

WAS THE MESSIAH THE END OF THE LAW?

by Craig Wm. Peters

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, "Let us go after other deities, which you have not known, and let us serve them," you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, for יהוה your Elohim is proving you, to know whether you love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after יהוה your Elohim, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

✠ History has a way of rewriting the lives of great and/or famous people. For instance, the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, would be more than appalled at many of the things now accepted in said organization over 200 years after his death.¹ Yet if he were here today, and if he could somehow preach "incognito" at a local Methodist church (Anywhere, USA), Wesley's message would probably be rejected and, at best, he would likely be scorned as a radical, a zealot, and a "legalist."

The greatest Man to ever live still lives today: יהושע of Nazareth, the Messiah of Yisrael (Israel). His life and teachings, too, have been terribly misrepresented and radically altered – and in ways which are far worse than anything suffered by the legacy of John Wesley. As Isaiah prophesied beforehand, the teachings and life of יהושע magnified the Torah and made it honorable,² but 2000 years later, the Christian message largely fails to emulate, or reflect, the Messiah's Torah-based teachings. So much so, that Orthodox Jews, as well as Jews in general, wrongly think the One who claimed to be the Messiah spoke in opposition to the Torah.³ Yet nothing could be farther from the truth. יהושע of Nazareth, the Messiah of Yisrael, was a Prophet who, by faith, fully kept and fully taught the precepts of the Torah. Sha'ul of Tarsus, His great apostle to the Gentiles, kept and taught the Torah in the very

same manner!⁴ And Sha'ul would eventually write to the believers in Rome stating only doers of the Torah would be justified before יהוה so as to partake in the first resurrection:

*"For not hearers of the Torah are just before יהוה, but the doers of the Torah shall be justified."
Romans 2:13⁵*

We were rather saddened when viewing a special about the apostle Sha'ul which recently aired on TBN.⁶ While the show had many moving moments, well-depicting the Scripture accounts of this man's life, it still promoted the false notion that Sha'ul was **against** the Torah as though the immutable Law was some "legalistic" document to be avoided like the plague! We must say, once more, nothing could be farther from the truth: Scripture after Scripture shows this apostle held forth the Torah as the Standard of obedience which shall determine the believer's reward under the jurisdiction of the New Covenant. We will visit many of those texts momentarily.

So what source generated the lawlessness which is so prevalent today in Christianity? "The mystery of lawlessness," we are told, is actually satanic in its origin.⁷ Not surprisingly,

¹ One source indicates Wesley lived from 1703 – 1791, so "214 years" is a closer figure.

² Isaiah 42:21

³ They erroneously believe the same thing regarding Sha'ul, His great apostle to the Gentiles.

⁴ Acts 24:14, Romans 2:13, 3:31

⁵ Romans 2:13 (the full context – verses 6-16 – shows the Torah will be the Standard by which יהוה judges **all** people), 1Corinthians 9:24-27, Revelation 20:6

⁶ The introduction to this article was largely written in 2005, and this particular show about the apostle Sha'ul was seen around that time (7/2005).

⁷ Daniel 7:25, 2Thessalonians 2:7-10 ["iniquity" = lawlessness; this is the same lawlessness which the Messiah warned against in Matthew 7:21-28], 1John 3:4-8. Not only is Satan the *author of lawlessness* (Daniel

then, messengers of lawlessness are deemed by Scripture as false prophets.⁸ This being the case, lawlessness could not have come from the Messiah! For יהושע was (and is) the Splendor of His people Yisrael.⁹ He was the Epitome of a true Yisraelite. He was a true Prophet! His Torah observance was perfect and exemplary, and He bids His followers to walk as He walked – in the commandments of יהוה!¹⁰ Further, יהושע came as a Light to illumine the Gentiles and to deliver them from the darkness of lawlessness.¹¹ The light which came from the Messiah was nothing less than the light of the Torah.¹² And never has that light shined so brightly in any man!¹³ These are the great truths which the present article will address.

אבנדרהוזהטיכלמנסעפצקרת

The End of the Law?

It is rather critical that we address a Scripture which is grossly misunderstood by so many people who imagine they are following the Messiah although walking in an error which will most likely cost them their crown/reward.¹⁴ Suppose yourself to be in a conversation with a good friend. The intent of your meeting is to gain a better understanding of the particulars behind making sourdough bread. At the outset of your meeting, this friend says to you:

“The **end** of our discussion is to make sure you can walk away today and go off by yourself being enabled to make sourdough bread without assistance from anyone.”

Would it make any sense for you to respond to your friend in this manner? “Well, I see you have *ended* the discussion before we started, so

I will just go about my day.” Or would it be reasonable for you to reply in the following manner? “Well, based on what you just said, I see my ability to make sourdough bread will now permanently **end**, so let’s not even waste our time: I will just go buy a good book on bread baking and study the many other ways to possibly prepare loaves in the future.” Of course, these responses would be absolutely ridiculous and they would make *no sense*, because when your friend indicated the “end” of your meeting was to have the ability to make sourdough bread, he was not literally *ending*, or doing away with anything! In the context of his sentence, the word “end” meant “intent,” or “goal:”

“The **goal**, the **intent** of our discussion is to make sure you can walk away today and go off by yourself being enabled to make sourdough bread without assistance from anyone.”

And this was the meaning of the Greek word used in the translation of 1 Timothy 1:5:

*Now the **end** of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and faith unfeigned ...*
1 Timothy 1:5

Would anyone read this text and argue that Sha’ul was teaching that this text *ended* love, or that it *ended* the commandment(s) related to love? After all, he wrote of the **end** of the commandment! Was Sha’ul doing away with love? Absolutely not! The Messiah said His followers would be known by their love.¹⁵ So we agree: It would not make any sense for someone to posit that this teaching permanently *abolished* any commandment relative to loving others with a pure heart, a good conscience, or a sincere faith. That is simply *not* the meaning of the word “end” in this text! In this Scripture, the word “end” is translated from the Greek word “telos:”

5056. **τελος**, **telos**; from a primary, **τελλω**, **tello** – to set out for a definite point, or goal.

7:25, John 8:44), he also *opposes* those who keep the commandments of יהוה and the testimony of יהושע. Daniel 7:25, 8:24, 12:6-7, Revelation 12:17, 14:12 This, in itself, speaks volumes over the *real truth* behind the issue of Law vs. lawlessness.

⁸ Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Matthew 7:12, 15:23 [“iniquity” = lawlessness], 2John 1:6-11 [“the doctrine of the Messiah” = “the doctrine/teaching of the Messiah” = “the Torah/teaching of יהוה” Matthew 5:17-20, 7:12, 24-27 (cf. James 1:20-25, 4:11-12), Matthew 19:16-19, 22:34-40, 23:1-3, 23, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 11:42, John 15:10]

⁹ Luke 2:32

¹⁰ John 15:10, 1John 2:4-6, 5:2-3, Matthew 5:17-20

¹¹ Ephesians 4:17-20

¹² John 1:1-5, Psalm 36:9, 97:11, 119:105, 130, Proverbs 6:23, Isaiah 2:1-5, 8:20, John 12:35-36

¹³ John 1:14-18, Matthew 17:1-5, 2Corinthians 3:6-18

¹⁴ Revelation 3:11

¹⁵ John 13:34-35. Once more, this teaching did not do away with the Torah, as so many teach and imagine. Numerous Scriptures show us that *love* is the means by which true followers of the Messiah fulfill/uphold the precepts of the Torah. Matthew 7:12, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14, James 2:8, 1John 5:2-3, 2John 1:5-6

[This information regarding **telos** was obtained from entry 5056 in the Greek Dictionary of *Strong's Concordance*.]

And other translations render *this* word, in *this* Scripture, in this precise manner:

*Now the **goal** of the commandment
is love out of a pure heart, and a good
conscience, and faith unfeigned ...*
1 Timothy 1:5¹⁶

And this makes complete sense: The *goal* of the command was love; the command was not given to do away with love, or to abolish love in any way. The command was given with love as the *end in view*: *love was the ultimate goal!* Yet this Greek word, “telos” – a word meaning “goal” – was also used in the translation of Romans 10:4:

*“The Messiah is the **end** of the Torah for
righteousness to those who believe.”*
Romans 10:4

Many lawless teachers have mistakenly used this text to convince themselves, as well as many others, that the Torah has been *abolished* by the Savior; but such teachings do not honor **יהושע**, the Messiah of Yisrael, and they lead astray His sheep. Would those same teachers also preach that Sha’ul did away with love when writing to Timothy?¹⁷ Let us now read the Romans 10 text, once more, but this time, as Sha’ul intended it:

*“The Messiah is the **goal** of the Torah for
righteousness to those who believe.”*
Romans 10:4

The Messiah is the goal of the Torah for righteousness! Everything in the Torah points, prophetically, to Him!¹⁸ And since **יהושע** was the Word made flesh,¹⁹ does it not make perfect sense that the Torah would point to the Messiah and to *His righteousness*?²⁰ The Messiah was the Torah made flesh! Saying He abolished the Torah is almost like saying He has abolished

Himself! **יהוה** has commanded the Torah to be His *immutable* Word to 1000 generations!²¹ This will be anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 years, if not longer!²² Yet, presently, we are only 6,000 years from the Creation.

And so, through His ministry, the Messiah points us back to the Torah—the Torah which He came to fulfill, to complete!²³ When we understand this, we then realize the texts of Romans 10:4 and Matthew 5:17-20 are really saying the very same thing, only in a different way! The Messiah came to fulfill, to complete the Torah:

*Think not that I came to destroy
the Torah or the Prophets: I came not
to destroy, but to **fulfill**.*
Matthew 5:17-20

יהושע was the goal of the Torah for righteousness! The Torah pointed to Him because **יהוה** knew it would only be in the Messiah that we could learn to fulfill the righteous edicts of His immutable, age-enduring Law! And those who walk by faith in **יהושע** have a righteousness which upholds the Torah;²⁴ yet it is a righteousness which *exceeds* that of the scribes and Pharisees²⁵ because it is wrought in love!²⁶ If there are believers who are sincerely walking in the precepts of the Torah because the love of **יהוה** has been shed abroad in their hearts by the Ruach ha’Qodesh,²⁷ then those antagonistic believers who accuse them of “legalism” are very close to committing blasphemy of the Spirit.²⁸

In the life of a believer, there is a vital dynamic between the Torah, the written Word, and the Messiah, the Living Word:²⁹

¹⁶ The word “telos” is rendered “goal” by the NASB and the ISRV. The RSV translates it as “aim” and the NIV renders it as “purpose.”

¹⁷ 1 Timothy 1:5

¹⁸ Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Luke 24:25-27, John 1:45, 5:39

¹⁹ John 1:1-3, 14

²⁰ Romans 3:21-22, Deuteronomy 18:15-19

²¹ Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 105:8

²² *Considerably longer* if man’s lifespan becomes comparable to, or exceeds, what it was before the Flood.

²³ Matthew 3:13-15, 5:17

²⁴ Romans 2:13, 3:31, 8:7, 1 John 5:2-5

²⁵ Matthew 5:20

²⁶ John 14:15, 23, 15:10, 1 John 5:2-3, 2 John 1:6. True righteousness upholds the weightier aspects of the Torah (Matthew 23:23) and the Messiah showed that such righteousness emanates from *love* for **יהוה** (Luke 11:52), not from legalism! **יהוה** will most surely rebuke those who falsely charge their fellow believers with legalism when they are, in fact, walking in love. Isaiah 66:5

²⁷ Romans 5:5

²⁸ Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-30, Luke 12:10

²⁹ John 1:14

The Torah shows us our sin, and points to our need for the Savior.³⁰ But as our Example in all things, the Messiah points us back to the Torah as the Standard for living a life worthy of our calling.³¹ This, in turn, leads us back to the Messiah because we learn that, it is only as He lives within us,³² as we bear His yoke,³³ that we can learn to fully walk in the love which authentically keeps and fulfills the immutable precepts of the Father's Law.

So the Messiah came as our Example, keeping and teaching the Torah; and the Savior asserted all those who *kept and taught* the Torah commandments would be rewarded with *greatness and position* in the coming Millennial Kingdom. Let us read the entire text which shows the Messiah fulfilling His purpose “as the **goal** of the Torah for righteousness!”³⁴

17 “Think not that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, Until heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the Torah, until all things are accomplished. 19 Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say unto you: That unless your righteousness shall exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-20

So יהושע informs His followers that all those who follow His Example in keeping and teaching the Torah, all those who have a *righteousness* which exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, all such believers will be rewarded in the Millennium:

Followers of the Messiah who uphold the Torah will be deemed as His faithful overcomers, and they will be called *great* in the coming Kingdom.

Yet so many Christians (and even some Messianic Jews) in our days despise, mock, and/or lightly esteem others who take this position. Who, then, shall we believe in this serious matter? Shall we believe men who are, perhaps, well-intentioned, yet deeply mistaken and grievously misinformed (and who are also walking a path that does not lead themselves or others to the Kingdom)? Or shall we give heed to the Righteous, Unerring Messiah?³⁵ Who will you believe? The promise of יהושע will not fail, even if we must bear the contempt of others during this lifetime.³⁶ Walking by His Spirit, upholding the Father's commandments in faith and love, we can be sure that we are not building on a lawless foundation³⁷ of wood, hay, and stubble.³⁸ We are promised in His Word: the way of the lawless will perish, but those who do the will of Elohim, those who uphold the immutable Torah are also those who will abide for the Ages:

*They that trust in צדק are as
Mount Tziyon, which cannot be moved,
but abides for ever.
Psalm 125:1*

*And the world passes away,
and the lust thereof: but he that does the
will of Elohim abides for ever.
1John 2:17³⁹*

In contrast, the lawless will perish:⁴⁰ they will not attain to the First Resurrection⁴¹ because they have cast His Word behind them.⁴²

³⁰ Romans 3:20, 7:7

³¹ Matthew 5:17-20, 12:8, 19:16-22, 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, John 14:15,21, 15:10, Romans 2:13, 3:31, 8:4-7, 2Peter 2:21, 1John 2:4-6, 5:2-3, 2John 1:6, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14

³² John 15:5-7, Galatians 1:15-16, 2:20, Philippians 2:5, Colossians 1:27

³³ Matthew 11:28-30

³⁴ Romans 10:4

³⁵ Deuteronomy 18:15-19

³⁶ Isaiah 51:7-8

³⁷ Matthew 5:19, 7:21-28 (in verse 23, “iniquity” = lawlessness)

³⁸ 1Corinthians 3:10-15

³⁹ Cf. Isaiah 40:8, 1Peter 1:21-25

⁴⁰ Psalm 1:6

⁴¹ Psalm 1:5 (The literal Hebrew states the lawless will not *rise* in the judgment! “Stand” is a mistranslation.)

⁴² Psalm 50:16-17, Acts 13:46

Warnings of False Prophets

By and large, Christianity has become a stronghold of pagan practices which were “Christianized” by the papal apostasies of the Middle Ages. Consequently, few Christians could ever convince a devout Jew concerning the Messiah, for such Protestant believers – quite well-meaning and sincere as they are – unwittingly represent יהושע as a false, lawless prophet. Based on the immutable Word of יהוה, an Orthodox Jew, at least, would immediately shun any Messianic claims made by such believers. And why would this be the case? This is so, because Yisrael was directed by יהוה Himself to *reject* the message of any prophet who sought to turn them from the *immutable* Torah:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, whereof he spoke to you, saying, “Let us go after other deities, which you have not known, and let us serve them,” 3 you shall not hearken to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for יהוה your Elohim proves you, to know whether you love יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after יהוה your Elohim, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cleave to Him. 5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he has spoken to turn you away from יהוה your Elohim – which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage – to thrust you out of the way in which יהוה your Elohim commanded you to walk. So shall you put the evil away from the midst of you. Deuteronomy 13:1-5

Here we see the Scriptural definition of a false prophet: A false prophet is one who teaches the people of the Most High against the Torah! Even if such teachings are accompanied by *signs and wonders*, if those signs and wonders are designed to turn us away from the Torah commandments, then we must *not* accept the teachings, *or* the prophet, *or* the signs and wonders! There are authentic signs and wonders which accompany true prophets,⁴³ and

⁴³ Exodus 7:1-25 (plus the many other signs and wonders which יהוה worked in Egypt by the hand of Moses and

there are *false signs* and *lying wonders* which accompany false prophets;⁴⁴ yet it is only *true prophets* that uphold the Torah.⁴⁵

As we will see time and time again, יהושע was an authentic Prophet; His life and teachings stand in *absolute contrast* with the apostasy of false prophets who promulgate lawlessness. While He opposed the *man-made* traditions of the scribes and Pharisees,⁴⁶ the Messiah fully upheld the Torah and its immutable authority.⁴⁷ He openly taught the greatest two commandments in the Torah: love for יהוה and love for one’s neighbor.⁴⁸ He kept and upheld the Seventh Day, and He assured us of the *absolute permanence* of the Day of Rest by declaring Himself “Sovereign of the Shabbat.”⁴⁹ And Kepha would later state the Messiah to be “the Sovereign/Lord of All.”⁵⁰ The question one must ponder is: Since the Messiah forever remains the Sovereign/Lord of the Seventh Day, if one does not uphold the Sabbath, then is the Savior really (fully) the Lord of that person’s life? To be sure, our Messiah upheld the Fourth Commandment, yet people misinterpret the meaning of His *opposition* to man-made traditions by which the Pharisees had made the Shabbat a burden.⁵¹ *Restoring the Shabbat*⁵² by

Aaron: Exodus 8:1-11:10, Psalm 77:16-20), Numbers 16:23-34, 2Kings 4:18-37, Matthew 9:18-33, 10:8, 11:5, John 9:1-34, 11:14-45, 15:24, Acts 3:1-16, 20:9-12, Mark 16:17-20, 1Corinthians 2:4-5, 1Thessalonians 1:5

⁴⁴ Matthew 7:15-23, 24:4-5, 11:23-25, 2Thessalonians 2:7-10, Revelation 13:11-18, 16:12-14

⁴⁵ Romans 3:31, Proverbs 29:18, Jeremiah 23:21-22

⁴⁶ (traditions which *nullified* the mitzvot, or commandments, of יהוה) Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13, Galatians 1:13-14, Colossians 2:20-23

⁴⁷ Matthew 5:17-20. There are traditions which *uphold the Torah*, and these were *never* forbidden. Shaul himself fully upheld the Torah (Romans 2:13, 3:31), and he even taught *traditions* which upheld the Law. 2Thessalonians 2:15

⁴⁸ Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34. These two commandments, then, encapsulate all of the Ten Words (commonly called “the Ten Commandments”). And the Ten Commandments serve to give us *specific details* about how we love יהוה (Exodus 20:6, 1John 5:2-3) and our fellow man.

⁴⁹ Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, Hebrews 13:8

⁵⁰ Acts 10:34-36

⁵¹ Matthew 12:1-7,8, Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11, 13:10-17, 14:1-6

⁵² Of all the prophets, the Messiah was the *ultimate* Repairer of the Breach and Restorer of Paths in Which to Dwell! Isaiah 58:12-14

going back to the original meaning of the Day was one way in which יהושע fulfilled the prophecy to magnify the Law and make it honorable.⁵³ He was “the Messenger of the Covenant,”⁵⁴ and His teachings *restored* the *original intent* of the Word/Commandments of יהוה.

יהושע further magnified the Law by using it to show sin to be exceedingly sinful.⁵⁵ The Messiah used the Torah to shine the light of righteousness on man’s heart⁵⁶ so as to deal with sin by *defeating it at the point of its inception*.⁵⁷ This is how יהושע “*brought life and immortality to light*” through the Good News!⁵⁸ So while the Law was given through Mosheh, the much needed favor and truth – the very things which make obedience to that Torah possible⁵⁹ – came through יהושע the Messiah:

16 For of His fullness we all received, and favor upon favor. 17 For the Torah was given through Mosheh; favor and truth came through יהושע the Messiah.

John 1:16-17

Like the Messiah,⁶⁰ and like the apostle Sha’ul,⁶¹ Yochanan was showing with these words that the Messiah was “*the goal of the Torah for righteousness*.” Apart from Him, the Torah *would not be complete* and the righteousness of יהוה would have remained unattainable. יהושע came that we might have life abundantly,⁶² and life only comes from obeying the Word/Commandments of יהוה.⁶³

The Mystery of Lawlessness

יהושע not only *kept the commandments* Himself, He also stated any of His followers who **kept and taught** the Commandments of the Torah would be honored as *the greatest* in the

coming Kingdom!⁶⁴ Those who keep and teach the Father’s Law will rule in the highest positions of authority⁶⁵ in the coming Millennium, and they will be given the high honor commensurate with such priestly-political status:

19 Whosoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of heaven:⁶⁶ but whosoever shall do and teach them, he will be called great in the Kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19

The Messiah warned His hearers: the lawless will enter the Kingdom with shame; they shall be called “the least” because they will have lost all their reward. These words of the Messiah not only upheld the Torah, they were spoken in the context of His warning against false prophets – those who, by definition,⁶⁷ would not be walking in the light of the commandments.⁶⁸

The difference between true and false prophets is still a *critical issue* for these Last Days since the prophetic warning given in the Torah⁶⁹ is also the most ancient warning against the anti-Messiah; it was a warning given *far in*

⁶⁴ Matthew 5:17-20

⁶⁵ The Messiah indicated His faithful ones would rule over cities. Luke 19:16-19 And Sha’ul would later state that the set-apart ones will judge the world as well as the fallen angels. 1Corinthians 6:2-3

⁶⁶ For instance, if a person practices violating the Shabbat (as in ignoring it and teaching others it has been abolished), then that one will be in the category of “least” in the Kingdom: they will inherit dishonor, because the Shabbat is far from “the least” of commands seen in the Torah; being part of the Decalogue, the Fourth Commandment is a major tenet of the Law. Exodus 20:8-11

⁶⁷ Deuteronomy 13:1-5

⁶⁸ By “the context,” we mean the entire discourse seen in Matthew chapters 5-7. For false prophets, see Matthew 7:12-28. יהושע is teaching here that *true prophets* hear the word of יהוה and are *doers* of the Law. Romans 2:13, James 1:22-25, 4:11 False prophets are not doers of the Word: they do not bear good fruit because they do not abide in the Vine (John 15:4-6). They do not abide in יהושע because they do not abide in Him through continual, reverent prayer and because they do not uphold the Torah; they do not abide in what Yochanan/John called “the doctrine of the Messiah.” 2John 1:6-11, John 15:10, Matthew 5:17-20

⁶⁹ Deuteronomy 13:1-5, our opening Scripture.

⁵³ Isaiah 42:21

⁵⁴ Malachi 3:1

⁵⁵ Romans 7:9-13

⁵⁶ Matthew 5:21-28, 15:18-20, John 1:4,9, 2:24-25, 7:7, 2Corinthians 3:7-8, 15-18, Ephesians 3:16-19, 4:17-20, 5:13-14

⁵⁷ Romans 8:3-4, Hebrews 2:14-15, 1John 3:5-8

⁵⁸ 2Timothy 1:10, John 1:4-5,8-9

⁵⁹ Romans 2:13, 3:31, Hebrews 8:8-12, 1John 5:2-3, 2John RR, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14

⁶⁰ Matthew 5:17-20

⁶¹ Romans 10:4

⁶² John 10:10

⁶³ Deuteronomy 4:1,4, 5:33, 8:1, 30:15,19, Amos 5:4,6,14

advance of his lawless deeds—deeds by which this forthcoming world leader will cause the multitudes to walk in open violation of the Torah. Because the *setting aside* of the Torah commandments⁷⁰ would prevail worldwide⁷¹ through this great deception, the Spirit of יהוה termed this darkest apostasy “the mystery of lawlessness!”⁷² So Sha’ul aptly called the anti-Messiah “the lawless one” and stated his coming was to be, and is, in accordance with Satan.⁷³ Specifically, this anti-Torah personage will display *false* signs and wonders intended to turn the world – and, if possible, even the elect⁷⁴ – from the Law of יהוה:

7 For the secret of lawlessness is already at work – only until he who now restrains comes out of the midst. 8 And then the lawless one shall be revealed, whom the Master shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth,⁷⁵ and bring to naught with the manifestation of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and wonders of falsehood, 10 and with all deceit of unrighteousness in those perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth, in order for them to be saved.

2Thessalonians 2:7-10, ISRV

And through His vision to Yochanan/John, יהושע warned of these same signs and wonders, miracles of deceit which will deceive the entire world, pulling nearly everyone into an inescapable vortex of abject lawlessness and apostasy:

⁷⁰ Psalm 119:126, Isaiah 24:1-6, Jeremiah 9:13-16, 16:11-13, Hosea 8:12, 2Timothy 4:3-4. Sha’ul wrote “*the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine*,” and with the phrase “sound doctrine,” he meant the Torah! Sha’ul also wrote within the same context: ... “*and they shall indeed turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to myths.*” 2Timothy 4:4, ISRV In one of His very last prayers, יהושע said to יהוה regarding the Torah, “Thy word is truth.” John 17:17, Psalm 119:30, 43, 142, 151 Yet just as Sha’ul prophesied, multitudes have now turned away from the truth of the Torah and are giving credence to religious myths – mere fables which reek with falsehood and which have absolutely no spiritual substance and no veracity.

⁷¹ 1John 5:19, Revelation 12:9

⁷² 2Thessalonians 2:7

⁷³ 2Thessalonians 2:9

⁷⁴ Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 23-25

⁷⁵ Revelation 19:15, Hebrews 4:12-13, Isaiah 66:15-16

13 And he does great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by reason of the signs which it was given him to do in the sight of the beast, saying to those that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast who had the stroke of the sword and lived. 15 And it was given to him to give breath to it, even to the image, to the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead ... Revelation 13:13-16

This apostasy has fallen into place just as יהוה warned Yisrael over 3500 years ago. The “mystery of lawlessness” has even begun to incorporate signs and wonders to turn the people of the world away from the commandments of יהוה. We only expect more such signs and wonders to occur in the future (but on a much larger scale), and we urge every believer in the Messiah to take warning: If we are to avoid deception in these last days, we must build our house of faith on the Rock;⁷⁶ we must be followers of the Messiah, the Living Word, by being doers of the His Father’s Torah, the written word.⁷⁷ Lawless preachers will not prosper forever, and those who adhere to their apostate teachings will lose their crown.⁷⁸ Their works will be burned up in the day of יהוה.⁷⁹

The ancient paths of the immutable Torah⁸⁰ are not popular religion in our day, but they are the only paths which lead to life⁸¹ – to the Great Reward⁸² of the First Resurrection and life in the Messianic Age. Anyone who feels the Torah has been abolished should deeply ponder the following question:

⁷⁶ Matthew 7:24, 1Corinthians 3:11-13, 10:4

⁷⁷ Matthew 7:24-25, Romans 2:13, James 1:22-25, 4:11-12, Revelation 12:17, 14:12, 22:14

⁷⁸ Revelation 3:11

⁷⁹ Malachi 4:1, 1Corinthians 3:13-15

⁸⁰ Jeremiah 6:16

⁸¹ Deuteronomy 17:11,20, 28:14, Joshua 1:7, 23:6,

Matthew 7:13-14, Romans 8:7-8

⁸² Job 19:25-27, Psalm 19:11, Matthew 5:11-12,1

Hebrews 10:35

Since the mystery of *lawlessness* is satanic in its origin, and driven as it is by the lawless teachings of *false prophets*, how can the Messiah of Yisrael (or His followers) have any part in such anti-Torah apostasy?⁸³

The Splendor Of Yisrael

Every nation has a national hero. Such a hero typically represents everything the people of a given nation admire and, oftentimes, that person is the epitome of everything they desire to emulate. The national hero is one in whom his nation exults; he is their *ultimate* representative. Yisrael's national hero is their Messiah:

Even though they have still not fully realized or acknowledged it, Yisrael's national hero is the impaled and resurrected Messiah: יהושע of Nazareth, the Lion of the Tribe of Yahudah (Judah).

A little over 2000 years ago, Ruach ha'Qodesh had revealed to Shimeon he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, the Consolation of Yisrael.⁸⁴ After his eyes beheld the child, יהושע, Shimeon made the following statement – a statement which showed יהושע *already was*, and would yet become, the national hero, *the splendor*, of His people Yisrael:

28 Then he took Him up in his arms, and blessed Elohim, and said, 29 “יהוה, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word: 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 which You have prepared before the face of all people: 32 a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the splendor of Your people Yisrael.”
Luke 2:28-32

If the Messiah lived, advocated, or taught lawlessness, He would not be, *He could not be* the splendor of the nation of Yisrael. All Yisraelis would rightly be ashamed of Him because His life would not be exemplary in regard to the Torah—the Law which יהוה, has commanded to endure to no less than 1000

generations!⁸⁵ However, far from being a teacher of lawlessness, יהושע was a Prophet who lived and taught the weightiest commandments of the Torah⁸⁶ while also fulfilling the less weighty.⁸⁷ יהושע always kept the Shabbat as well as all the other Feasts of יהוה.⁸⁸ He never ate unclean animal flesh.⁸⁹ He loved יהוה with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength while displaying great love and service towards His fellow man. These weightier aspects of the Torah formed the foundation upon which the Messiah based all of His teachings. יהושע never violated the Torah and He never spoke against it! On the contrary, as we have already seen, He magnified the Torah and made it honorable.⁹⁰ Before His next return to earth, many in Yisrael will exalt יהושע as their Messiah, and they will realize *only He* can save the nation from all its enemies. Many Yisraelites are already awaiting His imminent return, and even now they are proclaiming of their Messiah (in advance of His descent from on high):

“Blessed is He that comes in the Name of יהוה!”

Matthew 23:37-39, Luke 13:34-35

And the *literal fulfillment* of this prophecy is another indication that a long-standing Jewish tradition is simply another commandment-nullifying precept of men;⁹¹ and it is a tradition that is *not recognized* in the Courts of Heaven. We speak of the unsubstantiated tradition which substitutes the word “Adonai” for the Memorial Name of יהוה, the Name which He commanded to *all* generations. Even now, many who stand in awe of His great Name have refused to accept a tradition which so clearly nullifies the Word of יהוה. The Name of יהוה is His memorial to all generations, and this generation has been given the special opportunity to memorialize it in relation to the returning Messiah:

⁸³ The answer: The followers of the Messiah will not have a part in such lawlessness: They are set forth as those “who keep the commandments of יהוה and the faith of יהושע.” Revelation 14:12, 12:17, 22:14, Romans 2:13, 3:31, 8:7, 1 Timothy 6:13-14

⁸⁴ Luke 2:25-26

⁸⁵ Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 105:8-10. 1000 generations would amount to *at least* 40,000 years! Yet we have not even journeyed for 6000 years, thus far, in mankind's brief history!

⁸⁶ Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34

⁸⁷ Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42

⁸⁸ Leviticus 23

⁸⁹ Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14

⁹⁰ Isaiah 42:21

⁹¹ Mark 7:9, Colossians 2:20-22

*“Blessed is He ⁹² that comes ⁹³
in the Name of יהוה.”*

יהושע will come, once more, in the Name of יהוה, and all His enemies will be consumed by the Spirit/breath of His mouth.⁹⁴ May those who await this great day continually bow before יהוה, the Most High El, with reverence, thanksgiving and awe.

A Light to the Gentiles

In addition to His being the splendor of Yisrael, יהושע was also to become “a light to lighten the Gentiles.”⁹⁵ His Example was set forth for *all nations of the earth* to follow.⁹⁶ When יהוה preached the Good News through Abraham, He declared *all nations* would be blessed through the patriarch’s Seed, the Messiah.⁹⁷ Because יהושע was rejected by His own people,⁹⁸ the way of salvation was opened to reach to the ends of the earth.⁹⁹ In fulfillment of the promise of יהוה, the message of salvation was opened to all nations ... “Yahudi and Greek, barbarian and Scythian”¹⁰⁰ ... Ethiopian¹⁰¹ and Roman/Italian.¹⁰² Further, the prophet Isaiah indicated יהוה will, at some future point, even call the Egyptians and the Assyrians His people!¹⁰³

Through the emissaries of the Messiah, יהוה was not only gathering the outcasts of the twelve tribes of Yisrael scattered abroad,¹⁰⁴ He has also been bidding people of all nations¹⁰⁵ to come to the wedding feast.”¹⁰⁶

As יהוה indicated through the prophet, Isaiah, *all who thirst* were invited.”¹⁰⁷ The House of

יהוה would now become, as never before, a House of prayer for all peoples.¹⁰⁸ This is why Yochanan would later see a vision in which an immense multitude of varying nationalities and tongues standing victoriously before the throne; these were believers who had been redeemed from “every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”¹⁰⁹

But in the first century, what manner of teaching did Gentile converts encounter? Could they simply just “accept יהושע” and “just believe,” as so many in our days espouse? Were there absolutely *no standards* in place? Were these converts offered pick-and-choose, multiple choice options for living? Scripture is clear the Gentiles who came to faith in יהושע were led to the paths of the Torah by all the apostles.

*Repentance meant turning from sin,
and the Torah defines sin!*

Once a person has been saved by the grace/favor¹¹⁰ of יהוה through the Offering of the Messiah on the Tree, that person is not free to continue in sin;¹¹¹ they are not free to continue transgressing the Torah.¹¹² So the love of יהוה was poured into their hearts by Ruach ha’Qodesh, and this love gave the Gentiles the desire to keep His commandments.¹¹³ Believing on His Name resulted in the bestowing of power to become sons of יהוה, the power to overcome sin.¹¹⁴ *Obedience* was required of any who sought to enter the Kingdom. Not surprisingly, Shaul directed Gentiles to no longer walk in darkness as did the other Gentiles around them:

*This I say, therefore, and testify in the Master,
that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles*

⁹² (i.e., the Messiah!)

⁹³ (i.e., to Earth from the Heavens!)

⁹⁴ Psalm 104:35, Isaiah 66:16-17, Jeremiah 14:15, 24:10, Ezekiel 22:30-31, Zephaniah 1:18, 3:8, Zechariah 14:12, 2Thessalonians 1:6-9, 2:8, Revelation 1:14, 2:18, 19:12-16

⁹⁵ Luke 2:32

⁹⁶ Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8, Colossians 1:23, Revelation 14:6-7

⁹⁷ Genesis 12:2-3, 18:17-19, 22:16-18, 26:4-5, 28:12-14

⁹⁸ Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11, Romans 11:25

⁹⁹ Acts 13:44-49, Psalm 22:27

¹⁰⁰ Romans 1:16, Colossians 3:11

¹⁰¹ Acts 8:26-39

¹⁰² Acts 10:1-28

¹⁰³ Isaiah 19:19-25

¹⁰⁴ Psalm 147:2-3, Isaiah 56:8, James 1:1

¹⁰⁵ (people outside the fold of Yisrael, John 10:16)

¹⁰⁶ Isaiah 56:8, Luke 14:16-24

¹⁰⁷ Isaiah 55:3, Revelation 22:17

¹⁰⁸ His House has always has been a House of Prayer for *all* peoples: Caleb the son of a Kenazite, Rahab of Jericho, Ruth the Moabitess, Uriah the Hittite, and many others have become a part of Yisrael. In יהושע, this outreach now continues, only on a much larger scale. יהוה is gathering far more than just the outcasts of Yisrael. Isaiah 56:8, John 10:16

¹⁰⁹ Revelation 5:9, *ISRV*. See also 7:9 and 14:6.

¹¹⁰ Ephesians 2:8-9

¹¹¹ Romans 6:1-2, 12-18

¹¹² 1John 3:4, Romans 2:12, 3:31

¹¹³ Romans 5:5, Exodus 20:6, Deuteronomy 5:10, 11:1, 22, Joshua 22:5, John 14:15, 15:10, 1John 5:2-3, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 31:31-33

¹¹⁴ John 1:12, Romans 1:16, Philippians 3:10, Colossians 1:11, 2:10, 1Peter 1:5, 2Peter 1:3

walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of Elohim through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart. 19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to indecency, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned the Messiah, 21 if, indeed, you have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in **ידוּשֶׁע** Ephesians 4:17-19

The clear implication here is the Gentiles were being directed to walk in the light of the Torah, the light which shone forth from the life and splendor of the Jewish Messiah!¹¹⁵ In this Scripture, Shaul stated the truth – *the truth of the Torah* – is in **ידוּשֶׁע**! Anyone who is being taught by Him is also learning to walk in that Torah truth! Remember, **ידוּשֶׁע** had already said of the Torah, “Thy word is truth.”¹¹⁶ If we continue/abide in this teaching, **ידוּשֶׁע** proclaimed the truth of the Torah would set us free! In saying this, the Messiah was showing the Torah to be the “Law of liberty!”¹¹⁷

Below, we provide abundant evidence which shows Gentile converts were always led to the light of *the Torah* in the face of Messianic splendor:

- Gentiles were taught from the Torah against fornication: Leviticus 18:1-30, Acts 15:20,29, 1Corinthians 5:1-2, 6:18, Galatians 5:19-21.
- Gentiles were taught from the Torah against homosexuality, a specific type of fornication: Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1Corinthians 6:9, 1Timothy 1:10.
- Gentiles were taught from the Torah against sorcery and witchcraft: Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 20:27, Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Malachi 3:5, Galatians 5:19-21, Revelation 21:8, 22:15.

Along this vein, in Galatians 4:8-11, we read Sha’ul taught Gentiles *against* the observance of *pagan holidays*—days which have historically been the hallmarks of idolatry and its associates in paganism: sorcery, astrology, and witchcraft.

When rebuking them for **turning back to pagan rites** – things which they had practiced **before their conversion** ¹¹⁸ – Sha’ul said, “You observe days, and months, and **times**, and years.”

Galatians 4:10

And he solemnly warned them: Should they continue in such anti-Torah *paganism*, his labor over them would be *in vain* since they would not inherit the Kingdom.¹¹⁹ Shaul was clearly echoing the Torah¹²⁰ and the age-old warning from **ידוּה** against the paganism of *observing times*. This apostle to the Gentiles was warning the Galatians *from the Torah*, and he was warning them against delving into astrological prognostications based on the Zodiac and the stars:

You shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall you use enchantment, nor **observe times**.
Leviticus 19:26

There shall not be found among you any one that makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or **an observer of times**, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination to **ידוּה**: and because of these abominations **ידוּה** your Elohim is driving them out from before you. You shall be perfect with **ידוּה** your Elohim. For these nations, which you shall possess, hearkened to **observers of times**, and unto diviners:¹²¹ but as for you, **ידוּה** your Elohim has not allowed you to do so.

Deuteronomy 18:10-14

The apostle Sha’ul sternly warned the Galatians against the very same violation of the Torah as was forbidden by **ידוּה** through Mosheh!¹²² He somberly warned these converts, who had formerly walked in the darkness of pagan

¹¹⁵ 2Corinthians 3:12-18

¹¹⁶ John 17:17, Psalm 119:30, 43, 142, 151

¹¹⁷ Compare John 8:31-32, James 1:25 (4:11), Isaiah 61:1, Exodus 8:20, 9:13

¹¹⁸ Galatians 4:8. This shows Shaul was referring to the pagan worship of false deities!! He was rebuking the pagan worship in which the unconverted Galatians had been steeped before learning the Good News!

¹¹⁹ Galatians 4:11

¹²⁰ Matthew 5:19

¹²¹ So Sha’ul’s rebuke was against practices similar to modern day astrology, a practice replete with deductions and lifestyle decisions based on the stars.

¹²² Acts 24:14

idolatry, that their return to *observing times* based on satanic astrology would keep them from inheriting the Kingdom of Elohim. Galatians 4:11 Such idolatry was an unrighteous work of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21

- Gentiles were taught from the Torah against idolatry: Exodus 20:3, 1Kings 9:6-7, 1Corinthians 10:14, Acts 15:20, 21:25, 1Corinthians 6:9, 10:7, 2Corinthians 6:16-17, Galatians 5:19-21, Colossians 3:5, 1Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 21:8, 22:15.

- Gentiles were taught to eat in accordance with the Levitical laws of the Torah: they were to eat no blood (including no unclean flesh) and nothing strangled, Leviticus 3:17, Acts 15:20,29.¹²³ If the Law had been abolished by the Messiah (as so many today teach), then why were the *apostles* still teaching Gentile converts precepts from *Leviticus*?! They were teaching them from the priestly book of Leviticus because the engrafted Gentiles had now become a part of the nation of Yisrael;¹²⁴ they had become part of a *royal priesthood*!¹²⁵

- Gentiles were taught to no longer walk as Gentiles, but to walk as the Yahudim/Jews – living in the Commandments of the Torah: Zechariah 8:23, Romans 2:13, 3:31, 8:4-7, 1Corinthians 7:19, Ephesians 4:17-20, Galatians 2:14.

- And Gentile converts were taught to keep the Sabbath. Consequently, they heard Mosheh preached every week on the Seventh Day: Isaiah 56:6-7, Acts 13:42-44, 15:19-21, 17:2-4, 18:4. In the *Book of Acts*, it is quite clear that Gentile converts joined the Yahudim in worshipping on the Shabbat. It was not the other way around! The Messianic Yahudim did not revert to the paganism of Sun worship (on Sun-day) over which their ancestors had long-since been rebuked by יהוה through the prophet Ezekiel.¹²⁶

If the Torah had been abolished, evidently no one told any of the apostles this was the case! They still upheld all moral aspects of the Law

¹²³ For more information and more details, see the book, *“Is All Meat Meet to Eat?”*

¹²⁴ Romans 11:17-21, Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-22

¹²⁵ Exodus 19:3-6, 1Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:5-6, 5:10, 20:4-6

¹²⁶ Ezekiel 8:15-18

and they taught the Gentiles to do likewise! Representing the Messiah, the One who would fulfill the word as “*a light to lighten the Gentiles*,”¹²⁷ the apostles taught them of the light and truth which emanated from the immutable Torah! Walking *by faith in the Messiah*, the engrafted Gentiles upheld the Torah, and obtained a righteousness which *exceeded* that of the scribes and Pharisees; *through faith in the Messiah*,¹²⁸ the Gentile believers in the first century did what Yisrael of old was never able to do!

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who did not follow after righteousness, attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Yisrael, following after the Torah of righteousness, did not arrive at the Torah. 32 Why? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by works. They stumbled at the Stone of stumbling; 33 even as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Tziyon a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence: and he that believes in Him shall not be put to shame.” Romans 9:30-33

This explains why Sha’ul could say he had a righteousness which was not of the Law/Torah, but one which was based on *faith* in the Messiah:

... and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the Law, but that which is through faith in the Messiah, the righteousness which is from Elohim by faith ...

Philippians 3:9

Having clearly seen all the issues, we can better understand that, while our righteousness is *not based on the Torah*, it certainly is not contrary to the Law! For, as we have seen time and time again, if we truly walk by faith in the Savior, then we will also be following His Example in upholding the immutable precepts of the Torah!¹²⁹ (From these *seemingly* contradictory texts, we may also understand why the apostle Kepha (Peter) warned many people were twisting the apostle Sha’ul’s writings to their

¹²⁷ Luke 2:32

¹²⁸ Matthew 5:17-20

¹²⁹ Matthew 5:17-20, Romans 2:13, 3:31, 8:7, 1John 2-5, 2John 6, Revelation 14:12

own demise;¹³⁰ those who advocate lawlessness based on Sha'ul's writings will pay the penalty since neither he nor his Messiah taught the Torah had been abolished.)

יהוה is now blessing all nations through the Seed of Abraham.¹³¹ He is bringing salvation to "the ends of the earth" as He redeems people from "every tribe, tongue, people, and nation." New Covenant believers cannot be partakers in the covenant if they opt to do whatever they want so long as they "just believe." Scripture is clear: יהוה only has one moral standard for His people.¹³² So when Sha'ul stated there was "neither Yahudi nor Greek" in יהושע, he was also showing the standards of the Torah were to be imposed on *all New Covenant believers*, including Gentile converts!¹³³ The many Scripture records cited above clearly show this was (and is) the case! Through יהושע, Gentile converts become a part of the Olive Tree of Yisrael.¹³⁴ One brother has rightly pointed out that there are *no gates* in the New Jerusalem for lawless believers: There are twelve gates for each of the twelve tribes of Yisrael, and each of twelve foundation stones contains one of the names of the twelve, Yisraeli apostles!¹³⁵ We must enter the Kingdom *through Yisrael*, and the advocates of anti-Torah lawlessness will have *no inheritance* in that nation.

A True Prophet

True prophets were faithful representatives and teachers of the Torah. Yeshayahu (Isaiah) stated this very thing when he proclaimed:

*"To the Law and to the testimony:
if they speak not according to this word,
it is because there is no light in them."*

Isaiah 8:20

Yeshayahu would later say of the Torah:

¹³⁰ 2Peter 3:15-16

¹³¹ Galatians 3:16

¹³² Leviticus 18:26

¹³³ Romans 1:16, Romans 10:11-13, Galatians 3:28. The Evangelical world *completely reverses this* statement by erroneously asserting there is no Torah standard either for Jew or Greek! But the Scriptures define "saints" (ones set apart) as those who keep the commandments of יהוה and the faith of יהושע. Revelation 14:12

¹³⁴ Romans 11:17-24, Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-22

¹³⁵ Revelation 21:10-14

*"Grass shall wither, the flower
shall fade, but the Word of our
Elohim stands forever."*

Isaiah 40:8, ISRV

And he would later show the Spirit and the Torah are in *absolute unison* when indicating Israel's violation of the commandments grieved the Spirit of יהוה:

*"But they rebelled and grieved
His Ruach ha'Qodesh."*

Isaiah 63:10

Further, we find יהוה speaking through the prophets and continually rebuking Yisrael for violating the Torah.¹³⁶ Both Mosheh and יהושע defined the "narrow way" as the path of life seen in the Torah.¹³⁷

*Ye shall observe to do therefore as יהוה
your Elohim has commanded you: you shall not
turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*

Deuteronomy 5:32

And so, יהושע warns: Those who turn aside, to the right hand or to the left, have not remained on the narrow way defined by the Torah:

*12 All things, therefore, whatever you desire
that men should do to you, even so, do you also
unto them: for this is the Torah and the
Prophets. 13 Enter in by the narrow gate: for
wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that
leads to destruction, and many are they that
enter in thereby. 14 For narrow is the gate, and
compressed is the way, that leads to life, and
few are they that find it. Matthew 7:12-14*

While we are saved by *only by His grace/favor*, we are rewarded by our deeds, our works, our obedience!¹³⁸ Once a believer has been saved by the Offering of יהושע, there will be (there must be) an inner impetus – driven in the Spirit by love and gratitude – to seek יהוה with the whole heart. The psalmist wrote how such seeking relates to the Torah:

¹³⁶ Isaiah 58:13-14, Jeremiah 17:20-27, 2Chronicles 36:15-21, Ezekiel 20:1-26

¹³⁷ Deuteronomy 5:32, 17:20, Joshua 1:7, 23:6, Proverbs 4:27, Matthew 7:12-14

¹³⁸ Romans 2:6-13, 2Corinthians 5:10, 1Peter 1:17, Revelation 2:19,23,25-27, 22:12

*O the blessedness of observers
of His testimonies! With all the
heart they seek Him.*
Psalm 119:2

While the Messiah said,

*“But you, seek first the Kingdom of Elohim,
and His righteousness, and all these
shall be added to you.”*
Matthew 6:33

Prayerfully seeking the treasures of His Presence should always be first in our lives. We have clearly proven His Torah is an integral part of *authentic* seeking! All true prophets will keep and teach His immutable mitzvot, or commandments. And any who desire to follow in the footsteps of the Messiah will be falling short of the mark if His Example of Torah observance is ignored or set aside. ❁

C.P.
Northridge, CA
Sukkot, 19th day of the 7th month
(10/7/2009)

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Part 2-C <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWHvb-ZjSok>

Part 2-D

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRXmKn62nzM>

Part 2-E

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HVgr1phqXU>

Part 3-A <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxmfrI-WMbY>

Part 3-B

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTQgG6DbnIs>

Part 3-C

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6AU0RbDUrQ>

Part 3-D

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inHgtHgIx0A>

Part 3-E

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qazpsCXyduM>

Roman Catholic and Protestant Confessions About Sunday

<http://www.biblesabbath.org/confessions.html>

Overview: Roman Catholic and Protestant officials candidly admit the Seventh Day Sabbath of the Bible was usurped by the pagan Sun-day.

Why the Protestant Reformation Failed

See: <http://www.bible-sabbath.com/Sabbath-Sunday/Protestant-Failed.pdf>

Overview: A brief study which shows how even Martin Luther failed to root out all paganism and still accepted the pagan Sun-day in his less-than-successful "Reformation."

אבנדהוזהטיכלמנסעפצקרת

An Excellent Translation of the Scriptures

The INSTITUTE FOR SCRIPTURE RESEARCH is an organization of Messianic believers based in South Africa. They have published an excellent version of the Word of יהוה which they have called, "*The Scriptures*."

"ISRV" is an abbreviation which readers will have seen at various locations in the study. ISRV is an acronym which means: "*INSTITUTE FOR SCRIPTURE RESEARCH VERSION*." Thus, it is our abbreviation/acronym for the Institute's translation of the Scriptures.

This outstanding translation fulfills the Word of יהוה to Mosheh by restoring His Qadosh Name – the Name which יהוה declared to be His unchanging Memorial across an *immense* time span of 1000 generations. Exodus 3:14-15, Deuteronomy 7:9. For those wishing to make further inquiry, and to possibly order this translation, the website address for ISR is:

<http://www.isr-messianic.org>

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