

Obeying The Torah of Righteousness

Toh·rah' often refers to the first five (5) books of the Bible—**Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.** ” The Torah was written by Moshah (Moses), so it is called “the book of the Law of Moses.” (**Joshua 8:31; Nehemiah 8:1**) Evidently, it was originally written as one (1) book but was later divided for easier handling.

•Toh·rah' is also used for the laws given to Yisrael on a particular subject, such as “the law [toh·rah'] of the sin offering,” “the law about leprosy,” and “the law about the Nazirite.”—**Leviticus 6:25;14:57; Numbers 6:13.**

The Hebrew word תּוֹרָה (Torah, Strong's #8451) means Teaching or Instruction, but is usually translated into the English word "Law". Because of this translation there is a great misunderstanding of what Torah truly is. "Torah is not the Law". When we use the word "law" we assume a certain meaning and concept of the word that is not present in the Hebrew Scriptures.

A Hebraic definition of Torah is "a set of Instructions, from a father to his children, violation of these instructions are disciplined in order to foster obedience and train his children". Notice how the word Torah is translated in the New International Version translation in the following passages.

for יְהוָה (Yahuah) corrects (chastens, reproves) him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. **Proverbs 3:12**

It is for discipline that you have to endure. יְהוָה (Yahuah) is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? **8** If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. **9** Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of ruachs (spirits) and live? **Hebrews 12:7-9**

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching [Torah]." **Proverbs 1:8**

"My son, do not forget my teaching [Torah], but keep my commands in your heart". **Proverbs 3:1**

The purpose of a parents Torah is to teach and bring the children to maturity. If the Torah is violated out of disrespect or defiant disobedience, the child is punished. If the child desires to follow the instructions out of a loving obedience but falls short of the expectations, the child is commended for the effort and counseled on how to perform the instructions better the next time. Unlike Torah, law is a set of rules from a government and binding on a community. Violation of the rules require punishment. With this type of law, there is no room for teaching, either the law was broken with the penalty of punishment or it was not broken. יְהוָה (Yahuah), as our heavenly Father, gives his children his Torah (Teaching and Instructions) in the same manner;

"Baruch (Blessed) is the man you discipline, O **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah), the man you teach from your Torah (Teaching and Instructions)" **Psalms 94:12**

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF TORAH

The word "Righteous" is a translation of the Hebrew verb tsa-daq (Strong's #6663), which means "to walk a straight line". From this root comes the noun tsadiyq, Strong's #6662) which means "a straight line". This can literally mean a straight line, or figuratively "what is right" which is where we get the words "right" and "righteous". Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is "a way of life" or "a way to walking", the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is a straight line and teaches **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s children how to walk a straight line. Therefore, Torah is the "straight line" by which his children are to walk.

When you walk, they will guide you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. **23** For this Commandment is a lamp, this Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way to life, **Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 119:105**

And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous (tsadiyq) decrees and judgments as this body of Torah (Teaching, Instructions) I am setting before you today? **Deuteronomy 4:8**

A tsadiyq is also "one who walks a straight line" or "a righteous one". Those who follow the righteous Torah (Teaching and Instructions) are considered righteous, a tsadiyq.

And if we are careful to obey all this Torah (Teaching and Instructions) before **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) our Aluahym, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness (tsadiyq). **Deuteronomy 6:25**

You will again see the distinction between the righteous (tsadiyq) and the wicked, between those who serve **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah) and those who do not. **Malachi 3:18**

The New Covenant also teaches that righteousness comes from obedience to the Torah (Teaching and Instructions).

For it is not those who hear the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) who are righteous in **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s sight, but it is those who obey the Torah (Teaching, Instructions) who will be declared righteous. **Romans 2:13**

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous. **1 John 3:7**

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of your Aluahym, I also will forget your children.

Jeremiah 26:4-6 You shall say to them, 'Thus says **אֱלֹהִים** (Yahuah): If you will not listen to me, to walk in Torah (Teaching and Instructions) that I have set before you, **5** and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, **6** then I will make this house like Shiloha (place of peace/rest), and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.'"

Daniel 9:9-10 To אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) our Aluahym belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) our Aluahym by walking in his Torah (Teaching and Instructions), which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

THE BARACHAH (BLESSINGS) OF OBEDIENCE TO TORAH

And it shall come to pass, if you shall listen diligently unto the voice of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym, to observe and to do all his Commandments which I Command you this day, that אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym will set you on high above all nations of the earth: And all these Barachah (Blessings) shall come on you, and overtake you, if you shall listen unto the voice of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym.

Over and over in אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah)'s Word we are promised that when we honor Him and obey His Commandments, his statutes (conditions, requirements) and ordinances (judgments), He will Baruch (Bless) us.

Baruch (Blessed) are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah)! Baruch (Blessed) are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! **Psalms 119:2-3, Deuteronomy 6-8; 28; 30; Leviticus 26**, etc....

Scripture says that obedience to the statutes, ordinances and judgments brings Barachah (Blessings). I Highly recommend studying out the Feasts of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah), Sabbath, clean eating, etc... All, according to אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah)'s everlasting and unchanging Word, are marks of righteousness and bring barachah (blessings).

Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge (observance), my commandments (mitsvah), my statutes (conditions, requirements), and my Torah (Teaching and Instructions).

Exodus 12:49 There shall be one (1) Torah (Teaching and Instructions) for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.

Exodus 13:9 And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) may be in your mouth.

Numbers 6:21 "This is the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of the Nazirite (devoted or consecrated). But if he vows an offering to אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) above his Nazirite vow, as he can afford, in exact accordance with the vow that he takes, then he shall do in addition to the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of the Nazirite (devoted or consecrated)."

Psalms 1:2 but his delight is in the Torah (Teachings and Instructions) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah), and on his Torah (teachings and Instructions) he meditates day and night.

Nehemiah 9:13 You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from Shamyim (Heavens) and gave them right rules and true Torah (Teaching and Instructions), good **Psalms 119:33** and Commandments,

Psalms 19:7 The Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of אֱלֹהֵינוּ (Yahuah) is perfect,

reviving the soul; the testimony of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) is sure, making wise the one;

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and to do it and to teach his statutes (conditions, requirements) and rules (Judgments) in Yisrael.

Psalms 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my Torah (Teaching and Instructions); incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

Psalms 94:12 Baruch (Blessed) is the man whom you discipline, O אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and whom you teach out of your Torah (Teaching and Instructions),

Psalms 119:165 Great shalom (peace) have those who love your Torah (Teaching and Instructions); nothing can make them stumble.

Psalms 119:174 I long for your salvation, O אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and your Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is my delight.

Proverbs 4:1-2 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, **2** for I give you good instructions; do not forsake my Torah (Teaching and Instructions).

Proverbs 6:23 For the Commandment is a lamp and the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

Proverbs 28:7 The one who keeps the Torah (Teaching, Instructions) is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.

Proverbs 28:9 If one turns away his ear from hearing the Torah (Teaching and Instructions), even his prayer is an abomination.

Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony; seal the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) among my disciples.

THE TORAH AS A WAY OF LIFE

The Torah is a way of life. From birth to death, אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah)'s Torah (Teaching and Instructions) teaches his people how to live a Kadosh (holy) life. The Torah (Teaching and Instructions) covers such areas as; community, medicine, diet, health, clothing, housing, safety, morality, ceremonies, Kadosh (holy) days, worship, relationships between family and neighbors and the list is practically endless. The Torah is a living word to guide, lead and direct the lives of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah)'s people each day.

Like a lamp, the Commands and Torah (Teaching and Instructions) are a light and a way of life, correction and discipline. **Proverbs 6:23**

Baruch (Blessed) is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the Torah (Teaching, Instructions) of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah), and on his Torah (Teaching and Instructions) he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. **Psalms 1:1-3**

The Psalmist describes the attitude that the man of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) should have towards

the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) when he said "The Torah (Teaching and Instructions) from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold" (**119:72**). The Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is not meant to be a drudgery of requirements, as the word law implies, but a joy and a delight to the people of אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah).

THE TORAH IN THE NEW COVENANT

When אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah) promised the New Covenant to Yisrael he said. "I will put my Torah (Teaching and Instructions) in their minds, and write it on their hearts" (**Jeremiah 31:33** and quoted in **Hebrews 8:16**). Here we see that אַיָּהוָה (Yahuah)'s plans in the new Covenant included his Torah (Teaching and Instructions). In the New Covenant, the word nomos (Greek translation of the Hebrew word Torah) is used about 200 times. Not one of these 200 occurrences ever says that the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) has been abolished or done away. Rather the New Covenant re-affirms the existence of the Torah. Here are just a few of these passages.

"It is easier for Shamyim (Heavens) and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Torah (Teaching and Instructions)". **Luke 16:17**

But the man who looks intently into the perfect Torah (Teaching and Instructions) that gives freedom, and continue to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it - he will be Baruch (Blessed) in what he does. **James 1:25**

"Do not think that I (Yahusha) have come to abolish the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) or the Prophets (Prophecies); I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill [live according to] them. I tell you the truth, until Shamyim (Heavens) and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) until everything is accomplished". **Matthew 5:17,18**

They said to Shaul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Hebrews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the Torah (Teaching and Instructions)". **Acts 21:20**

Many have the mistaken idea that Shaul (Paul) taught against the Torah (Teaching and Instructions). There is no question that Shaul, a devout Pharisee, lived his life according to Torah (Teaching and Instructions). Let us examine some of Shaul's statements regarding the Torah (Teaching, Instructions).

I believe everything that agrees with the Torah (Teaching, Instructions) and that is written in the Prophets. **Acts 24:14**

I have done nothing wrong against the Torah of the Hebrews or against the temple or against Caesar. **Acts 25:8**

So then, the Torah is Kadosh (holy), and the Commandment is Kadosh (holy), Righteous and Good. **Romans 7:12**

Do you not know, brothers - for I am speaking to men who know the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) - that the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) has authority over a man only as long as he lives? **Romans 7:1**

Do we, then, nullify [destroy, abolish] the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) by this Amunah (Faith)? Not at all! Rather, we uphold [stand on, establish] the Torah (Teaching, Instructions). **Romans 3:31**

For everything that was written in the past [The Torah and the Prophets] was written to teach us. **Romans 15:4**

THE TORAH OF LOVE

Love יהוה (Yahuah) your Aluahym with all your heart and with all your soul and with all Your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

And now, O Yisrael, what does יהוה (Yahuah) your Aluahym ask of you but to fear יהוה (Yahuah) your Aluahym, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve יהוה (Yahuah) your Aluahym with all your heart and with all your soul. **Deuteronomy 10:12**

It was not יהוה (Yahuah)'s intention to require his people to obey Torah (Teaching and Instructions) out of fear and obligation, but rather out of love for him and his teachings. יהוה (Yahuah) desires that all his children place His Torah (Teaching and Instructions) within their hearts and obey him as a child obeys his father, out of love and respect. King David explained his attitude toward Torah when he said;

"Oh, how I love your Torah (Teaching, Instructions)! I meditate on it all day long"
Psalms 119:97.

Keep my Commands and you will live; guard my Torah (Teaching and Instructions) as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart. **Proverbs 7:2-3**

If the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is not written on the heart, then the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is only an obligation, a set of rules that one must live by and are therefore a burden. But once the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is written on the heart, the person then keeps the Torah (Teaching, Instructions) with love, joy and gladness.

I desire to do your WILL, O my Aluahym, your Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is within my heart. **Psalms 40:8**

Teach me, O יהוה (Yahuah), to follow your statutes (conditions, requirements); then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your Torah (Teaching and Instructions) and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your Commands, for there I find delight. **Psalms 119:33-35**

Even Shaul had the same affection for the Torah that David did.

I delight in יהוה (Yahuah)'s Torah (Teaching and Instructions)... I myself in my mind am a slave to יהוה (Yahuah)'s Torah (Teaching and Instructions). **Romans 7:22,25**

Love and Torah (Teaching and Instructions) are inseparable. If one keeps and obeys the Torah (Teaching and Instructions), he is showing his love to יהוה (Yahuah). If one

loves אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) he will keep and obey His Torah. We can see this concept in many passages if we understand Hebrew parallelism. Hebrew parallelism is a form of Hebrew poetry which is saying the same thing in two (2) or more different ways. As an example let us look at **Deuteronomy 11:1**; "Love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym and keep his statutes (conditions, requirements) and ordinances (judgments), Torah (Teaching and Instructions) and commands always."

When we read this as a Westerner of the 20th century we see two (2) completely different statements. The first is "Love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym" and the second (2) is "keep his statutes (conditions, requirements) and ordinances (judgments), Torah (Teaching and Instructions) and commands always." These are not two (2) different ideas, but rather the same thing. In the following passages are more examples of Hebrew Parallels (in bold) so that we can better understand what "Love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah)" really means.

So if you faithfully obey the Commands I am giving you today - to love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will send rain on your land in its season. **Deuteronomy 11:13**

If you carefully observe all these Commands I am giving you to follow - to love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him - then אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) will drive out all these nations before you. **Deuteronomy 11:22**

For I command you today to love אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym, to walk in his ways, and to keep his Commands, statutes (conditions, requirements) and ordinances (judgments), Torah (Teaching and Instructions)."; then you will live and increase, and אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) your Aluahym will Barach (Bless) you in the land you are entering to possess. **Deuteronomy 30:16**

In our 20th century western culture we usually view "love" as an emotion. From an Hebraic perspective, love is not an emotion, but rather an action. If I say that I "love" someone but never impart action into that relationship, there is no love. In the passages above we see action words like "keep, obey, walk, hold fast, and serve" being equated to the word "love".

Observance of Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is not only the means by which we demonstrate our love to אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah), but it is also the means by which we demonstrate our love to our neighbor. Again if I love my neighbor, I will act upon it. Many of the Commands in the Torah deal with relationships between family, neighbors and foreigners.

Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah). **Leviticus 19:17-18**

This connection between obedience to the Torah and love for אַהֲבֵהוּ (Yahuah) is carried over into the New Covenant as well.

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love". **John 15:10**

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he

who loves his fellowman has fulfilled [lived according to] the Torah (Teaching and Instructions). The Commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other Commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the Torah (Teaching and Instructions).

Romans 13:8-10

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his Commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he Commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah)'s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) did. **1 John 2:3-6**

The last line in this passage said we "must walk as **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) did". Do we really know how **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) walked? **וְיֵשׁוּעַ** (Yahusha) was a Hebrew who lived a strict life according to Torah (Teaching and Instructions), he walked that straight line perfectly and taught others to do the same. Those who claim to follow the steps of the Mashiach (Messiah), but do not walk according to the Torah (Teaching and Instructions) are a liar as the last passage states.

It has given me great joy to find some of you children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new Command but one we have had from the "BEGINNING". I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his Commands. As you have heard from the "BEGINNING", his Command is that you walk in love. **2 John 4-6**

"If you love me, you will obey what I Command. ... Whoever has my Commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me... If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching". **John 14:15,21,23**

Those who obey his Commands live in him, and he in them. **1 John 3:24**

Now we know that whatever Torah (Teaching and Instructions) says, it speaks to those who are under Torah (Teaching and Instructions), so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah); because by the works of Torah (Teaching and Instructions) no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through Torah (Teaching and Instructions) comes the knowledge of Sin. **Romans 3:19-20**

For what Torah (Teaching and Instructions) could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, **אֵלֹהִים** (Yahuah) did: sending His own Son in the likeness of Sinful flesh and as an offering for Sin, He condemned Sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of Torah (Teaching and Instructions) might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Ruach (Spirit). **Romans 8:3-4**

What shall we say then? Is Torah (Teaching and Instructions) Sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know Sin except through Torah (Teaching and Instructions); for I would not have known about coveting if Torah (Teaching and Instructions) had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." **Romans 7:7**

So then, Torah (Teaching and Instructions) is Kadosh (Holy), and the Commandment is Kadosh (Holy) and Righteous and Good. **Romans 7:12**

Therefore Torah (Teaching and Instructions) has become our tutor to lead us to Mashiach, so that we may be justified by Amunah (Faith). **Galatians 3:24**