

# Timeless Teachings

TEACHING ON ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH

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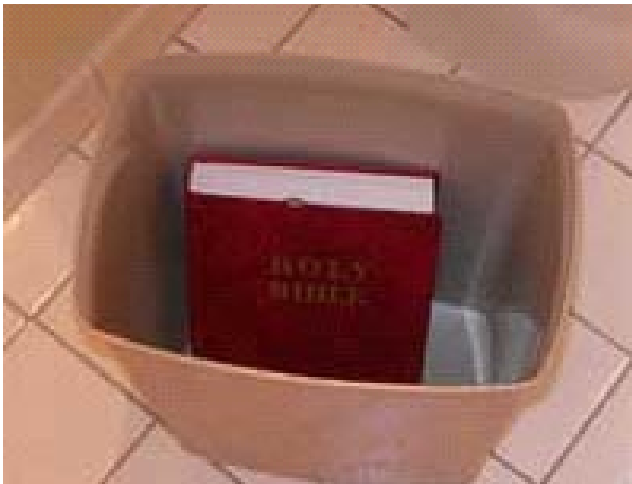


Keystone Classroom

## “Scrap it in the Dust Bin!”

*“It’s time to take out the trash in our thinking.”*

*(Christian Broadcasting Network, cbn.org)*



The above title I originally entitled “Trash It in the Dust Bin!” because that is actually what was spoken from the lips of a Christian about God’s Eternal Words (the Jewish Scriptures). I could not; however, come to terms with even putting the word “trash it” in a teaching that is dealing with the Eternal Words of God. I do however feel that it is time that Christians take out the garbage in their own thinking. I love my people, who love Jesus, but the sooner this blasphemous statement can be “scrapped,” the better.

Living in the latter days brings its own problems, but truth must prevail in our streets, our cities, our homes and most of all, Christian churches. If we cannot speak the truth where we worship, then where can we speak the absolute truth? I believe rock solid truth is God’s Holy, the Sacred Scriptures. As Rev. Lance Lambert used to say “the whole counsel of God,” means the entire Bible, not just the New Testament.

*“We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things.” ( 2 Peter 1:19-20, NIV)*

This above admonition from the New Testament (Brit Hadashah in Hebrew), came from the lips of one of the greatest Apostles of all time, Peter (Petra, his Jewish name). What he was attempting to convey to his disciples, and for all who would come into the faith of the Lord Jesus was truth, and it came from the bottom of his heart. The Word of God, the Jewish Scriptures a.k.a. the Torah/Tanach, is God’s Eternal Words given to mankind. Completely reliable, it is dependable, secure, solid, sure, tried, trustworthy and Divine. Anyone who is a devoted, and faithful Bible reader, and/or researcher, can attest to this. It is the foundation of the New Testament, and everything Yeshua (Jesus) taught emerged from where “it was written,” in the Jewish Scripture. To even think it is of little use or value, would be to reveal the deep ignorance found in today’s churches. Jesus minced no words when He commanded His disciples saying *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12, KJV)*. This is an admonition not to take lightly.

One example among many, is Mega-pastor Andy Stanley in the US. In an article in Relevant Magazine, he tells Christians God’s words from Mount Sinai don’t apply to them any more...it’s all apparently



irrelevant today, he says. Participants in the New Covenant are not supposed to be required to obey any of the commandments found in the first part of their Bibles...Andy Stanley believes he and his 33,000 followers no longer have a sin nature, that they no longer need to measure their behavior against the standard of the commandments. Do they believe they are completely New Covenant creatures, who, the Scriptures tell us, will not need to study the Law to know it and embrace it because it will be *"written in their hearts."* (Jeremiah 31; Hebrews 8)...Stanley is telling anyone who will listen to him that this one commandment is a "replacement for everything in the existing list." (Referencing the words of Jesus to love one another. (John 13:34-35).

Jesus spoke about one of His best friends, Jochanan (John the Baptist) and reminded everyone that *"For this is he, of whom it is written..."* (Matthew 11:10, KJV) in the sacred scriptures. At the time, there was no New Testament to quote from. So many times the Lord spoke *"it is written,"* or *"haven't you read?"* to His Disciples whom He expected to have known the Word of God. He also expects modern day disciples to know the same Word! Paul (his Hebrew name, Shaul) "...appeals to the Torah as proof of his message...how could he describe the Torah (Law) as "holy," "righteous," and "good," and commend its message as "spiritual," while at the same time teaching it as burdensome and something to be avoided?" "...Paul is seen to be both the Apostle of grace and of Torah, because the Torah, when received in the context of faith in Yeshua, is God's revelation of sanctifying grace". (Tim Hegg, The Letter Writer, TorahResource.com).

The apostles of the "New" Testament (more appropriately termed "Newer" Testament, were all Jewish. That may surprise some Christians, but it is true. Even Luke, who for centuries was termed as "gentile," many scholars today will argue that he was definitely Jewish, or if he was truly a gentile, he would have grown up and have been raised around Jewish communities. To be an apostle in the most literal sense was to be "...an emissary...from the Greek...apostolos, literally "one who is sent off," from the verb...apostellein, "to send off." The purpose of such sending off is usually to convey a message, and thus "messenger" is a common alternative translation... In context and time, when Peter spoke these words, there was also no New Testament, for it had not yet been written down. From the middle of the 1st century AD texts began to be written which would later be gathered into a "Newer" Testament, represent-

ing the renewed covenant revealed by Messiah Jesus. "The earliest texts are the letters (or Epistles) written between about 50 and 62 AD by Paul to various early Christian communities." (Wikipedia). Therefore, Peter is saying that the message given in the prophecies of the Torah should be taken seriously. In a paraphrase he was saying "you will do well to pay attention to it". The Church fathers have inappropriately termed the Everlasting Word of God as "Old". It seems that some church fathers felt there were two Gods, one in the Torah ("Old" Testament) and another God in the "New" Testament. What a foolish way of thinking. It only shows that some Christians have a lack of Bible education, and lack good sense and judgment. Why would Yeshua (Jesus) ever say *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock..."* (Matthew 7:24), if He did not mean to respect the source of His Teachings and Wisdom?

Correlating His Teachings to a "rock" tells us that these sayings are unchangeable. Who would ever want to treat them like rubbish and discard them? And yet, there are Christians doing just that. It amazes me, and is embarrassing at the same time.



Just recently someone from the United Kingdom told me that a friend they knew said exactly the words in the title of this message, but they used the word "trash it." How many more Christians feel this way? It has to be blasphemous to Father God because they are His Eternal Words. In my own personal Bible studies, I find the richness of the Jewish Scriptures enhance and deepen my understanding of the New Testament. I believe the Torah can stand on its own, but the New Testament must have the Torah to back up its teachings and to see that Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled the promises of the prophets. So many verses of both testaments confirm one another and enrich my daily studies. The Torah feeds me daily from its eternal wisdom and prophetic promises for Israel, and I learn from the lives of people who lived during ancient Bible times and see more clearly my Jew-



ish Messiah. *"For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee" (Matthew 11:10).* This is Yeshua (Jesus) talking about Johanan (John) the Baptist. Where was Yeshua (Jesus) drawing from? The Jewish Scriptures: the Torah!

If you feel the Jewish Scriptures are "legalistic" given by a God of wrath, I would take another close look, you have missed the Eternal Love of God Almighty for His Chosen People, and all of mankind. When my husband and I would travel to the Far East, we found numerous pastors did not know where many of the books were located in what is called termed the "Old" Testament. In Spanish countries, Mexico, for instance, it was similar. Of course, we can expect the world to "trash" the Bible, because it hampers their flagrant and sinful lifestyles but how can Christians talk trash about God's Eternal Word: the Torah? We not only insult God, but we offend the Jewish people who preserved the Scriptures down through centuries of persecution in order for the world not to lose the sacred scriptures. It's my prayer that after reading this short teaching on the importance of the Torah that someone will get set free from this misunderstanding of the Jewish Scriptures. This would be my prayer.

From the New Testament we quote: *"That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour..."*. *"...Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." (1 Peter 1:11).* *"... being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever ... " (1 Peter 1:23).*

There are many voices in the world today. There are also numerous diverse opinions from the Church. This is why we turn to the Word of God itself to confirm, a "thumbs up" to the Jewish Scriptures, a/k/a Torah. The flawed attitudes of some Christians regarding the Torah, the Word of God upon which the New Testament is built, is a "thumbs down" ...the anti-Law people choose some verses from Galatians to "prove" that Torah has been abolished. (1 John 3:4 tells us that "sin is the transgression of the Law." That's the New Testament definition of sin. "...that's the same definition of sin that the Tanach (OT) uses! Those who refuse to obey Torah are sinners!" ..."Most

of the Church teaches against Torah. However, Bible truth isn't decided by majority opinion. Remember the twelve spies? Ten were wrong, and two were right. It's the same today. The majority of the Church is wrong when it comes to Torah. Many treat it like a sin to obey God's commandments! We disagree." (PetahTikvah.com).

Statements like the above cause destructive heresies, (2 Peter 2:1, 2, 3, 1 John 4:6; 2 Peter 2:15, 16, 17, 1 John 3:7; 4:1.) We are "preserved by the same word..." (2 Peter 3:7; 1 John 5:2.) There is "No new commandment" (1 John 2:7). If we are looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of the One True God and Lord Yeshua (Jesus) where should we be looking? Up...and towards Jerusalem. The prophet Jeremiah is crystal clear when He tells us *"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.* These prophetic words come from the Jewish Scriptures, the Torah (Jeremiah 3:17).

Conversely, a member of the Israeli parliament tore up a copy of the New Testament and threw it in the trash in the summer of 2018. How will we all, Jews and Christians come together if we continue in this manner and fashion of dialogue towards each other when we both come from the same root. We are digging our own graves. Let us once and for all, grasp and recognize, that the Bible is really one book, it should not be separated, torn apart, thrown out in part, nor taken lightly. I for one will truly use my garbage bin for the things of this world that truly have no meaning, nor spiritual truth, but you won't come to my home and find God's Word in any trash bin. The only scraps you'll find are for the cats. Let's as believers, pay attention to this short teaching and do pay attention to the whole counsel of God.

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