

# Did the Cross Do Away with the Torah?

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It has been a common perception fostered through most Christian theologians that somehow what Yahushua (Jesus) did on the cross somehow eliminated the so-called “Old Testament laws.” This is one of the core beliefs of most of Christendom, propagated initially by the Roman Catholic Church. The problem is, the Scriptures say *no such thing*. Let’s see what they actually teach.

**First** of all, people need to understand that the Torah was there from the beginning - because Yahushua IS the Living Torah (John 1:1-14) and He is eternal. It didn’t just start at Mt. Sinai. Proof of this is the fact that Noah knew the difference between kosher and unclean animals centuries before Moses (Gen. 7:2,8). Additionally, the Most High spoke of the Sabbath both in Gen. 2:2-3 and in Exodus 16, BEFORE the Torah was given. Understanding that, we see here with Abraham, Yahuwah says,

**And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.**

- Gen. 17:7

**He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an **everlasting covenant**.**

Gen.17:13 (also verse 19)

The Hebrew word there is **OLAHM**, which means until the end of time or until time out of mind. If something is “everlasting,” it is not going to end after a couple of thousand years.

Another critical component of the Torah is the Sabbath. We are told in several places that the Sabbath is forever (see Leviticus 16:31, 2 Chron. 2:4, etc.) This everlasting nature of the Torah is further borne out in Psalm 105:10:

**And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law (TORAH), and to Israel for an **everlasting covenant**:**

Jacob there is, of course, another word for Israel – which was the name that the Most High gave him (Gen. 32:28). Now, we do not just have to take the word of the Hebrew Scriptures on this. **Yahushua** told us this, right in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5)!

<sup>17</sup> **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**

<sup>18</sup> **For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

**<sup>19</sup>Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

That seems pretty clear to me. Until the heavens and earth are gone, not one jot (tiniest Hebrew letter) or tittle (ornamental crowns on top in Hebrew letters) will be done away with. The last time I looked, the heavens and earth are still out there. And this is OUR SAVIOR speaking! And just for those who say the word 'fulfill' means to end – the Hebrew (and English translation) means 'TO DO'. The word is used here as a verb. He OBEYED and practiced the Torah perfectly, He did not end it!

He also declares that those who either break or teach others to break the commandments of the Torah shall be called **LEAST** in the Kingdom. Please remember, friends, when Yahushua was saying these words, **there was no** "New Testament." The only scriptures He or His listeners would have known would have been the Torah, the Prophets and the Psalms (Tenakh). As if that isn't enough, Our Savior also said this a couple chapters later in the same sermon in Matthew 7:

**<sup>21</sup>Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

**<sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

**<sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

Now, the word here, "iniquity" in Greek is **ANOMIA**, which means "lawlessness" – without Torah. So Yahushua is warning that there are going to be many Christians out there who say they have done great things and yet still He will tell them to depart away from Him because they were without the Torah.

When He said these things, He knew that in a couple of years He would have to die on the cross for our sins. That is true. He performed the perfect sacrifice so that the blood sacrifices of animals would no longer be necessary. That was part of the Levitical order of the priesthood that the Almighty created under Moses because of the sin of Israel with the golden calf. But that **doesn't mean** the Torah is abolished. Nowhere does it say that.

Many Christians are taught that when they get saved they no longer have to keep the commandments. But Yahushua said, "If you LOVE me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) A few verses later He said,

**He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. - John 14:21**

Keeping the commandments does not save us. The Bible teaches us that we are saved TO keep them, and His commandments are not hard or grievous (1 John 5:3)! Keeping them is an expression of our LOVE for Him and the Father! Look at these words of the Apostle John, written toward the end of the first century AD:

**And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him - 1 John 2:3-4**

**And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. - 1 John 3:24**

**And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. - 2 John 1:6**

These are just SOME examples from John's letters. Remember, the commandments of Yahushua are the commandments of His Father and His Father's commandments are the Torah! This is because Yahushua (in His pre-incarnate state) was the **Voice** that gave the Torah from Mount Sinai. He was and IS the Word of Yahuwah!

Indeed, the very definition of sin is this:

**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. - 1 John 3:4**

Understand, if these ill-taught Christians are right, then there is no more sin, because there is no more law. Folks can go and murder and commit adultery and go to heaven because the law is done away with. This is *just wrong* and it needs to be called out. It is part of the reason the Body of Messiah has lost so much of its spiritual power.

The Most High's plan for your salvation was simple. Receive Messiah and accept His sacrifice on Calvary as atonement for your sins. *Then*, empowered by the most powerful RUACH (Holy Spirit) show your gratitude for the **terrible price** Yahushua paid on the cross by keeping His commandments. People need to realize that Yahushua kept the Torah perfectly and taught others to do it. If we wish to follow Him, we need to keep it as well, as best we can. Remember, He said if we wish to have eternal life, we should keep the Torah. In Matthew 19 we read,

**<sup>16</sup>And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?**

<sup>17</sup> **And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.**

There is *just one other passage* that needs to be dealt with which confuses some people. Paul references Yahushua's sacrifice on Calvary when he writes,

**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; - Colossians 2:14**

Most pastors teach that this "handwriting of ordinances" mentioned above was the Law or Torah. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth. Paul uses an entirely different term. **The word for Torah or Law is NOMOS in Greek.**

**The phrase Paul uses *here* is  
CHEIROGRAPHON HO DOGMA.**

The word **DOGMA** is familiar to many. It is commonly used in the Roman church to refer to ecclesiastical rules or laws. It is MAN-MADE law. **This does NOT refer to the Torah of the Most High Creator!** Please understand this! Paul is saying that the man-made rules (called TAKANOT in Hebrew) of the Pharisees and other human traditions that were contrary to the Torah were nailed to the cross, NOT the Torah of Yahuwah!

There is great **joy** in coming to know Yahushua and to understand how much He loved us! Joy is in having faith in Him and what He did for us on the cross, knowing we will live forever with Him in heaven. But, like any loving relationship, once you have that love, you want to do things to PLEASE your Beloved. What Yahushua clearly says that if you really love Him and want to please Him, you will keep His commandments. By keeping His Word, you will gain more and more insight into how wonderful He is and the depths of His love, His wisdom and His power. It is an extraordinary journey that I have been on since 1984, and I would invite everyone reading this to share in that journey.

Shalom!

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