

Unleashing the Old Testament

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Bible Teacher*

Session 6



1

Is the Torah (the Law) for Today?



4

A Reminder!



5

A Reminder!

The Old Testament is God's inspired Word for today

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

But...



6

Interpretive Blockages

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

(John 1:17)



7

Interpretive Blockages

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

(Galatians 5:18)



8

Interpretive Blockages

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
(Romans 6:14)



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Is "the Law" for Today?

- ❖ What Is "The Law"?
- ❖ "The Law" and the Old Covenant
- ❖ "The Law" and the New Covenant



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Is "the Law" for Today?

What Is "the Law"?

יָרָה ← תּוֹרָה

Torah <i>Instruction, direction, teaching, law</i>	Yarah <i>To teach</i>
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11

Is "the Law" for Today?

Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

(Genesis 26:3-5)



12

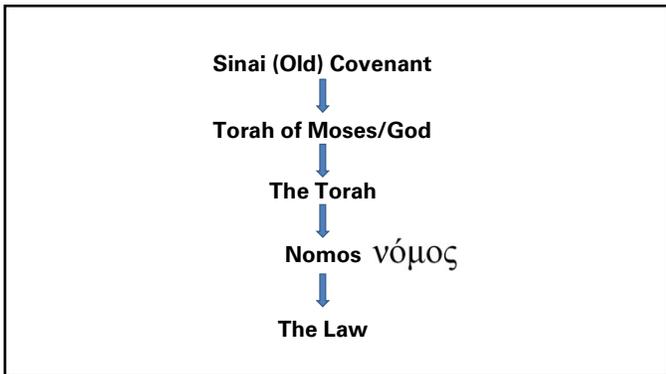
Is "the Law" for Today?

What Is "the Law"?

<p>תּוֹרָה</p> <p>Torah <i>Instruction, direction, teaching, law</i></p>	<p>בְּרִית</p> <p>B'rit <i>Covenant: agreement, treaty, alliance</i></p>
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Is the Torah for Today?

- ❖ What Is the Torah (the Law)?
- ❖ “Torah” and the Old Covenant
- ❖ “Torah” and the New Covenant



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Torah & the Old Covenant

- ❖ Introduction to the Old Covenant
 - Connection to Abrahamic Covenant
 - Basis of the Old Covenant
- ❖ Life Under the Old Covenant
 - Blessings of the Old Covenant
 - Curses of the Old Covenant
 - Provision for Restoration



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Introduction to the Old Covenant

Connection to Abrahamic Covenant: Abraham’s descendants in trouble

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

(Exodus 2:24)



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Introduction to the Old Covenant

Basis of the Covenant: God's deliverance

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. Etc.

(Exodus 20:2-3)



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Life Under the Old Covenant

Blessings of the Covenant

You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

(Deuteronomy 5:32-33)



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Life Under the Old Covenant

Curses of the Covenant

And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life.

(Deuteronomy 28:64-66)



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Life Under the Old Covenant

Provision for Restoration

But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. (Leviticus 26:40-42)



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Torah & the Old Covenant: Summary

The Old Covenant (Torah) given by God through Moses revealed God's ways (torah) to Israel.

The Old Covenant (Torah) was dependant upon an obedience to God's ways (torah) that Israel (or any other nation) could not have given.



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Torah & the New Covenant

- ❖ The New Covenant Promised
- ❖ The New Covenant Instituted
- ❖ The New Covenant and the Nations
 - God's Promise to the Nations
 - New Covenant Mandate
 - Mission to the Nations
 - The Torah Controversy
- ❖ The New Covenant & Torah
- ❖ The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant



23

The New Covenant Promised

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD...



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The New Covenant Promised

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law (torah) within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)



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The New Covenant Promised (Jer. 31:31-34)

- 1. New covenant; not like the Sinai one
- 2. Internalization of Torah
- 3. Establishes right relationship with God
- 4. True personal knowledge of God for all
- 5. Forgiveness of sins
- 6. Object of promise: Israel & Judah



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The New Covenant Instituted

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."
 (Luke 22:20)



27

The New Covenant & the Nations

God's Promise to the Nations

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 (Genesis 12:3)



28

The New Covenant & the Nations

New Covenant Mandate

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



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The New Covenant & the Nations

Mission to the Nations

- ❖ Saul called unto the nations (Acts 9)
- ❖ Peter sent by God to a Gentile's home (Acts 10)
- ❖ Peter grilled by the Jerusalem leadership (Act 11)
- ❖ Jewish believers preach Jesus to Gentiles (Acts 11)
- ❖ Barnabas and Saul are commissioned to their first preaching tour (Acts 13)
- ❖ They return to home base (Acts 14)
- ❖ Certain Jewish believers say Gentile believers must embrace customs (Acts 15)



30

The New Covenant & the Nations

The Torah Controversy

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

(Acts 15:1-5)



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The New Covenant & the Nations

The Torah Controversy

The Resolution:

Therefore my (i.e. James) judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues

(Acts 15:19-21)



32

The New Covenant & the Nations

The Torah Controversy

Four things to abstain from:

- ❖ Food sacrificed to idols
- ❖ Blood
- ❖ Things strangled
- ❖ Sexual immorality

Is everything else not on this list permissible?



33

The New Covenant & Torah

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:8-10)



34

The New Covenant & Torah

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

(Matthew 7:12)



35

The New Covenant & Torah

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



36

The New Covenant & Torah

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

(Matthew 5:21-22)



37

The New Covenant & Torah

What Is "the Law"?

תּוֹרָה

Torah
*Instruction, direction,
teaching, law*

בְּרִית

B'rit
*Covenant: agreement,
treaty, alliance*



38

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. (Hebrews 13:8)

Sinai Covenant was coming to an end



39

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. (Hebrews 7:11-12)

The New Covenant is a new system



40

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace...



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The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:12-16)

***Grace, not Torah,
is the control factor in our lives.***



42

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:15-16)

***We are made right with God by faith in Messiah,
not through adherence to the Sinai (Old) Covenant.***



43

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

***The revelation of God's ways (torah) came through Moses;
the ability to live out God's ways (torah) came through
Jesus the Messiah.***



44

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith...



45

The New Covenant & the Sinai Covenant

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:23-29)

The Sinai (Old) Covenant was a temporary measure until the coming of the Messiah.



46

Is Torah for Today?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)



47

Is Torah for Today?

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law (torah), the law (torah) of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

(James 1:22-25)



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Is Torah for Today?

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

(Ephesians 5:8b-10)



49

Is Torah for Today?

And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

(Matthew 13:52)



50

Is Torah for Today?

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)



51

The Torah for Today

You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling
block before the blind, but you shall fear your
God: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:14)



52

The Torah for Today

When you build a new house, you shall make a
parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the
guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall
from it.

(Deuteronomy 22:8)



53

The Torah for Today

You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.

(Deuteronomy 23:12-13)



54

The Torah for Today

You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

(Leviticus 19:32)



55

The Torah for Today

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

(Leviticus 19:9-10)



56

The Torah for Today

When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Are the trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you? Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.
(Deuteronomy 20:19-20)



57

The Torah for Today

You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested them. (Leviticus 20:22-23)



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