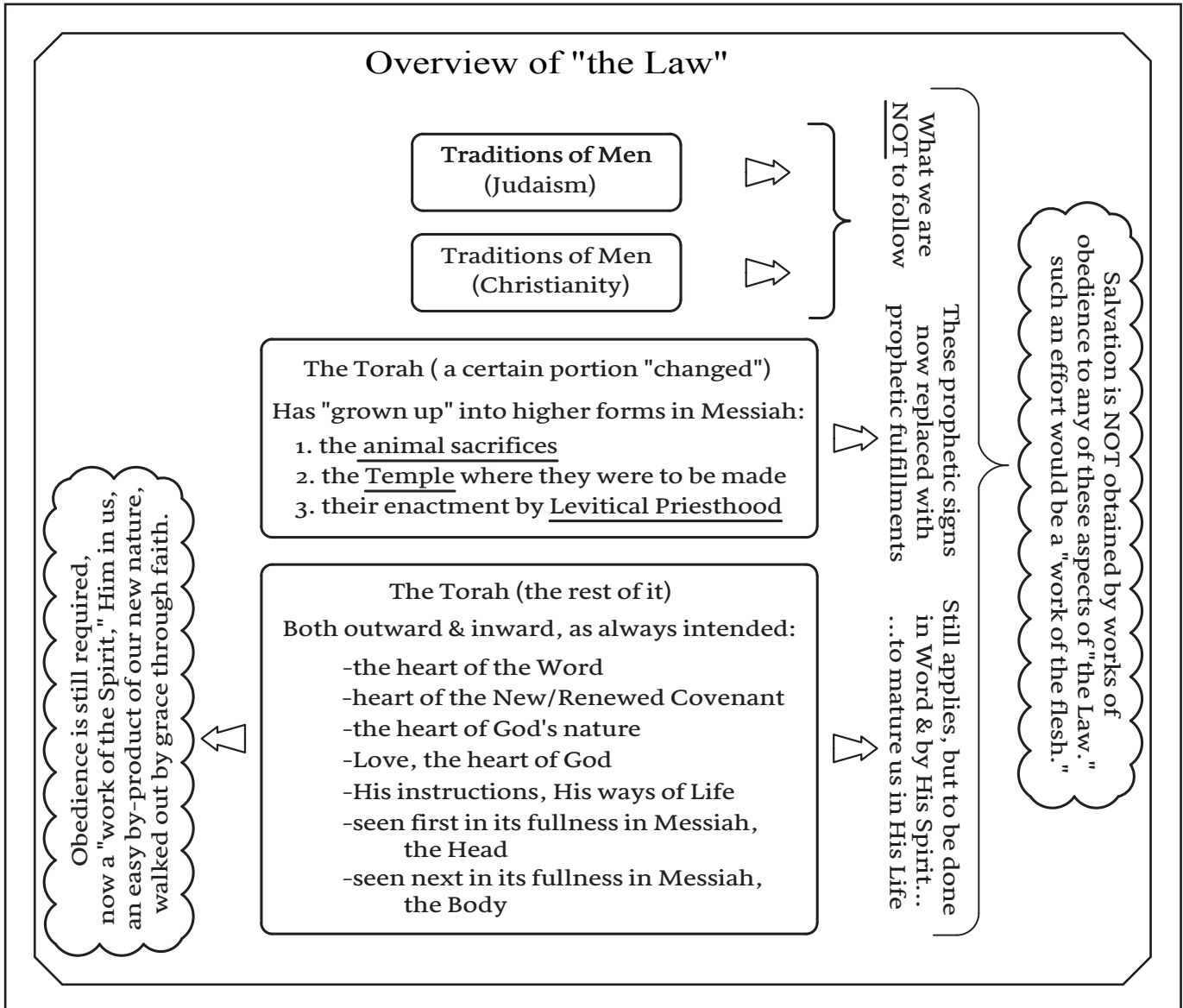




# The Law: Reconciling Contrasting Scriptures



Part 1: "The Law" as the Traditions of Men, (Judaism & Christianity)

Part 2: "The Law" as The Torah portion that "has been done away with"

Part 3: "The Law" as the Torah portion that remains

Part 4: The Rest of the Torah, Reconciling Scriptures

Part 5: What About...?

(Total of 13 Pages)

**Eric J. Ellis**  
**Editorial Review by Mary**

## Notes to Readers:

[Bracketed words] in Scripture quotes are my comments, inserted to lend clarity.  
My inserts are also distinguished by being in regular typeset,  
rather than the standardly used italics.  
(Words in regular parentheses and italics) are part of the original scripture quote.

WORDS in all caps are capitalized by me for emphasis, with few exceptions.

A common exception is that most English translations do not transliterate God's name.  
They typically know this is a flagrant disobedience to proclaim His name,  
so they point this out by substituting with:  
"the LORD," "ADONAI" (Hebrew for "Lord"), or "GOD".

Why do the translators do this?  
It's because they are copying this tradition from the King James Version,  
or they prefer to honor both Jewish & Christian traditions,  
or they just don't know what it is.

So what is it?  
The Hebrew word for God's name is 4-letters, Yod, Hey, Vav, Hey,  
which could be pronounced in a variety of ways,  
unless the Hebrew Vowel pointings are provided.  
Judaic religious tradition kept the 3-vowel pointings a secret,  
or they only showed the first & last ones.

In recent years however,  
over 1,700 ancient Hebrew manuscripts have been revealed,  
that all show consistently that His name is pronounced as "Yahovah."  
Equally valid transliterations are "Yehovah," and "Y'hovah."  
In all cases the first vowel is a rushed sound, like the "a" in "amuse."  
I prefer to transliterate as "Yahovah"  
since his "nickname" (used 50 times in the Scriptures), is clearly "Yah,"  
understanding that the first vowel in "Yah" is pronounced somewhat differently  
being like the "a" in "father."

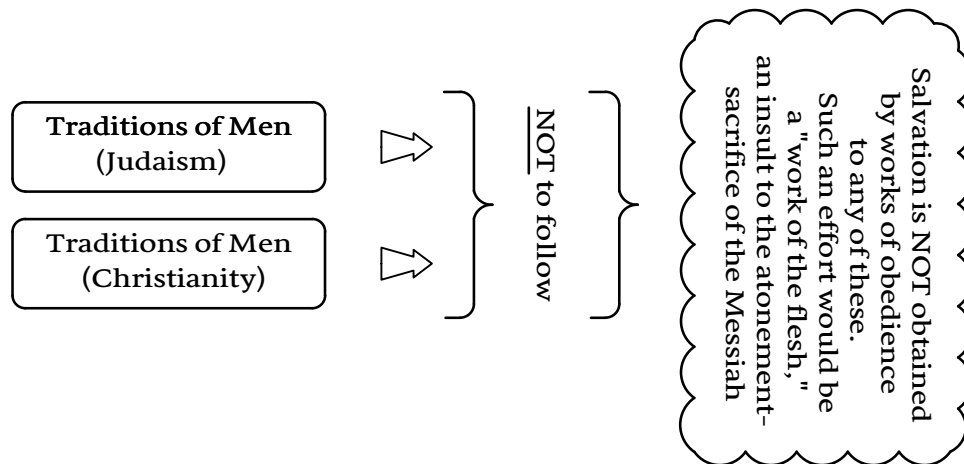
And I use "Yahshua" for "Jesus," while still including "Jesus" (in parentheses),  
since that is the name still most familiar to those of us who have church background.

## Overview

Here comes the fun! This Lesson is where the lens come into focus. The previous 3-Lessons laid the foundation for understanding the various meanings of “the Law.” In each case where “the Law” is used, the correct meaning can be seen by the context. Now, we can shine light on certain verses that formerly did not seem to fit with others. It is exciting to see how all of the scriptures on “the Law” fit nicely together *with no contradictions!*

### Part 1: “The Law” as the Traditions of Men, (Judaism & Christianity)

Let’s start with the cover diagram. It fits the pieces of the puzzle all together. To refresh all three previous Lessons, we’ll quickly review the 3-pieces of the puzzle, one at a time; then we’ll examine the scriptures in context. We begin with the 1st part, “the traditions of men.”



The tribe of Judah fought tenaciously to preserve the Torah, (upon which was based the Prophets, & the Writings). Without the Jews’ steadfast monumental efforts, we would have no scriptures today. Even today, a great many of the Jews (those of Judah), still practice the Torah, (**Romans 2:12-15**). Tragically, the Torah was hijacked by religious leaders who buried it in layers of traditions-of-men. This mixture is known as “Judaism.” Jesus (Yahshua), did not hesitate to separate “the Law” of the traditions-of-men from “the Law” of the Torah. This infuriated the religious rulers. Why? It threatened their prestige/pride, their control, and their financial base. Judaism has kept most Jews from recognizing the Messiah of the Torah.

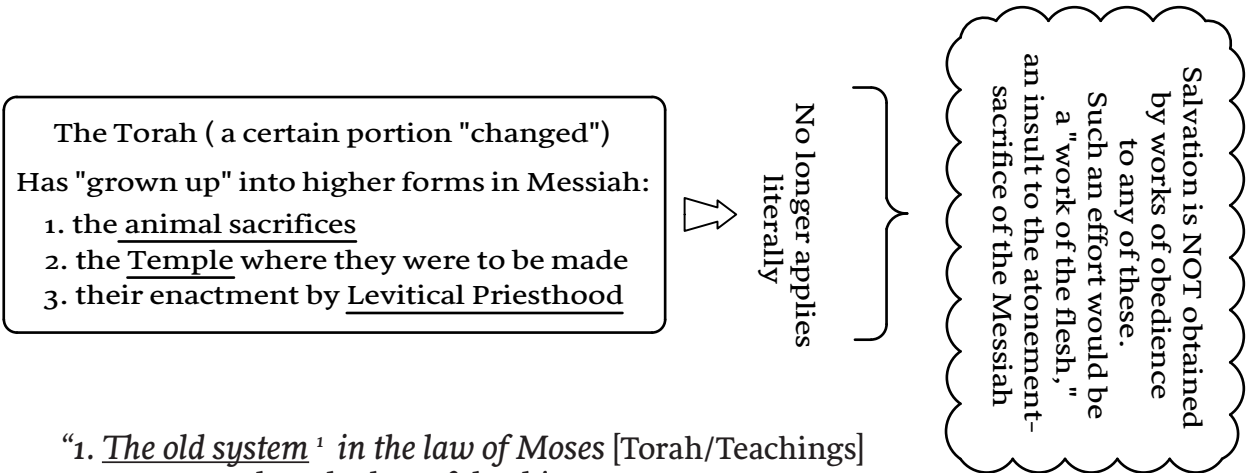
As for Christianity, we have embraced the Messiah, but have been trained to not pay much attention to the Torah, (**Romans 2:12-15**). In the same way some Christian religious leaders sought to stop the move of Torah-abiding Christians who were Messianic believers. The same motives were in play, to replace the Torah with religious systems to gain power, control, & money. This new organization became known as “the church-system of Christianity.” To strengthen & broaden their power grasp, they zoned in on 3-things:

1. to unite with the corrupt political world systems (including their pagan traditions).
2. to widen the divide between believers and the Torah, the foundation of truth.
3. to destroy the Torah. Why? Because Torah focuses on God rather than on religious leaders.

## Part 2: The Torah-portion that has been “Done Away With”

We are not to follow the religious traditions-of-men of Judaism or Christianity! We follow His Spirit (our shepherd), now within. He leads us into truth, by Word (Torah), & by Spirit. But now we move along to review the 2nd part of the cover summary diagram of “the Law.” In doing so, we see the 3-underlined items below. These 3-items make up about half of the Torah. They were all designed to be shadows (symbols/signs), of the fulfillment to come in the Messiah. This Messiah is the “Promised Seed” that was assured to Adam & Eve, (who would deliver all mankind from the bondage of sin. The 3-items are highway signs (road maps), that pointed to the destination, (the fulfillment of the journey).

"The Law" as the Torah Portion that has been "Done Away With"



“1. The old system<sup>1</sup> in the law of Moses [Torah/Teachings] was only a shadow of the things to come,

*not the reality of the good things Christ has done for us...*”

**Hebrews 10:1 The New Living Translation**

“23. Until faith in Christ was shown to us as the way of becoming right with God, we were guarded by the law [Torah Teachings of the old system].

*We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could put our faith in the coming Savior.*

24. Let me put it another way.

The law [Torah Teachings of the way of becoming right with God] was our guardian and teacher to lead us until Christ came.

*So now through faith in Christ, we are made right with God.*

25. But now that faith in Christ has come,

*we no longer need the law [of the old system] as our guardian.”*

[...because the rest of the Torah is now within us by the Spirit as an “inner compass.”]

**Galatians 3:24-25 The New Living Translation**

Thrilled to arrive at our campsite, we don’t want to go back to pitch our tent at the road sign that we passed in our journey to help us arrive at our destination.

1. “The old system” is the system of atonement for sins by animal sacrifices. This is referring to the 3-items of: the animal sacrifices; the Temple in which they were performed; and the Priesthood that performed them as a prophetic act of atonement. The 3-items done away with are the old system. The old system did not bring salvation. This old system was a continual necessary reminder of their sin, and the need for atonement & assurance of the promise that the Redeemer would indeed come.

Now let's examine the 3-items (of the old system part of the Torah) that were "done away with."

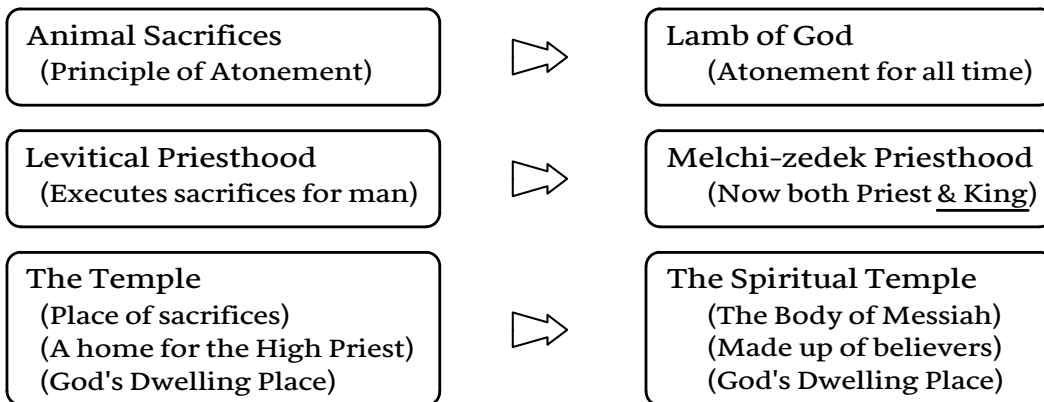
1. The animal sacrifices were no longer needed as "road-map-tutors" once we arrived at the destination they pointed to. <sup>2</sup> The prophetic fulfillment of animal sacrifices came in the one perfect Lamb of God sacrifice...Jesus (Yahshua), our Promised-Seed-Messiah. His atonement allowed us to finally be free of the law of sin & death once and for all! <sup>3</sup>

2. Once the need for perpetual animal sacrifices were done away with, then the Levitical Priesthood who performed them were no longer needed *for that task*. But weren't they still needed to teach the Torah (the ways of God), and to judge? That too changed when we received the 1st work of Christ & entered into the (better) Melchi-zedek Priesthood, (**Hebrews 5,6,7 & 8:5-6 & 10:1**). We then became the priests (& also kings), to judge & teach under the headship of our great High Priest-King. Now we're equipped to minister His Life to all.

3. The Temple (formerly Tabernacle), where the Levitical Priesthood performed the animal sacrifices), was also no longer needed for this purpose since the Messiah's 1st work. The Temple was also a symbol of the dwelling place of God; but that too was fulfilled once Messiah became our High Priest and we became His Spiritual Temple of living stones...His dwelling place. Technically the 3-items were literally done away with once replaced, but are still relevant to help us learn much from their patterns. All 3-items have progressed into a higher form: <sup>4</sup>

These prophetic patterns "went away"

Replaced/fulfilled with these realities



2. These "road-map-tutors" are sometimes referred to as shadows, symbols, or types. The Tabernacle with all of its furnishings was also a pattern of better things to come (Exodus (9:9-10), as was the menorah, (Exodus 9:40 and Numbers 8:4). Indeed, the Torah/Teachings are full of hundreds of signs of Messiah.

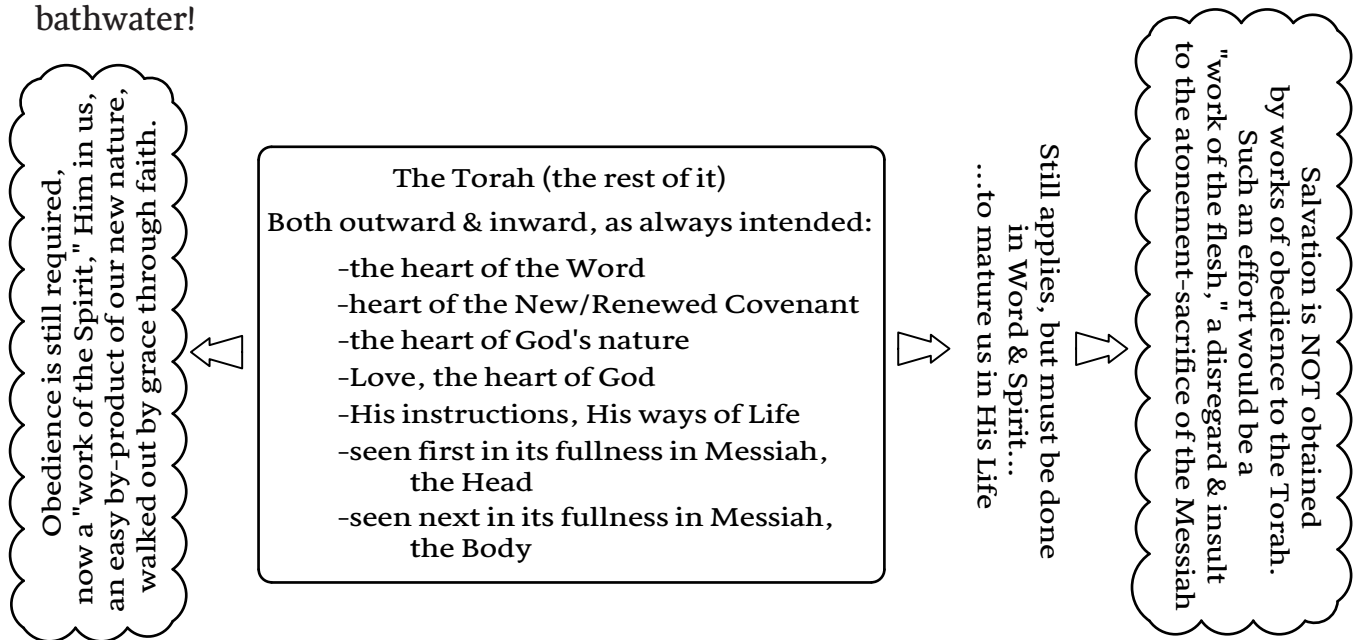
3. His blood atonement for us was on the Passover. The blood atonement was the first of 2-key parts of the first work of the Messiah. Our atonement saved us from the *penalty of sin*; however, not from the *power of sin*. This victory of our atonement paved the way for the 2nd key part of the 1st work of Messiah. Once we were covered/cleansed by the blood of the Lamb (1st part), then He could plant the seed of His Spirit within us , (2nd part). That gave us the ability to walk in His Spirit, which then leads to being saved from the *power of sin*. This is all seen in our Bible Lesson on the sacrifice of the 2-goats & the 2-doves. Also see Romans 8:14 & 1John 3:1.

4. The patterns of their detailed descriptions in the Torah are most insightful for explaining more of the significance of their fulfillment. The key difference is that now we have His Spirit within to guide us in the meanings of these prophetic road signs. By Word AND Spirit we are now enlightened & empowered to walk out the ways of God. The destruction of the Temple indicated it (along with the other 2-items that depended on it), had become a distraction that was no longer needed.



### Part 3: “The Law as the Torah-portion that Remains

Here’s the third part <sup>5</sup> of our review of the major meanings of “the Law.” The first two parts both were “negatives.” This 3rd part however is *VERY POSITIVE!* To throw this vital part out with the 1st two parts would be like throwing the baby out with the bathwater!



This is the revealing of the very character and nature of God, the works of the Spirit, the fruit of our love relationship with the Messiah!

- “7. The LAW [Torah] of the LORD [Yahovah] is perfect, reviving the soul.  
The decrees of the LORD [Yahovah] are trustworthy, making wise the simple.  
8. The commands of the LORD [Yahovah] are clear, giving insight to life.  
9...The LAWS of the LORD [Yahovah] are true; each one is fair.  
10. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold.  
They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.  
11. They are a warning to those who hear them;  
there is great reward for those who obey them.”

#### **Psalm 19:7-11 The New Living Translation**

- “16. ALL Scripture <sup>6</sup> is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true <sup>7</sup>  
and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.  
It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.  
17. It is God’s way of preparing us in every way,  
fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

#### **2Timothy 3:16 [referencing the above Torah passage] The New Living Translation**

5. From the cover diagram summary of “the Law.”  
6. This includes the Torah, the Prophets, the 1st Writings, and the 2nd Writings, (New/Renewed Covenant, most of which had been written down when Timothy penned this in 67 A.D.).  
7. We can gather many truths even from studying the shadows of animal sacrifices, Levite Priesthood, and the Tabernacle & Temple in the Tanak, (Torah , including the Prophets & the Writings).

All of the Scriptures are full of praise of “the Law.” Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It has 22 stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Every stanza speaks of “the Law” in wonderful ways. There are also many, many dozens of others that echo the life of “the Law.” In the 2nd writings<sup>8</sup> we find lots too. Here is just a sample:

*“4. Those who sin are opposed to the LAW [Torah/teachings] of God,  
for all sin opposes the LAW [Torah/teachings] of God.<sup>9</sup>  
5. And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, for there is no sin in him.  
6. So if we continue to live in him, we won’t sin either.  
But those who keep on sinning have never known him or understood who he is.”*  
**1John 3:4-7 The New Living Translation**

*“10. For here is the covenant I will one day establish with the people of Israel:  
I will embed my LAWS [“Torah” in several translations] within their thoughts  
and fasten them onto their hearts.  
I will be their loyal God and they will be my loyal people.  
11 And the result of this will be that everyone will know me as Lord!...  
...since everyone will know me inwardly...”*  
**Hebrews 8:10 The Passion Translation**

*“13. For it is not merely knowing the LAW [Torah/teachings] that brings God’s approval.  
Those who obey the LAW [Torah] will be declared righteous.”*  
**Romans 2:13 The New Living Translation**

*“3. Loving God means keeping his COMMANDMENTS, [Torah] and really, that isn’t difficult.”*  
**1John 5:3 The New Living Translation**

*“6. Love means doing what God has commanded us,  
and he has commanded us to love one another. [quoting Torah, Lv. 19:18]*  
**2John v. 6 The New Living Translation**

8. More commonly thought of as “The New Testament,” or “The New/Renewed Covenant.”

9. Can be equally translated as “Torah” or “Teachings” of God, as seen in “The One New Man Bible,” “The Complete Jewish Study Bible,” & likely several others; as is commonly done for the word, “Law.” We note that in the Greek there are two words that can be used for “law.” They are Strong’s 3551 and Strong’s 1785 (which is usually translated as “commandments,” and twice as “precepts.” Both mean “the direction to go in life,” (New Testament Greek to Hebrew Dictionary by Jeff Benner). Here in 1John, we have Strong’s 458, which is used when referring to those who go in the wrong direction, the wicked, the lawless, as seen here. Context, makes clear when “the Law” is referencing for or against the Torah.

And:

*“2. The one who says he abides in Him  
ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”  
1John 2:6 New King James Version*

*“14. Blessed are those WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, [Torah]  
that they may have the right to the tree of life,  
and may enter through the gates into the city.”  
Revelation 22:14 The New King James Version*

*“1. But in the last days it will be that the mountain of House of the LORD <sup>10</sup> [Yahovah]  
will be established on the top of the mountains...  
2. And many nations will come and say...Let us go up to the mountain of the LORD...  
...and He will teach us of His Ways & we will walk in His paths  
for the TORAH (Teaching) will go forth from Zion...”  
Micah 4:1-2 The One New Man Bible*

It is obvious from these verses (and a great many more), that the whole Torah did not go away, (only the 3-items of it that were presented in Part 2). The Torah is still to have a vital part in our lives today. Knowing that from the Word, then there are still some verses that don't seem to fit. We'll address those in Part 4 to see where the harmony lies.

Meanwhile, we see that the Torah (God's Ways/Instructions in Righteousness), will be taught to the nations! The Torah is the standard of righteousness (what is right & what is wrong), by which God's Overcomers will rule unyieldingly with a rod of iron in His authority; by which evil oppression will be smashed, (no longer hidden in mixture). The USA & Israel are the only nations established upon a Torah-covenant with God. These two nations will be the first to be seen as submitted to His Kingdom (**Rev 11:15 & Daniel 2:44**). This submission will be transformational for the USA. The Supreme Court will all be people of His Tree. The President & his Cabinet will all be anointed with His set-apart Spirit. The Lawgivers will be applying the standard of the Torah to various situations. The Torah is God's instructions for how man is to walk in order to not be robbed of the fullness of the goodness of life in the land of the living! We've been witnessing this establishing of His Kingdom upon the earth through governments dramatically since 2017. <sup>11</sup>

10. This is the stone mountain kingdom presented in Lesson 13 that's been growing since 2017.

11. In 2017, President Donald Trump began to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, declaring it was Israel's capital. This coincided with the beginning of a new Jubilee cycle and a new age. Israel would no longer be trodden down by the other nations, (Luke 21:24). The "Age of the Gentiles" was over! We'll see this Jubilee cycle complete the transfer of power to the righteous, and the clean up of the corrupt mess. It is so exciting to have lived to see this glorious day! This is no revival or reprieve, it is the start of a whole new age, the Age of the Son! Don't just watch the progression, but be an active part of it!



## Part 4: The Rest of the Torah, Reconciling Scriptures

By now, many readers are screaming questions like, “What about this verse and that verse?” I’ve had the same questions, and sought to see how they all fit together. So, I’ll present the ones that seemed to me to be most in conflict with our Part 3. One thing we do know; we can’t “throw some scriptures under the bus” because they don’t seem to fit. They are *ALL* important, and it’s not likely that they are *ALL* mistranslations! As truth-seekers, we just know there’s more to see, and so we seek more light on the matter.

We’ll start with this one:

*“21. For no one can ever be made right in God’s sight by doing what his LAW commands...  
22. We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins.”*  
**Romans 3:21-22 The New Living Translation**

Yes! That is what we pointed out on the cover diagram. There is no remedy for sin apart from the blood atonement of the Lamb of God. This point is made even clearer later in the same chapter:

*“28. So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the LAW.”  
30. There is only one God, and there is only one way of being accepted by him.  
He makes people right with himself only by faith,  
whether they are Jews or Gentiles.”*  
**Romans 3:28 + v.30 The New Living Translation**

But the chapter with this subject does not end there. Paul goes on to point out the importance of the Torah portion that remains. It is as if he is concerned that a reader might take his words out of context and then erroneously think that “the Law” (Torah), can now be ignored.

*“31. Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the LAW?  
Of course not!  
In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill “the LAW,” (Torah).*  
**Romans 3:31 The New Living Translation**

So what we have in context is that fulfilling “the Law” (Torah/Teachings), should be a by-product of our salvation by faith in our Redeemer. The only way to walk in the ways of God as shown in His Word (Torah instructions/teachings), is by His Spirit within us. We cannot walk by the Spirit unless we have first received the blood atonement of the Lamb of God, Yahshua, (Jesus), and then go on to receive His Spirit within. It is the two parts of the *1st work* of Messiah, our Head. His mission was incomplete until He had sent His Spirit on Pentecost (Shavuot), into His believers. The whole point of His coming was to establish His Body upon the earth, a New/Renewed Covenant people who had His Law (Torah), written on their hearts & in their minds, (the *2nd work*), happening now!

Here's another verse often used out of context:

*“10. And the person who keeps all of the LAWS except one  
is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God's LAWS.”  
James 2:10 The New Living Translation*

This has sometimes been used to declare that it's impossible to keep “the Law” (Torah). The implication is then, “don't bother to try.” Other scriptures are then also taken out of context to justify this stance, such as “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God,”<sup>12</sup> Yes, that verse is true, but it is to point us to the solution, the blood atonement & infilling of His Spirit so that we can walk in His ways as laid out in His Word (Torah).

We are reconciled to God (*saved from the penalty of sin*), by His blood atonement. We are saved (*from the power of sin*), by His overcoming life (within us).<sup>13</sup> It is His Spirit Life within us that changes our nature as we walk in & by His Spirit. We then have our natural minds replaced with the mind of the Messiah. We then have our stony self-centered hearts replaced with soft hearts of His Love. We have His Torah (ways/teachings/instructions), written on our hearts & in our minds, (as taught in *Deut 6:4-7*,<sup>14</sup> the greatest commandment, which Yahshua/Jesus quoted along with *Leviticus 19:18* for the next one).

So James goes on to say this in the same chapter:

*“12. So whenever you speak, or whatever you do,  
remember that you will be judged by the law of love, the law that set you free.  
13. For there will be no mercy for you if you have not been merciful to others.  
But if you have been merciful,  
then God's mercy toward you will win out over his judgment against you.”  
James 2:12 The New Living Translation*

James is making it plain that our words & actions are to reflect that His Torah (ways), are indeed written in our hearts & on our minds. He further emphasizes this by going on to say several times that “faith without works is dead and useless.” In other words, of what benefit is the blood atonement to us, if we then don't receive His Spirit so that our hands can be cleansed from deeds of the old nature, and our hearts made pure by His new nature within us? Even the devils believe in God.<sup>15</sup> Our actions display whether or not we are walking by faith in the Messiah, in His Spirit, His Ways, His nature. Being “Torah-compliant” (not in our strength, but by His Spirit), changing us into His nature, is vitally important. It is not how we get saved; it is evidence that we are growing in Him.

12. Romans 3:23.

13. Romans 5:10.

14. Still quoted daily or weekly by Jews and some “Messianics” (Jews who have accepted Yahshua), and Hebrew-Roots people. It is called “the Shema,” Hebrew for “Hear & Obey!”

15. James 2:19

Galatians is a whole book that is used extensively to say that “the Law” (Torah/instructions), has been “done away with.” Many verses in it are taken out of context. Here’s one of them:

*“1. So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.”*

***Galatians 5:1 The New Living Translation***

Like the book of James, Galatians points out that we don’t gain favor with God by trying to obey the Torah or any of our works. We can only gain His favor through faith in His Son, Yahshua, (Jesus). Galatians is one of several places that emphasizes that “the just are saved by faith,”<sup>16</sup> a concept from the Torah.

An allegory of 2-women, 2-sons, 2-mountains, 2-covenants is given in Galatians 3. One is “earthly” while the other is “spiritual.” (This theme is repeated in **Hebrews 12:18-29**). One is the attempt to establish His favor by the works of our nature, which proves that we are still slaves to it. To stay focused on obeying “the Law” (Torah), and not on our relationship with our Messiah shows we have it backwards. The inheritance of His life can only come through Him. Yet, as we grow into His nature, and approach the fullness (maturity), of His Life, then we come into “Torah-compliance” as a by-product of who we are. After all, the Torah is an expression of His nature.

Now, what about this one, especially when the verse is used in conjunction with the next?

*“56. For sin is the sting that results in death, and the LAW gives sin its power.*

***1Corinthians 15:56 The New Living Translation***

*“2. For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death.*

*3. The LAW of Moses (Torah) could not save us, because of our sinful nature.”*

***Romans 8:2-3 The New Living Translation***

At first read it would imply that “the Law” is “bad.” First, we see from **1John 3:4** that sin is lawlessness, being without Torah. This verse means that lawlessness only gets recognized as such when the standard of “the Law,” (Torah) shines in contrast. Chapter 8 of Romans goes on to further show the polarity of the 2-natures, one controlled by our fallen flesh (nature) and the other by His Spirit (nature). The 1st work of Yahshua (Jesus), makes it possible to walk in His excellence, the fullness of the Torah.

16. This phrase is used also in Romans 3:28 & Hebrews 10:38, all of which are quoting from the Torah; Habakkuk 2:4, as clarifying the principle brought forth in Deuteronomy 32:20. Yet even early on in Genesis, we see from Hebrews 11:4 Abel was justified by his faith in the coming Promised-Seed/Messiah. This is true of all the other Torah saints mentioned in Hebrews 11. We see from this that the principle of how to gain favor with God was given as early as Adam & Eve when they were covered by animal skins that God provided. These heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 were justified by faith in their coming Redeemer, (Job 19:25 & Isaiah 26:19). This was before Yahshua (Jesus), had offered himself as our Passover Lamb so that we could then receive and walk & live in & by His Spirit.

This scripture is sometimes used to say we can ignore the Torah except for 4-points. <sup>17</sup> But what is missing is context and understanding of the Hebrew culture at the time.

*“28. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit  
and to us [the apostles & elders & the whole church in Jerusalem]  
to lay no greater burden on you than these requirements:  
29. • You must abstain from eating food offered to idols,  
• from consuming blood  
• or eating the meat of strangled animals,  
• and from sexual immorality.  
If you do this, you will do well...”  
Acts 15:28 The New Living Translation*

If we back up a few verses, we see the 4-points first mentioned in verse 20. Then we grab some context from the verse that immediately follows verse 20.

*“21. For these LAWS of Moses (Torah) have been preached in Jewish synagogues  
in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”  
Acts 15:21 The New Living Translation*

All 4-points are summary of major Torah sections. When the new non-Jewish believers start going to a synagogue on Sabbath, they too will hear the entire Torah once every year. A portion<sup>18</sup> is read aloud every Sabbath. This pattern started as a Torah commandment from God to Moses. This continued, and is noted in Ezra & Nehemiah, when an annual schedule was determined. <sup>19</sup> James is the one talking in the above verses. What he’s pointing out is that the Torah has been read & taught in every city on every Sabbath day for hundreds of years. In other words, these new Gentile believers who grew up without hearing the Torah can start to hear & obey it, so that they can grow in Word & Spirit in the love & knowledge of Yahshua, (Jesus). So, start them off with a few basics to let them know their lifestyles are about to become very different.

17. These 4-points are repeated in Acts 21:25.

18. “Portion” is “Parashah” in Hebrew. Plural is “Parashot.”

19. The regular reading through of the Torah was first established by Moses in Deuteronomy 31:9-13 at first once every 7-years, during the 8-day Festival of Succoth, (Final Ingathering of Harvest). There was only one copy and travel was tough to get to it. Ezra & Nehemiah reinstated the reading through of the Torah after their return from 70-years of captivity. They changed the schedule to once-a-year, and determined which portion (parashah) was to be read each Sabbath. After the Temple was destroyed, synagogues and Messianic gatherings continued globally to read the same sections of the Torah on each Sabbath. Today, both Messianic Jews and Hebrew Roots believers also keep with this pattern, whether at a common gathering place, or in home congregations. Jonathan Cahn mentions the Torah portions that were read on certain days, happen to coincide with significant world-changing events. Cahn’s latest book at the time of this writing is “The Harbinger II, The Return.”

These new Messianic believers who had no Hebrew roots will learn more about each of the 4-points, and more besides as they hear/read the Torah, (**Romans 10:17**). For example:

- *You must abstain from eating food offered to idols*  
including all forms of idolatry such as  
worship of images, worship of demons,  
worship involving pagan rituals,  
worship of God in a way other than how He specified
- *from consuming blood* [“unclean” and so very unhealthy, as is proven today]  
including the difference between clean and unclean food (**Leviticus 11**),  
and eating meat that was not slaughtered in a way to drain the blood,
- *or eating the meat of strangled animals*,  
including road-kill, & animals that died full of carbon dioxide & adrenaline,
- *and from sexual immorality*,  
including pre-marital sex, adultery, rape, incest, homosexuality,  
close family members, and bestiality, (**Leviticus 18**).

The Torah’s lack of importance for today has been emphatically & consistently taught to us by the religious leaders of the church system. We’ll see however that this focus on the lack of significance of the Torah has been taught erroneously, a mixture of truth & lies (typically viewed out of context), by those misinformed, or uninformed, willfully ignorant, and even traditionally as a centuries-old religious effort to separate believers from the Word. Have we not seen this effort to cut off the Torah in these familiar phrases?:

“The Old Testament is irrelevant,” or “The Old Testament no longer applies”;  
“Just stick to reading the New Testament” or “Read the New Testament first”;  
“The Old Testament is bondage,” or “The Old Testament is Law, now done away with”;  
“The New Testament has replaced the Old Testament,”  
“God’s not like that anymore,” or “Jesus brought us grace & truth to replace the Law.”  
“We are not under the Torah, so we don’t have to obey it.”

Yet the bottom line is that the Torah did not go away. In fact, we are to be so familiar with it that it is written on our hearts & in our minds, (the heart of the New/Renewed Covenant that identifies His people). This is what Hebrews 8:10 tells us, as it quotes the Torah, (**Deuteronomy 6:4, Jeremiah 31:33**, and a passage in **Ezekiel**). We are judged by heart knowledge of the Torah, not head knowledge. When obeyed by His Spirit from within, the fruit of His life is seen. When He dwells in us, then His Life becomes evident.

*“12. When people who have never been exposed to the laws of Moses commit sin, they will still perish for what they do. And those who are under the LAW of Moses and fail to obey are condemned by the LAW. 13. for it’s not merely knowing the law that makes you right with God, but doing all that the LAW says that will cause God to pronounce you innocent....15. They know what is right and wrong, for their conscience validates the “law” in their heart. Their thoughts correct them in one instance and commend them in another. So this judgment will be revealed on the day when God, through Jesus the Messiah, judges the hidden secrets of people’s hearts...”*

**Romans 2:12-13 + v. 15 The Passion Translation**



## Part 5: What About....?

So **what about** circumcision, (the hot-button issue in Paul's writings)?

*“24...These men were not sent by us, but came with false teachings that have brought confusion and division, telling you to keep the LAW and be circumcised— things we never commanded them to teach.”*  
**Acts 15:24 The Passion Translation**

What upsets Paul is that some with Jewish background were trying to get the emphasis on obedience to the Torah as a requirement of salvation. They missed the point of circumcision in the Torah, which puts the focus on circumcision must be of the heart to be in right Covenant relationship with God. <sup>20</sup> Parents circumcised their baby boys when they were 8-days old (according to the Torah), as a prophetic declaration that this boy was destined to walk as a Covenant man. The boy had a daily reminder that he was different, set-apart, and would ask why. Removing the extra flesh was symbolic of shedding of the old earthly, fallen-Adam beastly flesh nature, the uncircumcised, stony heart. Coming into Covenant as an adult did not require physical circumcision, but still requires circumcision of the heart.

**What about** the laws on the plague of leprosy found in the walls or timbers of a home in **Leviticus 14**? The Hebrew word for leprosy is Strong's 6883, whose root means “scourge.” Houses don't get leprosy, so this context is likely referring to mold, also a “spreading disease.” What the Torah says here is to either deal with the mold or deal with the house, but don't continue to live in an unhealthy environment, or you'll lose your health. We don't have to go to a priest for the answer, because we are the priest! If we can't find the solution, then we let His Spirit within us guide us to where we can learn how to deal with it. The same applies to filthy clothing. Wash it or burn it.

**What about** the laws of jealousy found in **Numbers 5**? Again, in the same pattern as above, we are to deal with it. To let jealousy bring division to a marriage is like still wearing a foul garment. All of our lives are to shine with His nature, with excellence as to Him. We are not to let darkness fester in our covenant relationships. As for drinking the dust of the floor, etc., this procedure by the Temple priest is replaced with us being the living stones priests of His dwelling place, guided by His Spirit to resolve the issue, first by gathering facts, then by how to deal with it in His nature.

20. Leviticus 26:41, Deuteronomy 10:16 & 30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Ezekiel 44:7, which is what Romans 2:29 is saying; outward signs of obedience are meaningless if it's not obedience from the heart. Jeremiah 6:10 also talks of the need to circumcise the ears so that we can hear God. That doesn't mean cut off the ears! It means to hear & obey His Word (Torah) & Spirit.

The Torah instructions of acceptable and unacceptable sexual relationships still apply. They are teachings of life, to be able to live life to the fullest, referred to in **Romans 1** and along the way to **Revelation 22:14**, where the lawless are kept from being a part of the Bride. These Torah instructions are all great teachings. Also, the 10 Commandments still apply, (**Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5**). They are the basic summary of the ways of God.

The laws of inheritance (**Numbers 27**), are a foundational framework of how to prioritize, (realizing too from Torah context and His Spirit, that people can disqualify themselves).

**What about** the law to not trim the edges of a beard? It's always these nitty-gritty things that can want us to toss out the baby with the bathwater. Having a beard, I researched this in the Hebrew and discovered that the English translations tend to be very misleading. In the Hebrew it says to not cut (shave), the corners of the beard or the hair on our heads as the heathen do. The corners are the cheeks and the neck. In other-words, don't make weird noticeable patterns that stand out with beards or hair to draw attention to us. A prime example is the pictures we have seen of some religious orders that shave the top of the head, and the lower part, to leave a stark ring of hair around the skull. It's fine to trim the beard, just not to get carried away with shaving out strange facial & head patterns. We are to be a set-apart people by His nature in and through us, not by our hair, not by tattoos and not by how we dress, all of which the Torah addresses, (**Leviticus 19:27-28 & Deuteronomy 22:5**).

Much more could be said, but we'll close this with:

*“18. I testify that to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book  
If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.  
19. And if anyone subtracts from the prophetic words of this book,  
God will remove his portion from the Tree of Life and in the holy city,  
which are described in this book.”*

***Revelation 22:18-19 referencing Deuteronomy 4:2 & 13:1 The Passion Translation***

It is our desire that this study will help you to read all the scriptures with fresh insight, free from the religious indoctrinations that threw us off track.

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**Eric & Mary Elizabeth Ellis**

**PO Box 400**

**Easton, ME 04740**

*ericandmaryellis@gmail.com*

