

# The Torah & The Apostolic Scriptures, part 7b

*“you are not under law but under grace.”*

Don Cole

Refer to the last page: *“How to Interpret Scripture”*

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Your notes:

## The importance of thinking Scripture & not thinking man-made theology.

According to Scripture we all need to follow the word of our Messiah (LORD). Consider that Yeshua stated that His words were not His own, but the Father's:

*“For I have not spoken from myself, but the Father himself who sent me has commanded me what I should say and what I should speak”. [John 12:49]*

In fact, Yeshua did not change nor did He veer from His Father's Words. Had He done so, He would not be the Messiah! Let that sink in.

The law (Torah) of YHVH is absolute and eternal; it came out of the mouth of the Living God. That is we need to live by every word that comes from God. Because YHVH is absolute and eternal, His Words are eternal! *“Jesus Christ [Yeshua HaMashiach] is the same yesterday and today and forever.” [Hebrews 13:8 ESV]*

<sup>2</sup>*“You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD [YHVH] your God that I command you.” [Deut 4:2 ESV]*

<sup>18</sup> *“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup>and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book,” [Rev 22:18-19 ESV]*

You may wonder, why am I again emphasizing that YHVH is perfect, that His Words are flawless, and that is He has no beginning and no end.

It is because statistics are alarming. According to George Barna, “only 6% of Americans have a biblical worldview.” (A biblical worldview is belief in the Scriptures.) This is shocking! Barna adds that “only 2% of American parents of children under the age of 13 have a biblical worldview”!! And we marvel at how evil our society is today!! (American Worldview Inventory 2022-23, George Barna, Arizona Christian University Press)

It is critical that we, as Bible believers, grasp YHVH’s Torah (instruction, law), YHVH’s Torah is central to His identity, and that it is His character ... it is Who He is.

YHVH’s Torah (God’s law) is **Israel’s identity**. **YHVH has never stated nor inferred that He changed His Ten Commandments, nor does mankind have that capability!**

Sadly, the majority of today’s Christians reject YHVH’s law. The word which sums up being anti-Torah (or *Antinomian*) goes back to the Reformation. In fact, it was Martin Luther who coined the term *antinomian*.

Just as the Torah is Yeshua’s identity, so it is Israel’s identity. The believers who advocate the rejection of the Torah are also advocating *love* in place of *following the Torah*.

Did YHVH take the Hebrews out of the Egyptian bondage, only to take them to Mt. Sinai and put them into bondage with YHVH’s Commandments! The idea of God’s commandments being *bondage* is preposterous.

Is it possible to obey Yeshua and not keep His Torah, especially when it was Yeshua Himself who gave the Ten Commandments in the first place. Also, who has the power to stand up to YHVH and challenge God by telling Him that we have “a new way”!

Whom do we believe the God of heaven & earth or mankind. Which?

The only thing that these “anti-law” individuals can say is “I don’t believe in the law” and when they refer to the Apostolic Scriptures they do so out of context.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [Mat 5:17-20 ESV]

In Matthew 5:17, Yeshua said:

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them.” [Matt 5:17]

Consider, why would Yeshua Himself destroy the Torah & the Prophet when He is the Word (Torah) made flesh. He came to fulfill them, (<sup>1</sup>He perfectly obeyed the Scriptures, and <sup>2</sup>He fulfilled the prophecies regarding His coming).

<sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Has heaven and earth passed away, [earth has not passed away, nor has heaven], not an iota [this is referring to the Hebrew letter yud (aka yod), in the alphabet], not a dot [least stroke of a pen].

<sup>19</sup>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, [why would you want to be least in kingdom of heaven much less teach others not to obey or misconstrue the wrong teaching of YHVH’s Law] but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. [whoever does them (Torah), practices them (Torah), and teaches YHVH’s Torah] he will be exalted in eternal life) <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds [unless your personal righteousness (actions) exceeds] that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [Question: are we exceeding the actions of the scribes and the Pharisees; if not, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven under any circumstance]. [Matt 5:18-20]

The Amplified Bible expounds on the warning about apostasy.

<sup>3</sup>Let no one in any way deceive or entrap you, for *that day will not come* unless the apostasy comes first [that

is, the great rebellion, the abandonment of the faith by professed Christians], and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction [the Antichrist, the one who is destined to be destroyed], <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself [so proudly and so insolently] above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he [actually enters and] takes his seat in the temple of God, publicly proclaiming that he himself is God. <sup>5</sup>Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I was telling you these things? <sup>6</sup>And you know what restrains him now [from being revealed]; it is so that he will be revealed at his own [appointed] time. <sup>7</sup>For the mystery of lawlessness [rebellion against divine authority and the coming reign of lawlessness] is already at work; [but it is restrained] only until he who now restrains it is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>Then the lawless one [the Antichrist] will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by the appearance of His coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the [Antichrist, the lawless] one is through the activity of Satan, [attended] with great power [all kinds of counterfeit miracles] and [deceptive] signs and false wonders [all of them lies], <sup>10</sup>and by unlimited seduction to evil *and* with all the deception of wickedness for those who are perishing, because they did not welcome the love of the truth [of the gospel] so as to be saved [they were spiritually blind, and rejected the truth that would have saved them]. <sup>11</sup>Because of this God will send upon them a misleading influence, [an activity of error and deception] so they will believe the lie, <sup>12</sup>in order that all may be judged *and* condemned who did not believe the truth [about their sin, and the need for salvation through Christ], but *instead* took pleasure in unrighteousness.. [2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 Amplified]

## Dead to Sin, Alive to the Messiah!

### What is sin?

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on

sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. [1 John 3:4-10 ESV]

Yeshua's Word states that "sin is lawlessness." It is nothing more & nothing less. If we disobey YHVH's Word, we break His Torah! In fact, the Scripture says that Yeshua came to take away sin. Yeshua destroyed sin; therefore, we are not to practice sin anymore!

God's word is very simple and straightforward. Only Satan and his disciples have caused the anarchy & confusion regarding sin. Lawlessness is the key factor of every form of wickedness. So, why would a follower of the Gospel subscribe to the abandonment of the Torah when the Gospel is about righteousness.

## The Context of Romans 6:14

Let's start with Romans 6:10...

<sup>10</sup> For the death He [Yeshua] died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> **So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to YHVH God in Christ Jesus [the Messiah Yeshua].**

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. [stop sinning, Yeshua would not ask us to do something we can't do] <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. [Rom 6:10-13]

The context of these verses is about walking in righteousness as opposed to walking in sin.

“For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace”. [Romans 6:14]

The context tells us that Yeshua has already defeated sin, and *if* we are Believers in Yeshua *then* “you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to YHVH God in Christ Jesus [the Messiah Yeshua].” *Therefore*, “sin will have no dominion over you,” *if you believe*, “since you are not under law but under grace”.

This verse, Rom 6:14, says that since (subsequently) you are not under the Torah (law) you are not under the power or the dominion of sin, rather you are under the power and dominion of grace!

## In Conclusion

As startling and shocking as the results of George Barna’s study that reveal that only 6% of Americans actually have a biblical worldview, we can impact those 6% of Americans. We need to share these truths with our children, our children’s children, & those with whom we come in contact. We all need to truly understand that

- 1) God’s Word is true.
- 2) To break God’s Law is sin.
- 3) If we are a disciple of Yeshua, our identity is now in Yeshua’s Torah.

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## “How to Interpret Scripture”

*Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:*

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.

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*The character of Yeshua according to His Word:*

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]

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*Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible*

Matt 28:18-20 – this is after His resurrection.

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt 28:18-20

Acts 1:6-8 – after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord [YHVH], will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:6-8

John 3:36 – John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

<sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

<sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup>but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1John 2:3-6

[Note: Yeshua perfectly kept (obeyed & followed) every word in the Torah; we also need to do the same. And, therefore, we need to stop sinning.]

## Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision &amp; Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
○ Oral Law ○ Customs of Moses	○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews only</u> who came up	○ 10 years after Pentecost	○ 10 years after Acts 10	○ Under the auspices of Constantine

	to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost	○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles</u> <i>only</i>	○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation & circumcision	○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend
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