

LINE UPON LINE

Lesson #3

How God Builds His House

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Establish a foundation for understanding how to study the scriptures from a Hebraic perspective.
- Learn that Mt. Zion is a spiritual picture of God's people.
- Understand how we grow in knowledge of the Word of God.
- Learn that God desires for us to grow from spiritual babies to spiritual adults after we are saved by faith in Yeshua as Messiah.
- Learn that Torah means 'instruction' not 'law'.
- Learn that the root meaning of Torah in addition to 'instruction' is "to teach, to point out as aiming the finger, to lay a foundation".
- Learn that in a broad sense, the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation is Torah, God's instruction to His people.
- Learn that God gave us the understanding of Him and His Kingdom through parables, deep sayings, and spiritual blueprints.
- Learn the four levels of understanding scripture.
- Learn the Biblical purpose of God's Torah.

YESHUA IS OUR FOUNDATION

A. *Yeshua*/Jesus is the foundation.

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B. Where is *Yeshua*/Jesus, the foundation? (In Mt. Zion - *Isaiah 28:16*)

MOUNT ZION

- A. Zion is a term for God's people (*Isaiah 51:16*).
 - B. Zion is a term for the heavenly Jerusalem, the Bride (*Hebrews 12:22, Revelation 21:1-2, 9b-10*)
 - C. God loves Zion more (*Psalms 87:2*).
 - D. In Zion is deliverance and holiness (*Obadiah 1:17*).
 - E. The redeemer (*Yeshua*) comes from Zion (*Isaiah 59:20*).
 - F. We (the believers) have NOT come to Mt. Sinai but to Mt. Zion (*Hebrews 12:18-22*).
- Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion are an allegory of the flesh vs. the spirit (*Galatians 4:21-29*).

HOW IS THE FOUNDATION BUILT?

A. Line upon line, precept upon precept (*Isaiah 28:9-10, 13*).

Precept = Strong's 6673 = tsav which means commandment (from 6680).

Commandment = 6680 = tsavah. Doing a commandment = Mitzvah.

The tabernacle was given according to the pattern (*Exodus 25:8-9*) by the commandment of God (*Exodus 25:22 ... commandment = 6680*).

B. God reveals himself to us in degrees (line upon line, precept upon precept) according to our ability to receive and understand His revelation to us of Himself. The analogy which God gives in the Bible is a baby can only consume milk, but adults can consume solid food.

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WHAT IS THE MILK?

- A. The milk is the Word of God (*I Peter 2:2*).
- B. Understanding the Word of God is how we grow spiritually (*I Peter 2:2*).
- C. Milk is also the most basic elementary principle of the Bible (*I Corinthians 3:1-3, Hebrews 5:12-14*).
- D. We need to be weaned from milk (*Isaiah 28:9*) if we are to mature in Christ and understand deeper spiritual truths (*I Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:12-14*).

* THE TORAH: BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION *



==> TORAH is the Strong's word (8451). The best meaning of TORAH is "teaching or instruction". Because there is no proper corresponding word in Greek or English, it is commonly translated as "law." Law implies a set of do's and don'ts intended to imprison us by breaking them. However, the Hebrew word, TORAH, is better described as God's instruction manual given to His children to educate them as to how they should conduct their lives in a manner pleasing to their Heavenly Father.

1. God gave the Hebrew language to communicate His spiritual truths. Let's see an example of this by doing a word study of the Hebrew word, TORAH. The word "Torah" (8451) comes from the Strong's word (3384). Strong's 3384 is the Hebrew word "Yarah". Using the Strong's Concordance and the Hebrew Lexicon, Yarah means "to teach, to point out as aiming the finger, to lay a foundation" (*Psalms 27:11*).

2. Abraham, the father of our faith, was chosen by God because God knew that Abraham would teach his children the instruction (Torah) of God. (*Romans 4:16, 22-24, Genesis 18:17-19*). Abraham kept the Torah.

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3. Therefore, the most basic understanding of the meaning of Torah is instruction for the purpose of teaching done by pointing out or aiming the finger. God's purpose for Torah is to lay a foundation to communicate His spiritual truths to His people regarding the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven and His redemptive plan for man.

===> EVERYTHING in the Bible was divinely ordained by God to teach or instruct us about the spiritual truths of the Kingdom of God (*II Timothy 3:16, Romans 15:4*).

1. In a broad sense, everything in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is God's TORAH or instruction to His people and the world. It is very important to understand that even though the Biblical account of history is literally true, God structured the history in the Bible to teach us everything about Himself, His Kingdom, and His plan for mankind.

WHAT METHOD DID GOD USE TO COMMUNICATE HIS INSTRUCTION (TORAH) TO US?

===> God gave the understanding of Him and His Kingdom in the form of spiritual pictures, blueprints or shadows. In other words, the literal or natural world was given to communicate the spiritual world. Therefore, God spoke to His people through different mechanisms including:

1. Parables (*Psalms 78:1-4, Mark 4:10-13*).
2. Deep or dark sayings/mysteries (*Proverbs 1:1-6, I Corinthians 2:6-10, 14*).
3. Spiritual blueprints/shadows (*Ezekiel 43:10-12, Colossians 2:16-17*).

===> God's Torah was given in this form to fulfill His Word. Those who would obey the greatest commandment (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Mark 12:28-31*) in spirit and truth (*John 4:24*) would know and understand the ways of God. But, to the wicked, they would consider the things of God as foolishness.

THE FOUR LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING TORAH

- I. Peshat ---> Literal
- II. Remez ---> One scripture tied to another scripture

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- III. Derash ---> Derived interpretations of scripture through exegesis
- IV. Sod ---> Deeper spiritual meaning (dark sayings, mysteries)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TORAH?

A. Teaches and reveals the divine nature of God.

1. Holy (*Leviticus 19:2*)
2. Love (*I John 4:7-8*)
3. Gracious, righteous, merciful (*Psalms 116:5*)
4. Light (*I John 1:5*)

B. Teaches and reveals sin (*I John 3:4, James 2:10, Galatians 3:10, Romans 3:20*).

C. Teaches and reveals man's need to have a Messiah (*Romans 10:4*).

====> "End" (Strong's Word 5056) in Greek means "Goal/Target".

D. Teaches and reveals God's redemptive plan through the Messiah. (*Psalms 40:6-7, Hebrews 10:5-7, Luke 24:36, 44*).

E. Teaches and reveals the difference between the life of the Spirit and the life of the flesh.

F. Teaches us how to grow from spiritual babies to spiritual maturity. (*Hebrews 5:12-14, Ephesians 4:11-15, Genesis 17:1, Psalm 119:1-2, Psalm 19:7-8*).

G. The TORAH (first five books) is our foundation for understanding the entire Bible. The prophets and writings build upon that foundation.

Prophetically, Yeshua is the LIVING TORAH and God's FIRM FOUNDATION. This foundation is built upon by God's (Shaliach's) sent ones or apostles. (*Isaiah 28:16, I Peter 2:5-6, I Corinthians 3:10-11, Ephesians 2:19-20, Matthew 7:24-26*).

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LESSON REVIEW/QUESTIONS

1. Spiritually speaking, God's people are compared to what mountain?
2. How does God reveal Himself to us and how to we learn the scriptures?
3. What is milk associated with in the scriptures?
4. What is the milk of God's Word?
5. What is the meat of God's Word?
6. What is the best definition for the Hebrew word, Torah?
7. What is the root meaning of Torah as revealed in the Hebrew word 'Yarah'?
8. Why did God choose Abraham to be the 'Father of our faith'?
9. In the broad application of the word, 'Torah' can refer to what and why?
10. Give three methods which God uses to communicate His Word to us.
11. What are the four levels of understanding scripture?
12. Specify seven purposes of the Torah.
13. In Romans 10:4, what does the Greek word translated as 'end' mean?
14. Who is the Living Torah?