



**Taking Messiah Yeshua and Torah to the World!**

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**Message 3-27-10**  
**Tzav-Command**  
**Leviticus 6:1-8:36**  
**Malachi 3:4-6**  
**Jeremiah 7:21-8:3, 9:23-24 (22-23)**  
**James 5:1-8**

### **Introduction**

This week's Parashah, Tzav, means "to order." Its instructions speak directly to the Aaronic dynasty of the priesthood (priests and Levites) who are obligated to offer sacrifices as proxies for the whole nation of Israel.

### **Leviticus 6:8-11 (TNK 1-4)**

**8** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **9** "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the Torah of the burnt offering. The burnt offering shall be on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it. **10** And the priest shall put on his linen garment and put his linen undergarment on his body, and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has reduced the burnt offering on the altar and put them beside the altar. **11** Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.

This is a perfect example of the difference between the uses of the word law instead of Torah. In verse 9 it says "This is the Torah or law of the burnt offering." If Torah is taken at its true meaning it should read this is the *teaching* or *instruction* of the burnt offering rather than this is the law of the burnt offering. I have spent my entire ministry teaching o the validity of the Torah in the lives of all Believers today. They are a guide for all of us today in how to live lives pleasing to our Creator. No matter what perspective you may take in how you define yourself as a Believer if you claim to be a Messianic Believer or whatever label you choose to use you should be following the Torah.

Keeping the Torah has become an issue today because there are some parts of the Messianic Movement who say that Gentiles or non-Jews are not obligated to follow the Torah. If they want to follow the Torah they can but if they don't that is ok. That reasoning flies in the face of the reality of what Scripture has to say and this includes what Yeshua Himself had to say on the subject.

**Matthew 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Torah until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 5:17 ESV)

Do you notice what Yeshua has to say about the validity of the Torah? He says that until heaven and earth pass away not one jot or tittle will pass from the Torah. As I am fond of saying, the last time I looked outside the heaven and earth were still there, so this must mean the Torah is still in effect.

**Matthew 22:36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Torah?" **37** And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' [Deuteronomy 6:5] **38** "This is the great and foremost commandment. **39** "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' [Leviticus 19:18] **40** "On these two commandments depend the whole Torah and the Prophets." (Mat 22:36 NAU)

Yeshua states that the two greatest commandments are the central theme of the Torah and upon these two commandments the rest of the Torah and the Prophets depend. The Messiah Himself defends the validity of the Torah but man has decided that the Torah is not for everyone. One Messianic ministry has gone so far as to say that the Jewish people have to keep the Torah. I have no idea whether they have checked with the Jewish people lately but the majority of the Jewish people do not keep the Torah, sad to say. How is a Gentile or non-Jew supposed to make a Jew jealous if they don't keep the Torah and they tell a Jew the Torah means nothing any longer because "love" has taken the place of the Torah? Didn't the Messiah just tell us in Matthew 22:36-40 that love and Torah go hand in hand?

If the Gentiles, whether they be of Ephraim or from among the nations, are not keeping the Torah how can they cause Judah to be jealous so they can show them the truth of redemption to be found in Messiah Yeshua? As the blindness is lifted from the eyes of Judah to the truth of Messiah Yeshua, what type of a Messiah are we going to share with them? Is the Messiah we are share going to be a lawless one or the one who has spoken the truth that the Torah still stands? If Yeshua were indeed a lawless Messiah would that not make Him ineligible to be the Messiah? If He condemns mankind for being lawless how could he also be lawless?

**Matthew 7:23** And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' (Mat 7:23 ESV)

**Matthew 13:41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, **42** and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mat 13:41 ESV)

It seems to me that the fiery furnace in Matthew 13:42 matches the description of the Lake of Fire. If Yeshua is sending all sin and law-breakers to the fiery furnace shouldn't He also send Himself there if He said the Torah was no longer valid? Then we come to the place where we are told the Apostle Shaul or Paul was the one who taught the Torah was no more. If that were true, then based on what Yeshua said, Shaul should be headed for that fiery furnace as well.

**Romans 7:12** So the Torah is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. (Rom 7:12 ESV)

Shaul spoke these words in Romans 7:12. How could he be against the Torah if he taught the Torah is holy and the commandment, which is found in the Torah, is holy, righteous, and good? Of course the argument will be made that the Messiah was speaking to Israel or Judah when He spoke His words. If his were true then how can we take what the Apostle Shaul said to be only for the Jew since he was specifically called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles or Nations?

**Romans 11:13** Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an Apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry **14** in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. (Rom 11:13 ESV)

Shaul is saying that it will be through his ministry to the Gentiles that his fellow Jews will become jealous and they will be able to be brought to salvation.

**2 Timothy 1:11** to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. (2Ti 1:11 NKJ)

Shaul specifically says he was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. What do you think he taught them since he was a former Pharisee or Orthodox Jew who now was a follower of Messiah Yeshua? Please keep in mind that he said that his ministry to the Gentiles would somehow make his fellow Jews jealous. What better way to do this than to teach them Jewish ways and the Torah.

**Numbers 15:16** One Torah and one rule shall be for you and for the sojourner who sojourns with you." (Num 15:16 ESV)

This is not the only Scripture that upholds one Torah or law for everyone no matter who they are. If we are truly one people who believe in Yeshua as our Messiah then we have to have a common set of instructions to live by. Every teaching found in the pages of the Apostolic Scriptures is from the Torah and the Prophets and the Psalms. To those who would teach that the Torah is obligatory for the Jew but anyone else can keep the Torah or not I say you will one day have to stand before the judge of all mankind and look Him in the eyes and tell Him the Torah is not for everyone. I say to you that while you have the time you should reconsider your teaching on the matter.

### **Malachi 3:4-6**

**4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. **5** "Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. **6** "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

Verse 6 is the key verse in our Haftarah portion this week. *"For I the Lord do not change..."* He does not change, so therefore, that means that whatever He says for us to do or not to do we are to listen to Him because His word is constant and unchanging. So, that being the case, we

should realize and understand that the Lord's word or instructions to us never change. That means the Torah or law is still in effect because the Lord never changes. He existed before we were created and will exist forever. He does not change His mind as many believe. How do you explain verse 6 in the context of claiming that somehow His covenant of Torah has been done away with? I don't see how anyone can reasonably claim that the Lord has changed His mind. The same thing can be said about His eternal covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Everyone who has faith in Messiah and believes in God the Father is part of His covenant people Israel because we are told that Abraham is the father of the faithful. Abraham's descendants are not just the Jewish people but anyone who professes faith in the Messiah of Israel. In the case of those Jews who are blinded to the truth of Yeshua they still cling to God and His holy word found in the Torah. Does this bring them salvation in and of its own power? No! But it does hold them close to Him until the day arrives when they will have their eyes opened to the truth of Yeshua. I would have to make the same statement concerning those Believers who believe they are free from the Torah because I believe they have been blinded to the truth of Torah much in the same way the Jewish people have been blinded to the truth of Yeshua.

**Romans 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. (Rom 11:25 NKJ)

Israel has been blinded in part – what does it mean in part? I believe this is in regards to Yeshua not to Torah. They know Torah but only some of them know Yeshua though two thousand years ago almost every Believer in Yeshua was Jewish or a convert to Judaism or a God-fearer. Forty years later when Peter went to the home of Cornelius that all changed and really began to change in earnest when Shaul was given the task of being the messenger of the Good News to the Gentiles or Nations.

**Acts 21:20** And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the Torah. (Act 21:20 ESV)

Thousands of Jews believed in Yeshua and were Torah observant. I realize that some will say, "Well you see, that proves our point, it is the Jews who are Torah observant." That does not prove the point. Remember that Shaul was giving a report on his ministry work among the Gentiles and that many were coming to faith in Yeshua – the Jewish Messiah. The point I am making is that two thousand years ago the point was that Jews were rejoicing that Gentiles were coming to faith in Yeshua as Jews were. Today the opposite is true and oh how things have changed. Today when a Jew comes to faith in Yeshua immediately they are told they have converted and become Christians. Where are we told this in Scripture? The term Christian was first used in Antioch forty years after the resurrection of Yeshua and it was used as a term to ridicule the belief in Yeshua. If a Jew remained a Jew after coming to faith in Yeshua two thousand years ago why is it different today?

**Acts 26:22** To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: **23** that the Messiah must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles." (Act 26:22 ESV)

The Messiah would be a light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles or the Nations. One Messiah for all! If there is one Messiah for all then it stands there is one Torah for all. Don't let anyone try to tell you something different or to doubt your redemption through Yeshua or that the Torah is not for you.

### **James 5:1-8**

**1** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. **2** Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. **4** Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **5** You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you. **7** Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. **8** You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Two thousand years ago the Believers thought that Yeshua's return was imminent. You can see this in the writings of the Apostolic Scripture author's. The Apostle Shaul's letters carry this same expectation until his later letters where he begins to mellow out some and conveys a stay the course attitude looking for the return of Yeshua but if He does not return they are to stay the course and hold fast to the teachings they have been given and cling to Messiah and His Torah. Yeshua said if we love Him we are to keep His commandments. I cannot repeat this enough because repetition is the best teacher. Torah and faith go hand in hand – they are not mutually exclusive. They are a team that we are to obey because faith is a free gift from God because Yeshua paid the price for us and God the Father determined that was more than sufficient but in order to know what God considers to be sin we must look to the Torah where sin is clearly revealed for us to understand.

**2 Thessalonians 2:1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. (2Th 2:1 ESV)

It would appear that Shaul had the same problem we have today with others sending letters that were supposed to be from him when they were not apparently contradicting what he had taught before this. We are to keep our eyes on Yeshua and never take them off of Him no matter what. You need to have your nose in the Word studying to show yourself approved. This is how you will know what is the truth and what is not.

**Ecclesiastes 12:11** The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. **12** My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. **13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the

whole duty of man. **14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecc 12:11 ESV)

***One day little Samuel is flipping through a very old Chumash (Torah) when suddenly an old tree leaf that had been pressed between the pages falls out. "Mama, mama, look at what I found!" "What is it, dear?" "I think it's Adam's suit"***

May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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