.*”

Israel & Torah



Genesis 32

“...because you have *shown your strength to* both God and men and have prevailed.”

כִּי־שָׁרִיתָ עִם־אֱלֹהִים וְעִם־אֲנָשִׁים וַתּוֹכֵל

Because you have struggled (strove) with God AND with Man and have prevailed

Israel & Torah



This event defines Israel's history

It is indeed a prolepsis – a description in advance of Israel's future

1. Israel's struggle throughout history is whether they will surrender to and serve their God through obedience to Torah or serve themselves as gods.
2. In the process of this struggle, Israel will be marred by the consequences of their striving, yet ultimately, they will overcome and be blessed by God in the midst of and as a result of their striving.
3. Israel's struggle is a microcosm of all of humanity's struggle: will mankind choose to surrender to and worship their Creator or forever worship themselves as god and suffer the consequences?



The Shabbat
&
God's Appointed Times

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 23

1 Adonai said to Moshe, 2 “Tell the people of Isra’el: ‘The designated times of Adonai which you are to proclaim as holy convocations are my designated times.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



PROLEPSIS

The state where future events are understood to be already accomplished. The blending of the future into the present, and the present into the past.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



The Appointed Times are the PROLEPSIS of God's Kingdom fully manifest

- They focus attention on His redemptive work in history
- They sanctify the current moment as His redemptive work today
 - They point to His future completed work of redemption

His Appointed Times are the Eternal inserted into the temporal – the Kingdom of Heaven and the created world fully aligning

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



- Shabbat (Sabbath)
- Pesach (Passover)
- Hag Habikkurim (First Fruits)
 - Shavu'ot (Pentecost)
- Yom T'ruah (Festival of Trumpets)
- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Sukkot (Festival of Tabernacles)
 - Shemini Atzeret (The Eighth Day)

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Shabbat

* 7th day Weekly Shabbat *

* 7th year Land Shabbat (Sh'mitah) *

* 7th of 7-year Land Shabbats [50th year] (Yoveil) *

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

2 “Keep my **SHABBATS**; and
revere my sanctuary; I am Adonai.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

14 “But if you will not listen to me and obey all these mitzvot (Shabbat, Sh’mitah, and Yoveil), 15 if you loathe my regulations and reject my rulings, in order not to obey all my mitzvot but cancel my covenant; 16 then I, for my part, will do this to you: I will bring terror upon you — wasting disease and chronic fever to dim your sight and sap your strength. You will sow your seed for nothing, because your enemies will eat the crops.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

17 I will set my face against you — your enemies will defeat you, those who hate you will hound you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you. 18 If these things don't make you listen to me, then I will discipline you seven times over for your sins. 19 **I**

WILL BREAK THE PRIDE YOU HAVE IN YOUR OWN POWER.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

32 I will desolate the land, so that your enemies living in it will be astounded by it. 33 You I will disperse among the nations, and I will draw out the sword in pursuit after you; your land will be a desolation and your cities a wasteland. 34 Then, at last, the land will be paid its Shabbats. As long as it lies desolate and you are in the lands of your enemies, the land will rest and be repaid its Shabbats.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

35 Yes, as long as it lies desolate it will have rest, the rest it did not have during your Shabbats, when you lived there. 36 As for those of you who are left, I will fill their hearts with anxiety in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf will frighten them, so that they will flee as one flees from the sword and fall when no one is pursuing. 37 Yes, with no one pursuing they will stumble over each other as if fleeing the sword — you will have no power to stand before your enemies. 38 And among the nations you will perish; the land of your enemies will devour you.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



**Why is Keeping the Sabbaths so
Important?**

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Why Is Keeping The Sabbaths So Important?

The Sabbaths were Israel's gateway into God's presence in both time (weekly) and space (land).

It is the gateway back to Creation prior to the fall!

It is the gateway forward to the Resurrection and New Jerusalem of the Age to Come!

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God

Why Is Keeping The Sabbaths So Important?



The Sabbaths are the gateway...

...back to the time when God was God and we were not...when we freely walked in His presence!!

...forward to the time when He will be King reigning over ALL Creation, and ALL Creation will worship His Name and His Name alone!!

The Sabbaths are the gateway into the Kingdom of God!!!

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Why Is Keeping The Sabbaths So Important?

The Sabbaths are the gateway into the time and place where His Torah is our one instinct!!!

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Mark 2

27 Then he said to them, “Shabbat was made for mankind, not mankind for Shabbat; 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of Shabbat.”

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

But if their uncircumcised hearts will grow HUMBLE, and they are paid the punishment for their misdeeds;

42 then I will remember my covenant with Ya'akov, also my covenant with Yitz'chak and my covenant with Avraham; and I will remember the land. 43 For the land will lie abandoned without them, and it will be paid its Shabbats while it lies desolate without them; and they will be paid the punishment for their misdeeds, because they rejected my rulings and loathed my regulations.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

44 Yet, in spite of all that, I will not reject them when they are in the lands of their enemies, nor will I loathe them to the point of utterly destroying them and thus break my covenant with them, because I am Adonai their God.

Prolepsis of The Kingdom of God



Leviticus 26

45 Rather, for their sakes, I will remember the covenant of their ancestors whom I brought out of the land of Egypt —

WITH THE NATIONS WATCHING

— so that I might be their God; I am Adonai.” 46

These are the laws, rulings and teachings that Adonai himself gave to the people of Isra'el on Mount Sinai through Moshe.

Israel's Striving



1. Israel's struggle throughout history is whether they will surrender to and serve their God through obedience to Torah or serve themselves as gods.
2. In the process of this struggle, Israel will be marred by the consequences of their striving, yet ultimately, they will overcome and be blessed by God in the midst of and as a result of their striving.
3. Israel's struggle is a microcosm of all of humanity's struggle: will mankind choose to surrender to and worship their Creator or forever worship themselves as god and suffer the consequences?



Israel's Striving

If the nations – including the “Church” – will only look at Israel, understand Israel’s journey, and identify with it as God’s example of redemption...

If the nations would only understand their own journey through rebellion and striving with God and against His Torah...His law, His commands, His principles...repent, and turn to God...

Israel's Striving



**...then Israel's ultimate purpose
will be fulfilled!!!!**

Israel's Striving



Did God know that Israel would rebel?

If God knew that Israel would rebel, would suffer the consequences of that rebellion, would be exiled from the land God gave them, would suffer endless persecution to the ends of the Earth because of that rebellion, that most would reject their own Messiah, why did He still choose them?

Israel's Striving



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 God has not repudiated his people, whom he chose in advance. Or don’t you know what the Tanakh says about Eliyahu? He pleads with God against Isra’el, 3 “Adonai, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I’m the only one left, and now they want to kill me too!” 4 But what is God’s answer to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not knelt down to Ba‘al.”

Israel's Striving

Romans 11

5 It's the same way in the present age: there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 (Now if it is by grace, it is accordingly not based on legalistic works; if it were otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.) 7 What follows is that Isra'el has not attained the goal for which she is striving. The ones chosen have obtained it, but the rest have been made stonelike, 8 just as the Tanakh says, "God has given them a spirit of dullness — eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear, right down to the present day."



Israel's Striving



Romans 11

25 For, brothers, I want you to understand this truth which God formerly concealed but has now revealed, so that you won't imagine you know more than you actually do. It is that stoniness, to a degree, has come upon Isra'el, until the Gentile world enters in its fullness; 26 and that it is in this way that all Isra'el will be saved.

Israel's Striving



Romans 11

As the Tanakh says, “Out of Tziyon will come the Redeemer; he will turn away ungodliness from Ya‘akov 27 and this will be my covenant with them, . . .when I take away their sins.” 28 With respect to the Good News they are hated for your sake. But with respect to being chosen they are loved for the Patriarchs’ sake, 29 for God’s free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

Israel's Striving



Romans 11

30 Just as you yourselves were disobedient to God before but have received mercy now because of Isra'el's disobedience; 31 so also Isra'el has been disobedient now, so that by your showing them the same mercy that God has shown you, they too may now receive God's mercy. 32 For God has shut up all mankind together in disobedience, in order that he might show mercy to all.

Israel's Striving



Romans 11

33 O the depth of the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments! How unsearchable are his ways! 34 For, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who has been his counselor?' 35 Or, 'Who has given him anything and made him pay it back?' 36 **FOR**

FROM HIM AND THROUGH HIM AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS. TO HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER! AMEN.