

The *Torah* of is יהוה Perfect (Torat Adonai T^emimah)

תורת יהוה תמימה

Adonai Edut Nefesh Meshivat T^emimah Adonai Torat [8]

[ח] תורת יהוה תמימה משׁיבת נפשׁ עדות יהוה

Peti Machchimat Ne-emanah

נאמנה מחכימת פתי:

Adonai Mitzvat Lev - Meshamchi Yesharim Adonai Pikudei [9]

[ט] פקודי יהוה ישׁרים משׁמחי-לב מצות יהוה

Einayim Me-irat Barah

ברה מאירת עינים:

Adonai Mishpetei La-ad Omeret T^hurah Adonai Yirat [10]

[י] יראת יהוה | טהורה עומדת לעד משׁפטי-יהוה

Yachdav Tzadku Emet

אמת צדקו יחדו:

Midevash Umtukim Rav Umipaz Mizahav Hanechemadim [11]

[יא] הנחמדים מזהב ומפז רב ומתוקים מדבשׁ

Tzupim Venofet

ונפת צופים:

⁷The *Torah* of Adonai {תורת יהוה} is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony (עדות, edut) of Adonai is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes (פקודי, Pikudei) of Adonai are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment (מצות, mitzvah) of Adonai is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear (יראת, yirat) of Adonai is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments (משׁפטי, mishpetei) of Adonai are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. (Psalm 19:7-10)

Words Describing the *Torah*

The *Torah* of Adonai is perfect (תמימה, T^emimah): whole, flawless, perfect, honest, upright, ingenuous, artless, guileless, simpleminded, cherubic, naive, childlike, unsophisticated.

The testimony (עדות, Edut) of Adonai is (נאמנה, Ne-emanah) sure: trustee, to make a speech.

The statutes (פְּקוּדֵי, *Pikudei*) of Adonai are (יֵשָׁרִים, *Yesharim*) right: honesty, integrity, uprightness, equity, sincerity, probity, straightness, fairness, squareness, straightforwardness, virtue, rectitude, justice, straight, level, direct, forthright, virtuous, righteous, guileless, frank, smack, undesigning, upstanding, sincere, square, candid, honest, upright.

The commandment (מִצְוָה, *mitzvat*) of Adonai is (בְּרַחַם מֵאִירָה, *Barah Meirat*) pure: son of light.

The fear (יִרְאָה, *yirat*) of Adonai is (טְהוּרָה, *T^hurah*) clean: pure, unalloyed, untainted, sheer, clean, immaculate, angelic, vestal, virginal, unadulterated.

The judgments (מִשְׁפָּטֵי, *mishpetei*) of Adonai are (אֱמֶת צְדָקוֹ יַחְדָּו, *Emet Tzadku Yachdav*) true and righteous: truth, verity, correctness, veracity, and justice, justness, rightness, correctness, equity, righteousness, fairness, victory, to be right, to be correct are united and set apart.

1. We keep and esteem *Torah* because Abba and Y^eshua tell Us To!

There are 613 *mitzvot* (commandments in the *Torah*), however, there are over 1,000 in the *B^erit Chadasha*. Y^eshua said: “If you keep my commands, you will stay in my love—just as I have kept my Father’s commands and stay in his love. I have said this to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy be complete. This is my command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you.” in John 15:10-12. Also in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commands.” And in John 14:21: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me, and the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.” A commandment is a commandment, whether not to murder or not to lie or honor our parents or to not eat unclean substances or to rejoice in Sukkot!

2. We keep and esteem *Torah* because the *Torah* gives us definition.

The *Torah* tells us how to become a child of Abraham. Many Jewish traditions are purely cultural, but the *Torah* presents a lifestyle in holiness that transcends culture. The *Torah* is what gives the descendants of Abraham their identity! Believing in Y^eshua only makes that identity complete!

3. We keep and esteem *Torah* because it is who we are.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is united with the Messiah, he is a new creation—the old has passed; look, what has come is fresh and new!” And in Gal 6:15: “For neither being circumcised nor being uncircumcised matters; what matters is being a new creation.” The *B^erit Chadasha* tells us we are completely made over. What is inside of us now? Well, none other than Ha*Torah* (Y^eshua). Notice what Jeremiah said in chapter 31:31-34: “Here, the days are coming,” says ADONAI, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Isra’el and with the house of Y’hudah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers on the day I took them by their hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt; because they, for their part, violated my covenant, even though I, for my part, was a husband to them,” says ADONAI. “For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra’el after those days,” says ADONAI: “I will put my *Torah* within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will any of them teach his fellow community member or his brother, ‘Know ADONAI’; for all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest; because I will forgive their wickednesses and remember their sins no more.” Consider the following Scriptures: Romans 2:14-15 “For whenever Gentiles, who have no *Torah*, do naturally what the *Torah* requires, then these, even though they don’t have *Torah*, for themselves are *Torah*! For their lives show that the conduct the *Torah* dictates is written in their hearts. Their consciences also bear witness to this, for their conflicting thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them.” And Hebrews 8:10-12, which quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34: “‘For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ says Adonai: ‘I will put my *Torah* in their minds and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be my people’; ‘None of them will teach his fellow-citizen or his brother, saying, “Know Adonai!” For all will know me, from the least of them to the greatest, because I will be merciful toward their wickednesses and remember their sins no more.’ ” Since the *Torah* is

written in our hearts, the *Torah* is part of our BASIC MAKEUP as believers in Y^eshua! New creations should do what comes naturally to them, that is, keep the *Torah* that is inscribed in the heart!

4. We keep and esteem *Torah* because it is Ya'akov's (James') Mirror!

Ya'akov (James) said we needed to look in the mirror and see ourselves through the *Torah*! In Ya'akov (James) 1:22-25 *"Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it! For whoever hears the Word but doesn't do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror, who looks at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But if a person looks closely into the perfect Torah, which gives freedom, and continues, becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work it requires, then he will be blessed in what he does."* It is the person who sees himself in the mirror—the *Torah*—and remembers what he looks like, it is this one that is the doer of the work the Word requires. The reflection we see in the *Torah* is that of ONE WHO HAS BEEN REDEEMED. It is not merely a list of DO's and DON'TS, it is literally 'Y^eshua in us, the hope of Glory.' Unless we enter in to this relationship with Ha*Torah*, a whole new realm of new life in Messiah is unavailable!

5. We keep and esteem *Torah* because the Messiah did it also!

Y^eshua is the *Torah* made flesh. Thus we should strive like the old hymn we used to sing in services: *"To Be Like Jesus (Y^eshua), to be like Jesus, all I ask, is to be like Him"*. Y^eshua is inside of us!!! This is why Scripture states in 2 Corinthians 4:7 *"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it will be evident that such overwhelming power comes from God and not from us."*

6. We keep and esteem *Torah* because of what it communicates to non-believers

We need to correct the major theological tragedy and error that has been inside the body of *Messiah* for over 1,800 years! Many theologians today continue to swallow the anti-*Torah* and anti-semitic teachings of the church fathers! They continue to publish and teach today with the VERY SAME BIAS! Our brothers and sisters in the body of believers may not be as anti-Semitic and anti-*Torah* as many of the church fathers were but **"THEY HAVE INHERITED THEIR ANTI-TORAH AND ANTI-JEWISH INTERPRETATIONS AND DOCTRINES OUT OF THE B^ERIT CHADASHA SCRIPTURES!"** It is no wonder that Scripture reminds us in er. 16:19: *"ADONAI, my strength, my fortress, my refuge in time of trouble, the nations will come to you from the ends of the earth, saying, "Our ancestors inherited nothing but lies, futile idols, completely useless."* If people were honest in the exegesis of the Scriptures they would conclude that the newer covenant is after all *TORAH FRIENDLY!* For us who are Messianic Jews, what does that anti-*Torah* attitude say to our Jewish people and the traditional Jewish world? How do they see us? What do our Jewish families and friends see? Do they see us as 'observant' or 'apathetic.' Therefore, why would any Jewish person want what we have? Rabbi Benjamin Blech and the Jewish Orthodox Yeshiva in New York writes:

"Christianity therefore rejected the Torah and gave a new interpretation to the covenant at Sinai. This is the crucial distinction between the Newer and Older covenants. The Torah was assuredly given to the Jewish people at Sinai, but its laws were no longer binding, according to Christianity. How could God have given directives that He Himself later saw fit to change or do away with"

Thus, to our Jewish people, the Good News are nothing but Bad News. We Jews are NON-ENTITIES according to conventional Christianity! Dr. Stern writes:

"I am certain that the lack of correct, clear, and relatively complete Messianic Jewish or Gentile Christian theology of the Torah is not only a major impediment to Christian's understanding their own faith but also the greatest barrier to Jewish people receiving the Gospel. Most Christians have an overly simplistic understanding of what the Torah is all about; and second, that Christianity has almost nothing relevant to say to Jews about one of the three most important issues of their faith"