

LAW 102

by Avram Yehoshua

[THE SEED OF ABRAHAM](#)

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INTRODUCTION

I thought I knew all there was to know about God and Scripture after four years of graduate study in the Master of Divinity program at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1979-1983), where I maintained an A- average for those four years. I had already been immersed in the Holy Spirit before I got to ORU—what more was there to Christianity except loving Jesus, telling others about Him and loving people? After all, isn't that what the Church preaches? All we have to do is love. Isn't that the "new commandment of Jesus" that overrides the commandments and statutes of Mosaic Law, except for its moral laws, like murder, stealing and lying, etc.?

One day a couple came to our apartment and shared about the 7th day Sabbath of the LORD¹ still being in effect for Christians. I "listened" while they spoke and after they were gone I mocked them. The Sabbath was done away with! I had learned that in church and at ORU. Every Christian knew that. Mosaic Law was not for Christians and neither was the 7th day Sabbath. "Christ nailed the Law to the Cross!" (cf. Col. 2:14) and He rose on Sunday. "We are not under the Law," and so we don't have to keep Passover, and we can eat all the bacon we want, or so I thought. I didn't realize that I had been *thoroughly* brainwashed by the traditions of the Church that nullify God's Word. Sound familiar? That's what Jesus said to the Pharisees: "All too well you reject the commandment of God that you may keep your tradition!" (Mark 7:9) Nothing new under the sun, as wise King Solomon once wrote (Eccl. 1:9c).

A couple of weeks later though, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me about Mosaic Law through a godly woman. In my pride and ignorance I told her that the Law was dead. That ended that conversation. The following week she came again and spoke about the Law. Again I said that the Law had been done away with, showing her some Scripture like, we're no longer "under the Law" (Gal. 4:21; 5:18). Conversation ended. A few days after that the Holy Spirit led her to me a third time and she said,

"If Mosaic Law has been done away with, why does the Apostle Paul exhort the Gentile Corinthian Christians to keep the Passover-Feast of Unleavened Bread in 1st Cor. 5:6-8?"

That got my attention. I hadn't *seen* that before. I had read Corinthians many times, but I never connected those two dots. The Lord had just broken through my theological wall against Mosaic Law, which I had inherited from the Church, and He began to lead me into Mosaic Law as our Christian *lifestyle*—not for salvation, but as His Standard for how we're to live out our faith in Him. That was July 1983.

Mosaic Law or Torah as it's known in Hebrew, is literally God's *Teaching* or *Instruction* to Israel *after* He had *saved* them from Egyptian slavery. Mosaic Law didn't save them, but once saved, the Law revealed God's Way for Israel to walk out their freedom and salvation, and what was sin. The same concept holds true for Christians. Once saved we're to walk out our faith in Yeshua, the Hebrew name for Jesus, the same way He did (1st John 2:6). After all, isn't He our Example in all matters of faith *and* practice?

With some insightful points about the Mosaic Dietary laws, the views of Jesus on the Sabbath and Mosaic Law, Paul and Mosaic Law, and animal sacrifice *after* the Resurrection (and that by the Apostle Paul), the Church's *interpretation* of these areas of New Testament Scripture will be seen for what they are—the traditions of Man that nullify God's Word for God's biblical New Testament lifestyle. First we'll begin with a common Christian misunderstanding that Christians can eat animals that the God of Israel calls unclean (e.g. Lev. 11:1-47 and Dt. 14:1-21, etc.).

¹ Lev. 23:3: "For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy assembly. You must not do any work. It is a Sabbath to Yahveh in all your dwellings." The Name Yahveh is used in the Hebrew Bible 6,823 times. Unfortunately, it's written as "the LORD" or "GOD" in most English Bibles, which is actually a Jewish tradition that the Church erroneously follows. "Yahveh" is the personal name of the God of Israel.

Paul and the Pig

Christians believe that any animals, fish or bird can be eaten as long as “you bless it,” but this is not what Paul, whom Christians only half quote in this area, means. He wrote to Timothy saying:

“For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving, for it is *sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.*” (1st Tim. 4:4-5)

The two qualifiers to eating any food, according to the Apostle; to be sanctified to our bodies, are the Word of God *and* prayer—not just prayer. How then can Paul say that every creature of God is “good”? Unclean animals like the pig are good. God created them to be the original “sanitation engineers” (the garbage collectors) of the land and the sea. Who wants to eat from the garbage truck?

If one believes that Paul didn’t think that the Old Testament (specifically the Mosaic Dietary laws of Leviticus 11 and Deut. 14, the two places where God speaks of clean and unclean animals for food), was what Paul is speaking of in *1st Tim 4:4-5*, then how can the phrase, “the Word of God” be understood? Just Paul’s letters, and how many churches that he wrote to had more than two of his letters? *2nd Timothy*, obviously written after *1st Timothy*, has Paul admonishing Timothy about the Old Testament being important Scripture for both wisdom for salvation and thoroughly equipping Christians for good works:

“But you must *continue* in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from *childhood* you have known the *Holy Scriptures* (i.e. the Old Testament), which are able to make you *wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be *complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (2nd Timothy 3:14-17 NKJV)

The Apostle Paul is telling Timothy that what he had learned as a child, the Old Testament, which obviously included Mosaic Law, would make him “wise unto salvation” in Jesus, and “All Scripture” drives that concept home. This reveals that the Apostle saw Mosaic Law as “profitable for doctrine” or teaching, reproof, correction and “instruction in righteousness.” This means *the right way* to live. Christians who do not walk in the 7th day Sabbath, the Feasts of Israel and the Mosaic Dietary laws, to name three major Pillars of Moses, are not “thoroughly equipped for every good work.” The term “work” relates to the *doing* of the rules or laws of Mosaic Law, whether it’s having compassion on others or keeping Passover.² It also means that they are sinning against Jesus in not obeying His will and Way for them.

Peter and the Pig

Many Christians present Peter’s Vision in Acts Ten as justification for eating bacon or shrimp, etc., and say that the heavenly Voice (either Yeshua’s or the Holy Spirit), specifically told Peter “to kill and eat” the unclean animals, etc., on the sheet that came down from the Heavens. That is true. The Voice did tell Peter that, but it was a vision, and not surprising, nowhere in Acts 10 does Peter, or anyone else, eat anything unclean or say that we can. The *meaning* of the Vision becomes clear to Peter, and hopefully to us, when Peter stands before Gentile Cornelius and first says,

“You know how unlawful it is for a *Jewish man to keep company with, or go to one of another nation,*³ but God has” (just!) “shown me that I should not call *any man common*

² For why Romans 14:5-6 does not authorize anyone to choose their “own day for the Sabbath,” and why Romans 14:14 doesn’t speak of all foods being “clean,” see [Romans 14 and the Dietary Laws](#).

³ Ex. 23:32-33; 34:12, 15; Lev. 20:22-26; Dt. 7:3-11; 23:6; Josh. 23:1-15; Ezra 9:1-10:44; Neh. 13:1-3, 23-28.

or unclean.” (Acts 10:28)⁴

The Vision doesn’t concern animals, but Gentiles. There’s *nothing* about eating animals, let alone unclean animals in the encounter with Cornelius. Peter understands the Vision pertains to what Peter had formerly called *unclean* Gentiles. A few verses later it’s written:

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said, “Of a truth I” (now!) “perceive that *God* is no respecter of *persons*,”⁵ (not animals!) “but *in every nation* he who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:34-35)

There is nothing that anyone actually says about say, eating pig or anything else unclean, and neither is there any teaching that nullifies or supersedes God’s (Mosaic) dietary laws of Lev. 3:17; 11:1f., and Dt. 14:1f. The meaning of the sheet with the unclean animals, etc. on it, that the Voice told Peter “to kill and eat” was the Gentile—Cornelius & Friends, as Peter speaks of in Acts 10:28. The Gates of *Jewish salvation* were now being opened to the *first Gentiles* (cf. Acts 11:18; 15:7, 14). That’s right. Eight to ten or more years *after* the Resurrection (as Christian theologians teach),⁶ the *first Gentiles* came into the Kingdom of Yeshua through the Jewish Apostle Peter (cf. Acts 10:28).

God was showing Peter, first through the Vision and then through him going to Cornelius & Co., that the *Gentiles were now acceptable to God for salvation*. **This** was the reason for, and the *meaning* of the Vision, and Peter declares it as such in verse 34. *How could the Church not have seen this in 2,000 years?*

Gentiles coming into the Jewish Kingdom was *startlingly new* for Peter, and God used him, the chief Apostle, as a bridge to extend salvation and the right hand of fellowship into the Gentile community. In turn, this seminal event would be used by the Lord in the lives of other Jewish Christians who would come to accept this shocking new development to the true biblical Jewish religion (Acts 11:1-18).

Before this, before Acts 10, neither Peter nor any other Jewish Christian had even spoken of salvation to a Gentile, let alone had any Gentile come to believe in Jesus. In other words, there weren’t any Gentiles who had come to salvation in at least the first eight years *after* the death and Resurrection of Messiah Yeshua. Salvation was not only “of the Jews,” as Jesus said,⁷ but as far as Peter and *all* the other Jewish Christians were concerned, **was only for** the Jews.⁸ That’s how it was in the early Church, and that’s why Peter is called on the carpet when he returns to Jerusalem, one chapter later, in Acts 11. For he had gone into a Gentile’s home, shared the Good News and ate with them. The Jewish Christians were *amazed* at what God had done in light of the Vision He had given to Peter, who recounts it to the Jewish Apostles and Elders in Jerusalem. Luke writes,

“When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God saying, “Well then, God has *also granted to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to Life.*” (Acts 11:18)

⁴ For a biblical understanding of what Peter means by *common*, see [Common—Acts 10:14](#).

⁵ Before this God was certainly a respecter of persons—the Jews: Ex. 8:22-23; 9:4, 6, 26; 10:21-23; 11:4-7; 12:12-13, 23-33; 29-30; 13:5, 8-9, 11-15, 21-22; 14:4, 8, 13-14, 16, 17, 18, 19-20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; 14:24-30; 17:14, 16; Num. 33:50-56; Deut. 7:6-8, 14; 10:15; 14:2, 21; 20:11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17; 26:18-19; 28:1-2, 9-10, 13; 32:9; 33:29; Judges 3:10; 6:14; 10:16; 11:23-24, 27, 29, 33; Ps. 44:2-3; 136:10-11; Isaiah 29:22-24; 30:19, 26; 33:5, 14-24; 34:1-8, 16-17; 35:1-10; 43:1-4, 15, 20-21; 44:21-28; 45:4, 17, 19, 25; 46:3-4, 13; Amos 3:2; Zech 12:1-9; 13:7-9; 14:1-21; Mal. 1:1-5; 3:11-12; Mt. 15:24; Rom. 11:25-29; Rev. 7:4, etc.

⁶ Christian theologians generally agree that Acts 10 took place at eight to ten years *after* the Resurrection: 39-40 AD: Ben Witherington III, *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998), p. 346.

Before 41 AD. Howard Marshall, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., Author; Professor R.V.G. Tasker, M.A., B.D., General Editor, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: *Acts* (Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2000), p. 183.

40-44 AD: R. J. Knowling, D. D.; Author; W. Robertson Nicoll, Editor, M. A., LL. D., The Expositor’s Greek Testament, vol. two: *The Acts of the Apostles* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2002), p. 250.

⁷ “You worship what you do not know. We Jews know Who we worship, *for salvation is of the Jews.*” (John 4:22)

⁸ Paul came to Jesus in Acts 9, about 33-35 AD.

Cornelius was the first Gentile to come to Jesus. He wasn't the first Christian though, to eat catfish or ham. No mention is made of anyone eating anything unclean or any declaration that the Mosaic Dietary laws had been done away with because of the Resurrection *or the Vision*, either in Acts 10 or anywhere else in the New Testament that refers back to Acts 10. If the ability to eat pig was the meaning of Peter's Vision, shouldn't we have found at least one verse stating such, in Acts 10 or even in Acts 11? Shouldn't Cornelius have invited Peter to eat some pork chops or shrimp in celebration of his being Born Again and filled with the Holy Spirit?

The precedent, of the first Gentile/s coming to faith in the Jewish Messiah, is the clear and obvious meaning of the Vision in Acts 10 and it's confirmed in Acts 11:18. *This* makes a way for Paul to eventually bring many Gentiles to faith in Yeshua, speaking of them at the Jerusalem Council in 48 AD, about eight to ten years after Acts 10, without receiving the flak and resistance from all the Jewish Christians that Peter had gone through.⁹

Jesus and the Pig

Finally, we have the Lord Yeshua as our third biblical Witness for eating pig, etc. as most Christians speak of His words in Mark. In two almost identical accounts, Yeshua is accosted by the Pharisees and Scribes and taken to task concerning His followers because they didn't wash their hands before they ate their food. The Church takes the words of Yeshua in Mark 7:19 "Thus He declared all foods clean," to mean that Christians can eat anything they want, but note how problematic this interpretation becomes for sinless and Mosaic Law abiding Jesus, who was "born under the Law" (Gal. 4:4). Mark writes,

"Then the Scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, "Why do Your disciples transgress the Tradition of the Elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?" (Matthew 15:1-3)

The same account in Mark continues:

"Then the Pharisees and some of the Scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with *unwashed* hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands *in a special way*, holding the Tradition of the Elders. When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels and couches. Then the Pharisees and Scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the Tradition of the Elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me." (Mark 7:1-6)

Both accounts (Matthew's in chapter 15, and Mark's here) have nothing to do with *what* is being eaten, clean or unclean animals, but if the Apostles followed the Pharisaic ritual of washing the hands "in a special way." Mt. 15:2 and Mark 7:2-3, 5 speak of the "Tradition of the Elders," which was both the washing of the hands in a special way *and* the saying of the Pharisaic blessing—it wasn't just washing one's hands that the Pharisees were concerned with, but that their ritual of washing the hands was being followed and if not, it was sin in Pharisaic eyes and hence, why the confrontation. This was the Pharisaic problem with the Lord; not that Yeshua was allowing His disciples to eat unclean animals, which is how the Church in-

⁹ For the historic landmark decision in Acts 15 concerning the Gentiles and what constituted salvation for them and also, what the four rules of James actually mean and how they form the theological center for Christians to walk out their faith in Jesus through all the rules of Mosaic Law that apply to them, see [The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21](#).

interprets this passage, especially concerning Mark 7:19.

As the accounts go, Mark 7:19 is variously translated by different English Bibles because the Greek word in question has three shades of meaning. In some Bibles it's written that Jesus does away with the Mosaic Dietary laws by stating that *all foods are now clean* and able to be eaten, but note the tremendous difference in how the King James Bible translates the same passage. First the NASB and then the KJV:

NASB—Mark 7:19: “because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” “(Thus He declared all foods clean.)”

KJV—Mark 7:19: “Because it enters not into his heart, but into the belly, and goes out into the draught, *purging all meats?*”

The King James Version does not have “(Thus He declared all foods clean).” That *interpretation* of the Greek words rests solely upon the English translator's biased perspective against Mosaic Law. This is a tremendous theological problem for the NASB because if Jesus was doing away with the Mosaic Dietary laws *before* the Cross, He would have sinned! He was “born under the Law” and so teaching others to disregard Mosaic Law, specifically the Mosaic Dietary laws, would have been sin for Him.

To teach others to break Mosaic Law is worse than if one just did it himself because now many are breaking Torah because of that person. In other words, on theological grounds concerning sinless Jesus and His having to keep Mosaic Law all His life to be sinless, this translation, which is in many English Bibles, fails horribly because it makes Jesus out to be a sinner.

Turning to the NASB's actual words that overrule Torah for Jesus, “Thus He declared,” is *not* found in any the Greek New Testament manuscripts, which is the basis for the New American Standard Bible and many other Bibles. In both the Textus Receptus *and* the Nestle-Aland Greek New Testament, which the NASB uses, the Greek is identical for the phrase in question for Mark 7:19. A Gentile translator added, “Thus He declared” *to help us* to be led astray by his pride and ignorance of the passage. *The Greek text is not at fault.* It's the sin of the English translator for the NASB, as well as the NIV and many other English Bibles.

What makes the translation truly a translator's prerogative or judgment call is that the word that the KJV rightly translates as “purging,” which the NASB translates as “clean,” has three shades of meaning.¹⁰ The Greek word can mean “clean” and that's where the NASB goes out on a theological limb. It can also mean purify, and that's where the NKJV goes, thinking it can walk “the middle ground,” but what does ‘purify’ mean? In the context the food enters the stomach and passes through it to exit the body. How is that food purified? Of course it is not, but the KJV rightly understands the simple context and tells us the food is purged from the body: it leaves the body through the bowels “into the draught.”

Many in the Church will point to this “declaration of Jesus” in the NASB and other like-minded Bibles, to justify their eating of pig and shrimp, etc. For Yeshua to say that the pig, etc., was clean, when Lev. 11:7 and Deut. 14:8 state that it's not, is a violation of Mosaic Law. He would have been guilty of breaking that law and sinning and therefore, would not have been the sinless sacrifice, and we would have no salvation.

Church theology on the Law states that Mosaic Law was canceled for Christians at the Crucifixion, and so how can Jesus be breaking the Law *before* His Crucifixion and not be a sinner? The only reasonable answer is that Yeshua didn't break the Law and the English Bible/s *translation* of the passage is heretical.

¹⁰ καθαρίζω (*katha'ridzo*) Walter Bauer, augmented by William F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and Frederick Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, second edition (London: The University of Chicago Press, 1979), p. 488. “To make physically clean, make clean, *cleans* someth. Mt 23:25f; Lk 11:39. The much-discussed passage...Mk 7:19 may belong here.”

καθαρίζω Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Accordance Bible Software), paragraph 5,077. “To make clean, to *cleans*; a. from physical stains and dirt: e.g. utensils, Matt. 23:25 (figuratively, Matt. 23:26); Luke 11:39; food, Mark 7:19...*to remove by cleansing.*”

καθαρίζω Strong's *Greek Dictionary of the New Testament*, paragraph 2511; καθαρίζω *katharidzo*, from 2,513: to cleanse (literally or figuratively)—(make) clean(-se), *purge*, purify.”

The Mosaic Dietary laws were still “law” for Yeshua, and anyone saying differently simply doesn’t understand the disaster of his theological situation with sinless Jesus. Scripture says that Jesus never sinned,¹¹ and it was Mosaic Law that judged Him sinless.

Yeshua wasn’t saying that the pig, lobster and snake are acceptable in Mark 7:19. He was stating that if one didn’t wash their hands in the Tradition of the Pharisees, it wasn’t a sin. *This is why the Pharisees confronted Him. They weren’t saying that His disciples were eating unclean animals.* That would have caused a riot if they were! Everyone would have been throwing stones at Jesus—both the Pharisees and His disciples! They all knew that *God* had given Moses the Teaching or the Laws to Israel for their “saved from Egyptian slavery” lifestyle. That was unassailable and not even to be questioned. It’s a “God thing!” It’s God’s Word on the subject, which Mosaic Law certainly is, and stands forever (cr. Isaiah 40:8; Mt. 4:4; Dt. 8:3).

The Pharisees weren’t asking Yeshua for a ruling on the Mosaic Dietary laws, and Yeshua never spoke about the dietary laws nor disregarding them. He was asked why His disciples didn’t wash their hands according to the Tradition of the Elders (Mt. 15:2; Mk. 7:2). Missing from the account in Mark, but included in the account in Matthew, the Lord confirms that the encounter has nothing to do with eating unclean animals, but with not washing one’s hands in the Pharisaic tradition. The exchange in Matthew 15 ends with Yeshua saying:

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things *which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.*” (Matthew 15:19-20 NKJV, cf. ASV, ESV, HCSB, KJV, NASB, NET, NIV, NRSV, which basically all have the same thing)

This is the biblical meaning of the what happened that day with the Pharisees. For the Apostles to eat without washing their hands (and saying the Pharisaic blessing)¹² was not a sin in Yeshua’s eyes, but it was in Pharisaic eyes. *It has nothing to do with Yeshua negating the Mosaic Dietary laws.* Nowhere does Jesus eat pig nor say that anyone can eat any unclean animal or creature they want if they just “bless it.” Nor do the Apostles *ever* eat ham or write in the New Testament that pig, shrimp, catfish or lobster, etc., is now clean and fit for human consumption, Acts 10 and 1st Tim. 4:4-5 notwithstanding, as we’ve already seen. Nor does Romans 14:6 give one justification to eat unclean animals either.¹³

We know that the *Apostles didn’t think that Jesus was breaking the Mosaic Dietary laws* in Matthew 15 and Mark 7 because of what Peter says about *nine years after the Resurrection* in God’s Vision to him in Acts 10:

“A Voice came to him, “Get up, Peter! Kill and eat! But Peter said, “*By no means, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common and unclean.*”¹⁴ (Acts 10:13-14)

Why not, Peter?! Obviously, if Peter had thought that Jesus had overruled the Mosaic Dietary laws in Mark 7:19, Peter would already have had many bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches on toast with plenty of mayonaise eight years *after* the Resurrection! With Peter saying that he had “*never* eaten anything common or *unclean*,” we know that Peter didn’t think that the event in Mark 7 allowed him to eat pig or anything else unclean. The false and heretical interpretation of the English translators that have Yeshua

¹¹ See John 8:46; 2nd Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1st Peter 2:22; 1st John 3:5; cf. 1st Pet. 2:21-25.

¹² Rabbi Nosson Scherman and Rabbi Meir Zlotowitz, General Editors, *The Artscroll Siddur* (Brooklyn: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., January, 1987), p. 224. The blessing that the Pharisees said while washing their hands is known as *netilat yehdi’yim* (נטילת יְדֵי יִם) literally, the “lifting of the hands.” It is still practiced today in Orthodox Judaism. If a Jew doesn’t say this blessing while washing their hands, in a certain way, then according to the Rabbis, they are seen as eating food that is “unclean” because their hands are defiled. This is why Yeshua came against it. The Pharisees had made something to be “sin” that God hadn’t made sin (cf. Luke 11:37-38f.).

¹³ See [Romans 14 and the Dietary Laws](#) and Paul’s writing in Rom. 14:14, “I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself, but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.”

¹⁴ To understand what Peter meant by “common” see [Common—Acts 10:14](#).

declaring “all foods clean” is extraordinarily because for one thing, the Greek words aren’t there for “(thus He declared),” and their choice of “clean” for “all foods clean,” instead of the KJV’s “purging all meats” (food), makes Jesus out to be a sinner when He kept Mosaic Law all His life.¹⁵

These three sections of Paul in First Timothy, Peter in Acts 10, and Yeshua in Matthew 15 and Mark 7, present tremendous biblical evidence against the Church’s stance on Mosaic Law being done away with. That’s because if the Mosaic Dietary laws, which are a major Pillar of Mosaic Law, are still in effect for followers of Christ then Mosaic Law must be also. The Church’s heretical anti-Mosaic Law teaching allows Christians to sin against Jesus in their ignorance, and is the biggest deception since Eve took a bite of the forbidden fruit.

Daniel prophesied in 7:25 that someone, whom we now know to be Pope Sixtus in 120 AD, would change the Law, and Satan through Sixtus has deceived Christians for 1,900 years. As Daniel said,

“He” (Pope Sixtus) “shall speak blasphemous words against the Most High God, and He *shall persecute the saints*” (i.e. Christians) “of the Most High God, and he shall intend to change times” (Sabbath and Feast days) and (Mosaic) “Law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.” (Daniel 7:25)

This perversion of Christian *lifestyle*, that a Christian can eat pig and shrimp, etc., and keep Sunday, as well as Easter and Xmas, didn’t take God by surprise. The Church’s understanding of lobster or catfish, etc., for the believer is not biblical, but based on the translator’s bias against the Law of Moses for Mark 7:19, Second Timothy and Acts 10. Having seen what these three passages actually say and mean reveals that God wants all Christians to keep the Mosaic Dietary laws. This allows us to further examine the issue of Mosaic Law within the New Testament *after* the Resurrection. Why *after*? Because Christians have been told that at the Cross Jesus did *away* with Mosaic Law for Christians. The problem is that the Gospels were written many years *after* the Resurrection and if Mosaic Law had been nullified at the Cross, the Gospels would have told us that (cf. Mt. 5:17-19). Here is what Paul writes about Mosaic Law:

“Do we then make **void** the Law through faith? *Certainly not!* On the contrary, *we establish the Law!*” (Romans 3:31)

Satan has had a field day with Christians concerning what they eat and what days they keep as holy, and how they present the Jewish Messiah to others. It’s not that Yeshua doesn’t love His Bride or that the Bride is not saved, but the Bride is walking in sin and doesn’t even realize it because of the *traditions* of the Church that nullify God’s Word. Where have we heard that before? (Mark 7:9)

Shouldn’t we desire to walk the Way that Yeshua walked? Or do we want to offer the Lord a breakfast of bacon and eggs when He wants pancakes and Frosted Flakes? It takes the discernment of the Holy Spirit within us to see past the Traditions of the Church that have nullified God’s words to us, but if we are open to the Lord, what He said to the Jews who believed in Him, He says to us today. John writes,

“Then Yeshua said to those Jews which believed on Him, “If you make My Word your home, then you will be My disciples. *You shall know the Truth and the Truth will make you free!*”” (John 8:31-32)

¹⁵ See John 8:46; 2nd Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1st Peter 2:22; 1st John 3:5, and also God’s definition of disobedience to Mosaic Law (Mt. 5:17-19; Rom. 3:20b; 1st John 3:4).

THE SABBATH OF THE LORD JESUS

The Law of Moses has been demonized by the Church and so it's extremely hard, if not impossible, for a Christian to realize this deception and see Mosaic Law as God sees it. This anti-Law teaching began in the Catholic Church of Rome in 120 AD. An ancient reason given by Justin Martyr (100-165 AD) as to why the Sabbath and Mosaic Law "were done away with" for Christian lifestyle was because it was,

"a curse to the Jews who rebelled in the Wilderness, and *who lost their covenant* with God, and God would replace it with Sunday, etc., when Christ came along."¹⁶

One might ask Justin Martyr, and many others who think like him,

"Why did Jesus say that He was "Lord of the Sabbath," but never Sunday?" Also, "Why would the Apostle Paul speak of the Covenant that God made with Israel as still being in effect?"

The Apostle Paul wrote his Letter to the Romans around 53 AD. One of the things he said to them was;

"For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this Mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. *And so all Israel will be saved*, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob. *For this is My covenant with them*, when I take away their sins." Concerning the Gospel they are enemies for your sake, *but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the Fathers*. For the gifts and the calling of God are *irrevocable*." (Romans 11:25-29)¹⁷

The Covenant that God made with Abraham and Moses still stands today and runs concurrently with the New Covenant that God made with Israel (cf. Jer. 31:31-34). It was fairly easy for the Pope in 120 AD to change Sabbath to Sunday, Passover to Easter, and throw out Mosaic Law as God's lifestyle for all Christians (cf. Rom. 7:7, 12, 14, 16, 22) because no one had a complete New Testament. The canon or Gospels and Letters, etc., for the New Testament wouldn't come about until the third century, and even then, few would have it.

The reason that Pope Sixtus did this was simple and evil. He said, "The Jews rejected Jesus and so God has rejected them *and their Law*," and so anti-Semitism was born in the Church and would culminate in the Nazi Holocaust where six million Jewish men, women and children would be brutally tortured and murdered as "Christ killers;" scapegoats for the financial woes of Germany and its defeat in WWI. These are concepts that the Roman Catholic Church had in place against the Jews for almost two millennia.

The 7th day Sabbath is the day that God requires all Christians to assemble on and keep holy (Ex. 20:8-12; Lev. 23:2-3; cf. Acts 13:42, 44; Heb. 4:9). It's not a question of the day to worship God on, as King David set up worship of the God of Israel 24 hours a day, seven days a week.¹⁸ It's a question of

¹⁶ Samuele Bacchiocchi, [From Sabbath to Sunday](#) (Rome, Italy: The Pontifical Gregorian University Press, 1977), p. 28, note 35. Justin Martyr, Dialogue 16, 1; etc.

¹⁷ For God's thoughts on Israel and His eternal love for Her and His Covenant with Her, see Jer. 2:1-3; 3:14; Hosea 2:19-20; cf. Is. 62:4, and Num. 23:19-24; 24:3-9; 2nd Sam. 7:10-13, 16, 24; Psalm 2:48; 102:16-22; 105:7-11; Is. 1:26-27; 2:1-3; 4:2-6; 9:3-4, 6-7; 12:1-6; 14:1-2, 32; 16:5; 24:23; 25:6-10; 26:1-6; 27:6; 28:5; 29:7-8, 22-24; 30:19, 26; 31:4-5; 32:15-20; 33:5, 20-22, 24; 34:8; 9:13; 52:8-10; 54:1-17; 60:1-22; 61:4-7; 62:1-12; 63:7; 65:17-25; 66:10-13, 20-24; Jer. 23:5-8; 30:3-24; 31:1-15, 23-28, 31-40; 32:37-44; 33:6-26; 34:15; 35:2; 50:18-20; 51:5, 10, 19, 45; Ezk. 16:60-63; 28:25-26; 34:11-31; 36:6-15, 22-27; 37:11-14, 15-28; 38:1-23; 39:23-29; 43:1-7; 47:13-23; 48:1-29; Hosea 1:10-11; 2:16-23; 3:5; 11:8-11; 13:14; 14:4-7; Joel 2:18-19, 23-32; 3:1-2, 12-21; Zech. 2:4-5, 12; 8:18-19, 23; 9:16; 10:6; 12:1-10; 13:1-2; 14:1-21; Romans 11:1-12:3; Rev. 21:1-12; 22:16.

¹⁸ 1st Chron. 16:1-38; v. 38: "to minister before the Ark *continually*, ASV, KJV, NASB, WEB. 1st Chron. 23:1-32; 24:1-31. "David had 288 singers and musicians whose sole job was to worship the Lord before the Ark. There were 24 worship teams all led by a family elder, with 12 members each who served the Lord in this manner. This

which day God set apart for Israel to keep holy. There is nothing in the New Testament that says that Sunday is a holy day or that Sunday is the day of assembly or that Sunday is blessed, but these are all things written of the 7th day Sabbath (Lev. 23:3). Neither is there anything that states that Sunday has *replaced* the Sabbath. If Sunday superseded God's 7th day Sabbath, wouldn't Sunday *at least* be blessed by God and made holy as the 7th day Sabbath was at Creation?

“By the seventh day, God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God *blessed* the seventh day and *made it holy* because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” (Genesis 2:2-3)

If Sunday was the “new” day of assembly, for whatever reason (e.g. the Resurrection), wouldn't there be at least two New Testament Scripture *witnesses* letting us know that? Nothing of the sort is found anywhere for Sunday. That's because the Roman Catholic Church did away with the Sabbath day and put Sunday in its place. It's not of Jesus and it's not of His Apostles, and so it's clear that it's not of God the Father. Christians who assemble on Sunday and don't keep the Sabbath day holy are actually following the Catholic Church, and not the New Testament.¹⁹ Rome teaches that they have the authority to change the day, but this only reveals their arrogance and pride that Daniel 7:25 speaks of.

If God had given Man the authority to either choose whatever day he wanted as his “Sabbath” or to change God's Sabbath Day to another day, *it would be written in the Bible somewhere*. Nowhere in the New Testament do we find God telling Man that he can change the Sabbath to Sunday. The Catholic Church usurped God's authority, and the Protestant churches, in their ignorance and foolishness (i.e. their sin), followed suit. A few hundred years after Rome removed God's holy Sabbath, Catholic theologians realized that their “theological reason” for the removal of the Sabbath (the Jews rejecting Jesus and it being a curse), didn't hold any biblical water. So they said that Sunday was now the day of assembly and holy to Christianity *because of the Resurrection* of Jesus on Sunday. The only problem with that is that the Bible never speaks of keeping Sunday instead of the Sabbath because of the Resurrection. Yes, Yeshua rose on Sunday, but that Sunday was a special Sunday, falling on the Sunday within Passover Week. God had already made First Sheaf (aka First Fruits) at Mt. Sinai (cf. Lev. 23:4-12f.) to be the day His Son would be raised from the dead. Paul speaks of Yeshua being raised on this Sunday, *as the First Fruits to rise from the dead*, when He says:

“But now Christ is *risen* from the dead, and has become the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep...But each one in his own order: *Christ the firstfruits*, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.” (1st Corinthians 15:20, 23 NKJV)

Yes, Yeshua the Messiah was raised from the dead on Sunday, but note well: that Sunday isn't even an annual Sabbath, and so there is nothing in Scripture to support Sunday-keeping over Sabbath assembly and holiness, not even the Resurrection. If Messiah being raised on Sunday made Sunday “the new Sabbath” day, replacing the 7th day Sabbath, there should be at least two Scripture “witnesses” to this new day change.²⁰ There isn't even one. Also, nowhere is Sunday made holy or even blessed, or does it say that one cannot buy, sell or work on Sunday, as it does of the Sabbath.²¹ If Sunday replaced the Sabbath shouldn't it *at least, at the bare minimum*, have the same honor as the 7th day Sabbath?

worship and prayer meeting was the centerpiece of His government and the nation of Israel for the entirety of his reign. (1st Chron. 25:6-7). The number of singers and musicians ultimately grew to 4,000. (1st Chron. 23:5).” (From [24/7 Prayer in the Spirit of the Tabernacle of David](#))

¹⁹ See [Sunday—The Catholic Sabbath](#).

²⁰ Compare Dt. 17:6; 19:15; Mt. 18:16; 2nd Cor. 13:1; 1st Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28. For more on First Sheaf and why God chose this day within the Feast of Unleavened Bread to raise His Son, see [First Sheaf](#).

²¹ God forbid work on the Sabbath day (Ex. 20:10; 31:14-15, etc.), as well as no buying or selling (Neh. 10:31; 13:15-22).

JESUS AND MOSAIC LAW

The ancient Pharisees and Rabbis said that when the Messiah came He would “explain Moses.” Not that they didn’t have their own ideas, but they realized there was a depth to Torah that they didn’t Know. Interestingly enough, this is exactly what Yeshua does in Matthew Five through Seven, with commandments like “hate equals murder,” etc. In Matthew Five He says that *He didn’t come to do away with the Law*:

Matt. 5:17: “*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.*”

The Church teaches that Jesus *fulfilled* the Law at His death on the Cross, but if *fulfill* means, “to do away with,” we have Yeshua contradicting Himself, for He says just before “fulfill:” “*Do not think that I came to abolish the Law.*” It should be obvious that, “fulfill” cannot mean “to do away with,” yet this is how the Church interprets “fulfill.” Yeshua though, *after* the Resurrection, explains and defines how He uses *fulfill*. Matthew writes,

“Then Yeshua said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be *fulfilled* which were *written in the Law of Moses* and the Prophets and the Psalms *concerning Me.*”” (Luke 24:44; cf. Acts 13:29, 32-33)

There are many prophecies in Mosaic Law, the Prophets and the Psalms that speak of a coming Savior, and in Matthew 5:17 Yeshua says to Israel, “The Scriptures are fulfilled! Here I am! The Savior of Israel! I’m here to *fulfill* what is written about Me!” *Fulfill has absolutely nothing to do with Mosaic Law being invalidated for Christians*, especially as in the very next verse Yeshua speaks of Mosaic Law remaining as long as these Heavens and this Earth are here. Yeshua spoke to His Jewish people and said,

“For assuredly, I say to you, until the Heavens and Earth *pass away*, one jot or one tittle will by *no means pass from the Law* until all is *fulfilled.*” (Matthew 5:18)

“Fulfilled” here relates to all the prophecies about God’s promises to Israel that haven’t come to pass, as well as the End Time events, but especially the promise on Judgment Day, when all Christians will be instantly transformed into the Image of Yeshua. Christians will be fully divine and fully human; glorified.²² There is no law that could ever transform a person into His Image. Israel had to wait for Yeshua’s divine body and blood to be shed.

Yeshua though, has *fulfilled* the Law’s demand that Israel be holy and like Her God, by dying to make this so. On Judgement Day Mosaic Law will be the Christian’s nature, and so the written Law won’t be necessary because all Christians will be “walking Mosaic Law people,” just as Jesus was 2,000 years ago in Israel, and as He remains today (cf. Heb. 13:8). God spoke of putting Mosaic Law (literally Torah) in our hearts and minds as part of His New Covenant promise (Jer. 31:31-34, esp. v. 33; cf. Heb. 8:10; 10:16). On that Day we will be as Yeshua is now: fully Man and fully God; glorified, with the Law as our nature, for the Law is nothing less than the very words of God written down. His words, as do ours, express our nature.

Today Mosaic Law is God’s Guideline or holy Standard for how Christians are to walk out their faith in Jesus. This way they can know the full extent of what is sin and what is required by God (e.g. Passover). That’s because Mosaic Law is God’s holy Standard, which now includes Yeshua’s deeper understanding of it.

Of all Christian commentators, only Calvin, the 16th century anti-Semitic French Reformer, was honest enough to say that he didn’t “understand what Jesus meant.” He didn’t try to twist the Word of God, as many theologians do with this passage (Mt. 5:17-18), to bend it to their anti-Mosaic Law theology and say that “fulfill means the Law is done away with, saying, “Jesus fulfilled the Law and so Christians don’t have to keep it.”” Just how foolish this “logic” is, is seen in something like this: Jesus fulfilled the Law of

²² See [Salvation—The Promise!](#)

Love of neighbor (Lev. 19:18c), and so I don't have to love my neighbor. Or Jesus fulfilled the Law not to lie, so I can lie, or Jesus fulfilled the Passover and so I don't have to keep it. Jesus being sinless and fulfilling the Law's just requirements obviously don't mean they aren't my standards. He is our Example and we really should follow or imitate Him in how He lived His life (cf. 1st Cor. 4:16-17; 11:1).

Verse 19, coming immediately after Mt. 5:17-18, totally torpedoed the sinking ship of Church theology against Mosaic Law as God's Christian lifestyle. Please remember that I'm not suggesting that we keep Mosaic Law to be saved, but because we are saved we want to walk in God's Ways and His Days. Just like all the Apostles did, including Paul.

Yeshua says that *anyone* who breaks the Law of Moses (e.g. thinking that it has been done away with, and so not keeping Passover or the Mosaic Dietary laws), is least "honored" in His Kingdom, but Yeshua calls them "great," who who keep "the least of" the commandments of Moses. This reveals that in *His Kingdom*, which didn't begin until *after* the Resurrection, "Man shall live by every Word that proceeds from the Mouth of Yahveh,"²³ including the rules about Passover, the 7th day Sabbath and the Mosaic Dietary laws, to name three Pillars of Mosaic Law. Mosaic Law is not "only for the Jews." Yeshua said,

"Whoever therefore, breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:19)

Messiah's Kingdom of Heaven wasn't established until *after* His Resurrection. This is important because the Church teaches that at the death of Jesus, Mosaic Law was done away with for Christians. Only the so-called "moral laws" of the Old Testament, like murder, adultery and lying "came through to the New Testament." Yet, God values the keeping of His holy Sabbath day over and above the sin of stealing, for stealing could be forgiven under Moses (Lev. 6:1-7). On the other hand, Sabbath breaking and not keeping the Passover—the Feast of Unleavened Bread were punished by death (cf. Ex. 35:1-2; Num. 9:13-14). It is God who determines right and wrong, or as it's called, morality or ethics (right and wrong behavior), not Man. Passover and the Sabbath then, in God's eyes, are "much more moral" than stealing.

Some might object and say that "commandments" in Mt. 5:19 only applies to the Ten Commandments, but context and usage of the word "commandment/s," in both the Old and the New Testaments, negates that. Matthew 5:17-18 literally speaks of the Law (twice), not the Ten Commandments. The word "commandment/s" in the New Testament occurs 68 times, and only four times does it refer to the Ten.²⁴ All the other times the word specifically speaks of Mosaic Law (19x), or is a single commandment from it, or a Pharisaic commandment (45x). Therefore, a dynamic translation of Mt. 5:19 would read in part like this:

"Whoever therefore, breaks one of the least of these commandments of Mosaic Law, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven..."

Yeshua's words in Mt. 5:19 pertain to Christians today. Yeshua states that if someone breaks the *least* of the commandments (of Mosaic Law) in His Kingdom, and teaches others to do so, he will be called *least* in the Kingdom. That's really not an honor to strive for. He also said, *he who keeps the least of the commandments* and teaches others to do so, will be called great in His Kingdom. Therefore Yeshua's reference on the Cross to, "All is accomplished," or "It is finished," cannot mean that by His death the Law became invalid for Christians. What He meant was that the Redemption of Israel was accomplished or finished by His death. Israel was set free from her sins and her carnal nature, not God's holy Standard of Righteous living (cf. Rom. 7:7, 12, 14, 16).

There is another interpretation of the word "fulfill," and this has to do with rabbinic understanding that is still valid. It reveals that Yeshua was properly interpreting the Law of Moses, and not casting it aside by poorly interpreting it. Ariel Berkowitz writes that,

²³ Deut. 8:3 is where we first find this statement and Yeshua uses it against Satan in His Temptation (Mt. 4:4).

²⁴ See my article, [Mosaic Law and the Ten](#), p. 1, points 10, 11, 12, for why the term "law" means Mosaic Law most of the time in Scripture.

“Destroy” (abolish) and “fulfill” are technical terms of rabbinic” argumentation.²⁵ “When a rabbi felt that a colleague had *misinterpreted* a passage of Scripture, he would say, “You are destroying the Law!...What was destroying the Law was for one rabbi, was “fulfilling the Law” (correctly interpreting Scripture), for another.”²⁶

This also has merit and proceeds along a similar line as the first point. The Pharisees and Sadducees clashed with Yeshua because they thought He wasn’t interpreting Scripture correctly. Immediately after Yeshua declares that He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, He goes on to explain *the deeper meanings of the Torah* (Mt. 5:19ff: to hate is to break the commandment to murder; to lust is to commit adultery, etc.). Yeshua says that unless one’s righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees he shall not enter the Kingdom (Mt. 5:20).

People today scoff at the idea that the Pharisees had any righteousness, but in the days of Yeshua the Pharisees were looked upon by the Jewish people as holy men, despite how 20th century movies portray them. So, when Yeshua said that one’s righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, His disciples would have shook their heads back and forth and said to themselves, “How then can we expect to enter the Kingdom?” They didn’t realize then, that belief in Yeshua would give them His righteousness, which exceeds the righteousness of the Pharisees. Just as it was accounted unto Father Abraham as righteousness when he believed God, so similarly it is with Christians: “And Abram believed Yahveh and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Paul states:

“But now the *Righteousness of God* apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the Righteousness of God, through faith in Yeshua the Messiah, *to all and on all who believe*. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the *Redemption* that is in Messiah Yeshua.” (Romans 3:21–24)

Yeshua came to redeem Israel (cf. Is. 42:6; 49:6). His death redeemed Israel. Dying is what He primarily came to fulfill (cf. Is. 53:5) so Israel could be set free from this slavery to Satan. When Yeshua speaks of Torah not being invalid “until all is fulfilled” (Mt. 5:18), He means that only on Judgment Day will “all be fulfilled” and then Christians will become just like He is now. *This* is ultimately the essence of what “fulfill” means. Only when Christians are exactly like He is now will the written Torah fade away; for then the nature of Christians; their heart and soul, will be Torah. Mosaic Law is the written form representing the nature and character of Papa God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

Fulfill also means that now, Israel is truly capable of marrying God the Son; being “one” with Him (i.e. the Bride of Christ); for only “like” can marry “like.” Only humans marry humans and so God the Son can only marry His divinely human Bride—Israel. This is the radical “nature” transformation that God spoke of to Israel (cf. Dt. 10:16; 30:6). Only Yahveh could work that Work in Israel. No amount of keeping Torah could transform sinful Israel into glorified Israel, for there is no law that can transform one’s carnal nature to that of Yeshua’s divine-human glorified nature:

“For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin. He condemned sin in the flesh that *the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us* who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3-4)

Once saved, it does matter if we sin? Paul unreservedly says of course it matters! (cf. Rom. 6:1-3f.). Only

²⁵ Ariel and D’vorah Berkowitz, *Torah Rediscovered* (Lakewood, CO: First Fruits of Zion, 1996), p. 14. The word that is used in the book by Ariel, “augmentation,” means, to grow or to increase. This makes no sense. I think augmentation is a typo in *Torah Rediscovered* and so I changed it to argumentation, which better fits the context.

²⁶ Ibid. The quote actually comes from David Bivin and Roy Blizzard’s book, *Understanding The Difficult Words of Jesus* (Austin: Center for Judaic-Christian Studies, 1984), p. 154. Ariel goes on to say that, “When a proper interpretation of a passage was given, the rabbis said that it was “fulfilled,” or interpreted properly. Conversely, when an erroneous interpretation was given, it was said that a teacher “abolished” or misinterpreted the passage.

Torah reveals the *full* extent of what is sin.

Yeshua Is Our Example

The Apostle John is another witness to the Law's validity for Christian lifestyle by speaking of Yeshua as the One whom we should emulate. More than 60 years *after* the Resurrection, when the Church says the Law had been done away with at His death, John writes:

“And by this we know that we have come to know Him, *if we keep His commandments*. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the Truth is not in him, but whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him—the one who says he abides in Him *ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked*.” (1st John 2:3-6)

“If you know that He is Righteous, you know that everyone also who *practices righteousness* is Born of Him. See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God, and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the Sons of God and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, *we shall be like Him* because we shall see Him just as He is.²⁷ And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Everyone who practices sin *also practices lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness*. And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.” (1st John 2:29-3:5)

To follow or imitate Jesus certainly means to have a pure heart—to love God and Man, but it also means to keep the Sabbath and Passover holy, and not to eat any unclean animals or fish. **This** is *who* our Lord was and still is. Hebrews 8:13 states that Jesus is “the *same* yesterday, *today* and forever.” Jesus never kept Sunday, Easter, Xmas and He never ate pig or catfish. We are called to follow and imitate Jesus, not the Pope.

The Law was never intended to be a vehicle for salvation. The Hebrew nation was saved or delivered out of Egyptian slavery, the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12:1ff.). They were set free to be the people of God. Unfortunately, by the time of Yeshua, and even today in Judaism, it's believed that good deeds (i.e. the keeping of the Law) will merit a Jewish person eternal life. This is a heretical and tragic teaching of the ancient Pharisees and the present day Rabbis. They have no Scripture whatsoever to establish this teaching. This is why the Apostle Paul comes against the “keeping of the Law for salvation” the way he does. He emphatically states that *anything* added to faith in Yeshua for salvation perverts and nullifies the Finished Work of salvation by Yeshua's death (e.g. Gal. 5:4).

This is the yoke that Peter spoke of in Acts 15:10, that neither he nor his Fathers could bear. The Jews, including Saul of Tarsus, were under the illusion that keeping the Law gave them eternal life. There is nothing though, in Moses or the Prophets or the Psalms that says if you keep the Law, God will give you eternal life. It was the Pharisees playing “God” in the lives of the Jewish people, much to the delight of Satan. Yeshua said to the Pharisees and their teachings:

“This people draws near unto Me with their mouth and honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. For in vain they do worship Me, *teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*.” (Matthew 15:8-9)

The Pharisees thought they knew more about God than God the Son—who stood right in front of them. The Pharisees and Scribes were experts in the Law. They “knew” the Law inside out. Their whole lives revolved around the Law, but they didn't understand the Law from God's perspective. Church theologians “know” the New Testament, but Satan has blinded them to the place of Mosaic Law in the life of every

²⁷ See my article, [Salvation—The Promise!](#) to realize just what the Gift of Salvation entails.

Christian. Just as the Pharisees could cite Scripture “to prove” their erroneous theology against healing on the Sabbath, so too can pastors use Scripture from the New Testament “to prove” that the Law has been “done away with.” They’re called proof texts.

The Church has cast the Law to the ground and by its tradition has nullified the Word of God for generations of Christians. The Pharisees didn’t have a patent on twisting and distorting God’s Word. The Church teaches pagan feast days “to honor Jesus.” They are blind to God’s Word in this area (Dt. 12:28-32). The Spirit speaks of Christian leaders today, but they are deaf and blind to the Spirit in this area of Christian lifestyle, and if the blind leads the blind they both fall into the ditch (Mt. 15:14).

Not all the Pharisees and priests though, walked in Darkness. Many of them (e.g. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea), came to Yeshua both before His death and after His Resurrection:

“Then the Word of God spread and the number of the (Jewish) disciples *multiplied greatly in Jerusalem*, and a *great many of the priests* were obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)

“But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees *which believed*, saying, that it was needful to circumcise the Gentiles and to command them to keep the Law.” (Acts 15:5)

The issue in Acts 15 was, “What do we do with these Gentiles coming to Yeshua? How are they saved? Do they need to keep Mosaic Law, *symbolized in circumcision*, along with faith in Messiah?” The answer was that they were to remain uncircumcised; to remain Gentiles. Why? Because salvation does not come by the keeping of the Law, symbolized in circumcision. Faith in Yeshua for salvation plus Mosaic Law voids salvation. This is one time where adding something to something else makes it less. It’s *only* by faith in Yeshua that allows one entry into the Kingdom. Once in though does it matter if one sins?

The Apostle Paul states in 1st Corinthians that Gentiles should be keeping Mosaic Law:

“But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so I ordain in all the churches. Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing (in terms of salvation), but *keeping the commandments of God is what matters.*” (1st Corinthians 7:17-19 NKJV)

The “keeping of the commandments of God” means the laws of Moses. Paul didn’t want the Gentiles to think that circumcision would save them and so he is “putting down” circumcision, *but only when a Gentile would do it as a means of salvation attached to faith in Messiah*. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything in obtaining entry into, and eternal standing thereof, in the Kingdom.

Note well however, how he contrasts circumcision *and* uncircumcision as “nothing,” but Mosaic Law needs to be kept. As we’ve seen, when Paul speaks of the place of the Law as a means of understanding what is right and what is wrong; what is pleasing to God and what is sin; the Law is brought “front and center” because it is holy and good (cf. Rom. 3:20; 7:12, 14).

In the passage of Acts 15, about how the Gentiles will be justified (saved), James, otherwise known among his brethren as Yakov (Jacob in English, James from Latin), establishes four rules in Acts 15:20 that every Gentile had to immediately uphold for their faith in Jesus to be seen as genuine. Some think that these are the only laws for the Gentiles, but this is nonsense as Paul states many other rules or laws (e.g. don’t let a man who is sleeping with his father’s wife still be a member in good standing with the church; 1st Cor. 5:1f.; and don’t think that drunkards are going to the eternal City, and also, thieves will not inherit the Kingdom, etc.). The four laws or commandments for Gentile Christians from James, the half brother of Jesus, are that,

“...they abstain from *pollutions of idols*, and from *fornication*, and from *things strangled*, and from *blood.*” (Acts 15:20, cf. v. 29; 21:25)

The Church teaches that the four rules deal with “table fellowship.” In other words the Gentiles were to incorporate these prohibitions into their lives so that they could sit at a table and eat with their Jewish believing brethren and not offend the Jews who still kept the Law (cf. Acts 21:20-24). The four rules have

nothing to do with table fellowship.

The biblical interpretation of fornication is sacrificial, sexual idolatry, and *things strangled* and *blood* speaks of pagans strangling some of their sacrifices and sometimes drinking the blood from a freshly sacrificed animal. The four rules are a single unit of prohibitions against Gentile sacrificial, sexual idolatry. The Church errs greatly in not realizing this because of its “No Law!” paradigm. Because of this heretical interpretation of the four rules (table fellowship) the Church misses the issue of Mosaic Law for every Christian, and is able to say that Mosaic Law doesn’t concern the Gentile (and Jewish) Christian.

Sacrificial, sexual idolatry is the conceptual theme of the four rules, which now become the divine filter which every Gentile had to pass through in order for his faith in Yeshua to be seen as genuine. These rules deal with gross idolatry, something that most Gentiles walked in due to their pagan cultures and gods. There was no nation at that time that worshiped the one true God except Israel. James said that continued worship of former gods and goddesses had to stop immediately. A Gentile Christian couldn’t “believe in Jesus” and still continue to have sex with temple priests and priestesses, which is what “fornication” means.²⁸

The verse after Acts 15:20 has Jacob assuming that the new Gentile Christians will *continue* to learn Mosaic Law on the Sabbath day at the synagogue in his home town:

“For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.” (Acts 15:21 NKJV)

James was saying that when these Gentiles, who literally didn’t know Adam from Eve, came to Yeshua they would assemble on the Sabbath and hear the Scriptures read (especially Torah every week), as happens every Sabbath in the synagogues. In 48 AD, when Acts 15 took place in Jerusalem, the only possible letter or Gospel from what we now know as the New Testament, would have been the Gospel of Matthew, written to the Jewish people in Judah and Galilee, about 44 AD. No other letter or Gospel had been penned yet, and so “Moses” here, in Acts 15:21 speaks of Mosaic Law, the Prophets and the Writings (Psalms, etc.), what is commonly called the Old Testament (cf. 2nd Tim. 3:10-17). That’s what the Gentile Christians would have been learning since the time of Cornelius (circa 39 AD). Only with Mosaic Law, etc., would they come to know their Family History, and as part of Israel, and would come to know what sin was (Rom. 3:20b), and would be taught how to walk out their faith in the Jewish Messiah.

“Therefore by the deeds of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, *for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.*” (Romans 3:20)

Only with Mosaic Law can a Christian come to know the full extent of what sin is. Yeshua followed all the rules of Moses that pertained to Him, and Christians must also. There are many voices in the New Testament that declare this. Even Paul speaks of imitating Yeshua as he imitated Messiah: “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1st Cor. 11:1).

As Hebrews 13:8 speaks of Yeshua being *the same today* as He was 2,000 years ago in Israel, Yeshua is still a Sabbath keeping, pig abstaining, Passover celebrating Savior. He is also the Head of the Body of Christ (Col. 1:18), and so Christians should truly emulate Him who is their Head, and keep Mosaic Law just as He did, by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

²⁸ The four rules all deal with sacrificial, sexual idolatry. For an in-depth biblical understanding of Acts 15:20 and its four rules or laws, which goes against Christian theologians who see the rules as pertaining to table fellowship, read my free online book, [The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21](#).

The Message on the Mount

In His message on the Mount, Yeshua reveals the *essence* of Mosaic Law by saying, “You have heard it said of old that one must not murder, but I say to you that if you hate your brother in your heart that you have already murdered him.”²⁹ Yeshua *amplified* the commandment not to murder by showing Israel what its essence was. He didn’t throw out the commandment not to murder by telling us not to hate nor did He give a different commandment in place of murder. By doing this He swept away any thoughts that a Pharisee could have that he was keeping the commandment, even if he had not literally murdered anyone. No honest Pharisee, and there were some (e.g. Nicodemus) could count on the Law for eternal life (Jn. 5:39).

Christians love to say that “no one can keep the Law” and that they are “under Grace,” but if we divide the two, which is harder? To not literally murder someone (the Law), or to not have hate in one’s heart (Grace)? The Law of Yeshua is *infinitely* greater or harder than the Law of Moses and so when a Christian ignorantly states that he can’t keep the Law, what he’s actually saying is that he can’t keep “Grace” either. Actually, the two are one and the same Law. Yeshua is just revealing what was in Mosaic Law all along, just as the Rabbis had said that the Messiah would do when He came. This is why we need His blood-bought Grace. Grace is the Holy Spirit ability to walk out His Law of Love, which is Mosaic Law, and forgiveness. When I hate someone, the Spirit convicts me and I ask for forgiveness and the ability (Grace) to truly forgive and to love that person. This is the Law and how Grace works. Grace doesn’t give us license to murder someone anymore than it gives us license to keep Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

Also, if the Church had not buried the Law of God in their perverse theology, the Jewish people would have seen their Messiah in Christianity for the last 1900 years. Their Messiah never ate pig, observed the Sabbath day as holy, and kept all Israel’s Feast Days. Christians would have been walking that out. They would not have been sinning against Jesus in ignorance and the Jews in particular, for they would have been a living example that the Messiah of Israel had come in Jesus. Instead, just the opposite has happened—the Church teaches that Jesus not only “did away with Moses,” but that Christians could murder Jews with impunity and affirmation from Jesus (as has been the long history of the Church toward the Jewish people). The Holocaust, the Inquisition, and all the pogroms, etc., were theologically justified against “the Christ killers,” *in the Name of Jesus*. They were “doing the will of Jesus!”

If the Church had understood that it was part of Israel (John 10:16; Rom. 11:11f.; Eph. 2:11f.), it would have befriended the Jewish people. Instead, it murdered members of their own family because the Jews hadn’t come to believe in Jesus, which actually was spoken of by Paul, who said that their rejection of Christ was a blessing for the Gentiles, as it was now “their turn to come to the God of Israel (Romans 11:25-29). Anti-Semitism and anti-Mosaic Law have not been godly witnesses to the Jewish people for the last 1900 years. More Jews have been murdered “in the Name of Jesus” than all other names combined. The Church, presenting a Jesus to the Jewish people (and themselves) that is anti-Law has put two evil stumbling-blocks in front of the brothers and sisters of Jesus. All this evil in the Name of Grace.

The Law remains God’s specific holy Standard for what is sin and what is not, and how Christians should walk out their faith. Yeshua, although saying Mt. 22:40 before His death, reveals what God’s specific definition of love of God and Man is. Yeshua speaks of the two great commandments of love of God and our neighbor, and then says, “On these two commandments *hang* the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:40). The Christian Church says, “Hang the Law!,” but the Son of God says that every commandment, statute and rule of Moses has its *reason for existence* in *explaining how* to love God or Man. In other words, the reason for every rule of God is to teach Christians *how* to love Him and each other. It’s that simple. According to Jesus, Mosaic Law specifically defines biblical love because all these rules explain how to love God and Man.

²⁹ Mt. 5:22: “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, “You good-for-nothing,” shall be guilty before the Supreme Court; and whoever says, “You fool,” shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery Hell.”

PAUL'S TWO STREAMS OF MOSAIC LAW

The Apostle Paul speaks of Mosaic Law in two very different ways. In other words, Paul has two Streams of Thought on Mosaic Law. The first is in relation to salvation and the second is in relation to lifestyle. The Church only takes the former into account and applies it to both Streams. In terms of salvation, Paul's theme is: *No one can be saved by the keeping of God's Law, symbolized in physical (covenantal) circumcision.*³⁰ God never intended for the Law of Moses to be used as a vehicle for salvation, but it had come to be that in the days of Yeshua and the Pharisees, and it remains the rabbinic way to Heaven even today, but it's totally fabricated, false and heretical.

In terms of lifestyle, of how God wants Christians to walk out their faith in Jesus, we only know what God's Will is in this area as the Law reveals it. Yeshua did not place the Law on the cross—He placed our sins on the cross.³¹ With His death our sins have been canceled out, not God's holy words on how to live out a saved life, which is His Will and His Wisdom for His people Israel (Dt. 4:5-8)—both Jew and Gentile in Messiah (cf. Eph. 2:11f.).

In the days of Peter and Paul the Law's purpose had become conceptually perverted by the Pharisees (the spiritual ancestors of the modern Rabbis), who taught that if a Jew kept the Law then God would grant him/give him eternal life, but nowhere in God's Word is that found. It was a pitiful and perverse invention of the Pharisees. The Hebrew slaves were *saved* from Egyptian slavery not by keeping the Law, but by the very thing that saves every Christian—by the blood (Blood) of the lamb (Lamb).

Once Israel was freed from their slavery, Born Again and baptized through the Red Sea so to speak (cf. 1st Cor. 10:1-4), they were brought to Mt. Sinai to learn the Days and Ways of the God who had freed them. Once Christians are freed from the Kingdom of Satan they are able to live unto Yeshua by the Holy Spirit and walk in all the rules of the Law that apply to them. Because they have died to self and are new creatures in Christ they are free from the condemnation of the Law when they sin. Christians come into the Kingdom of Yeshua through being Born Again (Jn. 3:3, 5). The waters of baptism picture death to self and becoming alive unto God as a new creature (2nd Cor. 5:17), one like Jesus. The Law's divine authority to condemn stops at death—the Christian has died to self. Yeshua took upon Himself the Law's just punishment for our breaking of it—death, and so Christians live by faith in Yeshua.

With the knowledge of Torah one has the wisdom of God. Contrary to what the Church teaches, Paul never taught that the Law was “done away with,” but that faith in Jesus *establishes* the Law in their lives:

“Do we then make void the Law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law!” (Romans 3:31 NKJV; see also ASV, KJV, NASB, WEB, while others, ESV, NET, etc., have “we uphold the law.”)

Romans is Paul's greatest theological letter. If he thought the Law has been done away with by Christ's death 23 years earlier, he certainly would have said that here, and Romans was written two years *after* Galatians, which many Christians use “to prove” that they shouldn't keep Mosaic Law, but Paul was speaking about salvation in Galatians, not lifestyle (cf. Gal. 5:4). In Romans 3:31 he is speaking about lifestyle. The Law is established through our faith in Messiah. How could anyone turn v. 31 around to

³⁰ The only circumcision in the Old Testament is physical and covenantal. When Paul comes against circumcision in the New Testament for the Gentile it is always the physical, covenantal circumcision of Father Abraham (e.g. Gen. 17:10-14), not the circumcision of the heart (e.g. Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11; cf. Dt. 30:6). For more on why the Jew continues to circumcise his son, but the Gentile must not, see [Gentile Circumcision?](#)

³¹ What was placed on the cross was our sin indebtedness to God, not the holy Law. See [Nailed to the Cross—Colossians 2:13-17](#) to realize that it wasn't the Law that was nailed to the Cross, but our sin indebtedness, and that the mentioning of Sabbath and Feasts, etc., in Col. 2:16 does not mean that Paul is prohibiting them, but that the Colossians weren't to allow anyone to judge them as to how they kept the Sabbath, etc. Also Romans 6:6 states, “knowing this, that our old self *was crucified with Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves *to sin*,” not God's holy Law.

mean that the Law is now void because of faith in Jesus?

In Paul's day the Law was the vehicle for salvation for the Jewish people, but now with Messiah and faith in Him, Paul saw through the absurdity of trying to keep Torah for eternal life and realized that faith in Yeshua and in Him alone is the "vehicle." The Law "now" takes its rightful and *divinely established* place *after* faith in Christ for salvation. It is established not as that which saves, but as that which reveals how to live out one's saved life. Just as a caboose follows the locomotive—it doesn't lead the locomotive.

There are a number of significant places in Romans, aside from Rom. 3:31, where Paul magnifies Mosaic Law, which shows us that Paul is not against Mosaic Law as our Christian lifestyle. Here are a few of them from chapter seven:

Romans 7:7—“What shall we say then? *Is the Law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the Law.* For I would not have known covetousness unless the Law had said, “You must not covet!”” (cf. Rom. 3:20)

Romans 7:12—“...*the Law is holy*, and the commandment holy and just and good.”

Romans 7:14—“*For we know that the Law is spiritual*, but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

Romans 7:16—“If then I do what I will not to do, *I agree with the Law that it is good.*”

It should be clear to see that in these verses Paul is upholding and proclaiming the Law, not as a means of salvation, but as our Christian lifestyle. He also states that the Law shows us what is God's specific definition of sin. Only by Mosaic Law can we know God's understanding of sin and what God sees as holy. Romans 3:20 states:

“Therefore by the deeds (or doing) of the Law, no flesh will be justified in His sight, *for by the Law is the knowledge of sin.*” (Rom. 3:20; see also Rom. 7:7-16; 1st John 3:2-4)

Paul's Two Streams of Thought on Mosaic Law are seen in this one verse. On the one hand, no one is justified or saved by keeping the good deeds of Torah, as the first part of the verse says, but then Paul writes that only Torah reveals the *full knowledge* of what is sin. That's right. The Greek word for *knowledge* is *gnosis*, which is the Greek word in Romans 3:20b, and Paul put the prefix *epi in front of it*, which makes the Greek word *epignosis*. *Epi* means “fullness,” and so the English translation should read, “for by the Law is the *full knowledge* of sin.” In other words, without Mosaic Law “Sunday Christians” are at a tremendous disadvantage to know exactly what is sin and what is God's will for them. Christians know not to murder or commit adultery, etc., but they don't know to keep the Sabbath day holy or to celebrate Passover and the other Feasts of Israel, all the while thinking they can eat pig and lobster and that it's all right with Jesus. Christians continually sin against Jesus by keeping Sunday, Easter and Xmas, and eating unclean animals—days and ways that are not of God, but of Satan.

Romans is Paul's greatest theological letter and if he had anything to say about Mosaic Law being done away with for Christian lifestyle, he certainly didn't say it here, but just the opposite—without Mosaic Law one cannot fully know what sin is—what is right and what is wrong. If Christians want to know what isn't pleasing to God they must have knowledge of the Law. Sunday is not pleasing to God as a day of assembly that nullifies the Sabbath. Easter or Resurrection Day as some like to call it, trying to distance themselves from the pagan term “Easter,” which is truly a pagan holy day, is not pleasing to God as it is usually not the day of the Lord's Resurrection, and they should be celebrating Passover Week. After all, Yeshua is the Lamb of God, not the Easter bunny.³²

Paul goes on to say in Rom. 7:12 that “the Law is holy.” This from the man whom the Church proclaims as the one who teaches that the Law is “no more.” The Law is holy because it is a written reflection of the *character of God*. Once spoken by Him it is now a written document that reveals who He is. The Sabbath, Passover and Mosaic Dietary laws, etc., are holy because they reflect His *nature or being*. Sunday, Easter and Xmas are pagan and go directly against the God of Israel because they do not reflect Him nor His

³² See [The Two Babylons—The Full Hislop](#), p. 80f., for where Easter came from and what it is.

Son. They are Satan's days and ways. Putting the name of Jesus onto Sunday, Easter and Xmas does not make them holy nor how God wants Christians to walk out their faith in His Son.

How many times have we heard teaching or preaching on the Law being "spiritual"? Romans 7:14 states that it is and we are not. If we desire to be "like Jesus" we won't walk in pagan things that are contrary to God's New Testament Word, and offer them up to God thinking it's alright with Him (cf. Dt. 12:28:32). When did the Apostles keep Sunday, Easter or Xmas, or eat ham? They never did and Christians shouldn't either. Paul writes to Timothy, saying,

"Be *diligent* to present yourself *approved to God*, a worker who does not need to be *ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*" (2nd Timothy 2:15)

We need to discern what is of God and what is of Man that nullifies God's Word. The Apostle to the Gentiles states that the Law is good (Rom. 7:16). How can the Church overlook what Paul is saying here? How can the Church teach that the Law is done away with when the Apostle Paul is glorifying it for Christians and saying it's established by faith in Christ? The Church is as blind to Mosaic Law as God's holy lifestyle as the Pharisees were to The Word of God who stood in front of them.

Scripture says that Jesus never sinned,³³ and it was Mosaic Law that judged Him sinless. It's the Law that tells us what sin is and also, how God wants us to live out our lives of faith in His Son. Paul wrote,

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:1-3)

"Grace" is not a license to sin. Without knowledge of Mosaic Law the Christian is handicapped and sins in ignorance against his Lord by not keeping the Sabbath day holy, etc. It was Pope Sixtus, in 120 AD, who threw out Mosaic Law, which all Christians had been keeping up until then, and brought in Sunday and Easter, etc.³⁴

A further point concerning New Testament lifestyle and Mosaic Law is that God ordained it through Jeremiah in the only passage in all the Old Testament that literally speaks of the "New Covenant." The Lord declares that He wants to place Mosaic Law on our hearts and minds:

³¹"Behold! The days are coming," says Yahveh, "when I will make a *New Covenant* with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah—³²not according to the Covenant that I made with their Fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My Covenant which they broke, though I was a Husband to them," says Yahveh. ³³"But *this* is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days," says Yahveh! "*I will put My Law in their minds, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people.* ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, "Know Yahveh!," for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," says Yahveh. "For I will forgive their iniquity and their sin I will remember no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The Hebrew word for "Law" in Jeremiah 31:33 is Torah, which is Mosaic Law, not just the Ten Commandments. This is confirmed twice in the New Testament in Hebrews 8:10 and 10:16:

"“For this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days,” says Yahveh! “I will put My *laws* in their mind and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people.” (Hebrews 8:10)

“This is the Covenant that I will make with them after those days,” says Yahveh. “I will put My *laws* into their hearts and in their minds I will write them.” (Hebrews 10:16)

Mosaic Law is God's Way for Christians to walk out their faith in His Son. It's only through Mosaic Law

³³ John 8:46; 2nd Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1st Peter 2:22; 1st John 3:5; cf. 1st Pet. 2:21-25.

³⁴ See [A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law](#).

that one can fully know what is sin and consequently, what is God's lifestyle for us, as it was for Jesus and all His Apostles including Paul who said, "Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ" (1st Cor. 11:1). We cannot imitate Christ without keeping Mosaic Law as our Christian lifestyle.

Is the Sabbath day still holy? It should be "more holy" today for Christians than for ancient Israel because now we know the One who is the Lord of the Sabbath, and how the Sabbath is a divine reflection of Yeshua.³⁵ Now, Born from Above by His Grace and filled with His Spirit, Christians can walk as He walked. Didn't Jesus keep all Mosaic Law that applied to Him? Why shouldn't we? Certainly not because, "all is accomplished" or "He fulfilled the Law." Certainly not because, "No one can keep the Law!" Who can keep the laws to love God with all his heart and his neighbor as himself? That's where the blood of forgiveness comes in, and with His Spirit Christians can try again and again to walk in those two commandments, and all the other rules of Moses that apply to them will fall right into place.

No Longer Under the Law

Most Christian pastors think that not being "under the Law" means that they don't have to keep any of it. They're wrong. It's a theological phrase that Paul uses to explain that the Law cannot condemn us to Hell for breaking it because we have died to self in Messiah, and Yeshua has taken our just punishment: death. The Law's righteous punishment has been exacted upon our substitute—God's sacrificial Passover Lamb. Remember it was the Passover lamb that God used to deliver or save Israel from Egypt, and it's God's Passover Lamb that delivers us from the Kingdom of Satan. We should keep Passover because it commemorates both of God's mighty salvations.

The next four Scripture references are the places where we have a direct contrast between Law and Grace:

1. Romans 6:14—"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are *not under Law*, but under Grace."
2. Romans 6:15—"What then? Shall we sin because we are *not under Law*, but under Grace? Certainly not!"
3. Galatians 2:21—"I do not set aside the Grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law then Christ died in vain." (Galatians 2:21)
4. Galatians 5:4—"You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt *to be justified by Law*—you have fallen from Grace."

Whenever Paul speaks of Mosaic Law in relation to salvation he teaches that no one can be saved by the keeping of the Law (Gal. 2:21). The phrase, "not under the Law" means that Christians have died to self (in Messiah), and are no longer subject to be judged (condemned) by the Law's holy and righteous commandments and ordinances, etc. Anyone who has died is no longer able to be judged by the Law because the Law's authority stops at death. That is the punishment for the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23). This is a common legal understanding for any law. If a man robs a bank and murders two people, and the court declares him guilty and sentences him to life in prison, but has a heart attack right after the sentence and immediately dies, there is nothing the state can do to enforce its just punishment for robbing the bank and murdering two people.

When a sinner deserving of death and Hell, is Born Again and dies to self in Messiah (what Romans 6 is all about), then the Law's just punishment of him (death and Hell), cannot be enforced upon him because he's not only dead, but he's a new and completely different creature or person from before. This is part of the Grace of God, but it doesn't "do away with" God's holy Law. This is what Paul is saying in in Romans 6:14 and what it means to "not be under the Law." It's actually a legal term for being arrested or stopped by the Law. Most lawyers know this.

³⁵ See [The Sabbath and Yeshua](#).

Romans 6:15 clearly reveals that even though Christians are not under the Law, they are not to sin. As we saw with Romans 3:20,³⁶ Paul teaches that only by knowing Mosaic Law can one fully know what is sin and what is pleasing in God's eyes.

When Paul speaks in Gal. 2:21, of nullifying the Grace of God via the Law, he is speaking to those Galatian Christians who tried to keep the Law plus faith in Christ in order to be saved. They had been led astray by the Judaizers who taught that faith in Christ *plus* the keeping of the Law, symbolized in physical, covenantal circumcision, gave one eternal life. They were dead wrong. The Law was never given as a vehicle for salvation. The Law was given to Israel *after* God had saved them out of Egyptian slavery through the blood of the lamb (Ex. 12). Then they were brought to Mt. Sinai to learn His Ways—His Law, literally, His Teachings or Instructions, for that is what Torah means.

In reading Romans 6 to Romans 7, the Law is seen as very special to Paul. In Galatians 5:4, Paul states that anyone who tries to keep the Law for salvation, anyone who adds anything to the Finished Work of Christ on the Cross, has been severed from Him: “you who attempt to be justified by Law; you have fallen from Grace.” This doesn't mean Mosaic Law is wrong; only that one must not use it for justification (salvation). No one can be justified by saying that they have kept the whole Law perfectly, for that would be the requirement. We have all sinned and fall short of the Glory and perfection that is God.

Question—what Mosaic Law stops everyone in their tracks from saying to God they are sinless, or that they have kept the Law perfectly? Answer—the First Commandment:

“Hear Israel! Yahveh is our God! Yahveh is One! And you *must* love Yahveh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength!” (Dt. 6:4-5; cf. Mt. 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-31)

Note well: it's not the Sabbath or the Dietary laws, etc., that no one can keep. It's the first commandment of love, as graphically revealed in the second great commandment. This great commandment is something that all Christians would say is with us today; to love God with all our heart—all the time, as Yeshua (Mt. 22:35-40), Paul (Rom. 14:15) and John (1st John 4:20) bring out. If we don't love our neighbor as ourself we have sinned and failed to love God (see 1st John 4:20-21). Those who have been confronted with their carnal nature at this point know that it is impossible to *always* love as God wants us to, for loving Him means to always love our neighbor. In other words we sin under Grace, but God forgives us. It's the same with breaking the Sabbath or not keeping Passover. God will forgive us, but He wants us to realize that it's His Will to keep those days, and that we are sinning when we don't.

Yeshua also commands us to love our enemy and it is at this point that we fail God; we don't even have the desire to try when horribly wronged. We want to murder the person. This is where we all involuntarily rebel against God, no matter how much we say that we love Him or believe in Him. Here we truly see our carnal nature and the stronghold it has on us. At this point we must cry out to God to give us the heart that He has promised us—a heart like His Son's that is able to love even our enemies (cf. Ezk. 36:24-27; Lk. 23:34), but the point of all this is that it is impossible to keep these two laws of love, but it's certainly not impossible to abstain from bacon or shrimp or catfish or pork chops. In other words, the Law of Love, as seen from only a Christian point of view, is infinitely harder to keep than many, if not most laws in the Law. Yet, to give it glory, the two laws of love form the core or essence of Mosaic Law (Mt. 22:35-40; Dt. 6:4-5; Lev. 19:18c), and the law of love of enemy is seen in “germ form” in Exodus 21:4-5:

“If you meet *your enemy's* ox or his donkey going astray, you must surely bring it back to him again. If you see the donkey *of one who hates you* lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, *you must surely help him with it.*” (Exodus 23:4-5)

The Law of Love is not though, what most Christians mean when they say we “can't keep the Law.” Jesus kept all the laws or rules of Moses that pertained to Him by the power of the Holy Spirit within Him. As Christians follow in His Footsteps they will come to see that the Law is a blessing to them because it

³⁶ See p. 18.

shows them what is holy and what is not; what is sin and what is pleasing to God; what is God's wisdom and what isn't (cf. Dt. 4:5-8). This can only help Christians in their desire "to be like Jesus" and "to walk the Way He walked."

The Law must be understood in the Light of Yeshua. This means that we see the Law through the eyes of Yeshua who came to show us the deeper meaning of Mosaic Law. He didn't come to do away with it. The Law allows divorce (Dt. 24:1-4), but Yeshua says the criteria for a Christian to divorce another Christian is sacrificial, sexual idolatry (Mt. 5:32),³⁷ not adultery, as many churches teach. Paul speaks about women dressing modestly (1st Tim. 2:9). That's in the New Testament and part of what God's love entails.

All the rules and laws in the New Testament are commentary on the first two commandments; to love God and neighbor. It is a further refining of Torah by speaking about the subtleties of our carnal and prideful heart because we now have the Holy Spirit to convict us and to lead us out of our carnal ways. Paul, James and John explain love for us in "concrete" terms. Please realize these are not suggestions, but commandments (e.g. 1st Cor. 14:37). Their writings are also "Torah" (God's instruction or teaching). Torah now extends from Genesis to Revelation for those who believe in Messiah Yeshua.

Some in the Church think the term Law in the New Testament is just the Ten Commandments, but this is false and an attempt to lift up the Ten at the expense of Mosaic Law.³⁸ Nowhere in the Old Testament are the Ten theologically separated from the rest or the only laws that God wants Israel to obey. The Ten Commandments on Stone Tablets are symbolic of all the rest.³⁹ Mosaic Law is the Word of God (cf. Mt. 4:4), and all the Apostles and all the early Christians kept it for many years *after* the Resurrection.

Animal Sacrifice and the Apostle Paul

The Book of Acts is the only divinely authoritative history of the Apostolic Church and in it the Apostle Paul was more than willing to offer up animal sacrifice 25 years *after* the Resurrection! Luke writes of a time when Paul came to Jerusalem, around 55 AD, and that it had been rumored that Paul taught Jews not to keep the Law, specifically not to circumcise their sons:

²⁰"And when they heard it" (the Jewish Assembly in Jerusalem, of many Gentiles coming to Jesus through Paul) "they began glorifying God and they said to Paul, "You see brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews *who have believed and they are all zealous for the Law.*"²¹They have been told about you that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles *to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their sons nor to walk according to the customs (Mosaic Law).*"²²What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.²³Therefore do what we tell you. We have four men who *are under a vow.*"²⁴Take them and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses so that they may ***shave their heads***, and *all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself walk orderly, **keeping the Law.***" (Acts 21:20-24)

Thousands of Jews had been Born from Above and filled with the Spirit and they ***all*** kept Mosaic Law. Were they ***all*** wrong, including the Apostles who had walked with Jesus? This is 25 years *after* the Resurrection. Were they destroying what Jesus had come to do in setting Christians "free from the Law"?

³⁷ See [The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21](#), the chapter, Jesus and Divorce, pp. 77-85.

³⁸ See [Mosaic Law and the Ten](#) for why the term "law" in both the Old and the New Testaments overwhelmingly means Mosaic Law and not just the Ten (which are part of Mosaic Law).

³⁹ Interestingly enough, the two greatest commandments are not listed in the Ten Commandments (Dt. 6:4-5 and Lev. 19:18c). All of the Ten though, fall or have their roots within one of the two greatest commandments, as do *all* of the rest of God's commandments, statutes, decrees, ordinances and judgments (Deut. 10:12-13; 4:1-2; 5-8, 10, etc.). God's commandments came to Israel as both an expression of His Love for Israel, and His desire to see Israel walk in His Wisdom. That applies to Israel today, both Jew and Gentile, who love Messiah Yeshua.

Were they preaching *another Gospel*? (Galatians 1:6-9)⁴⁰ How does the Church reconcile this Scripture passage with their anti-Law theology? They say that those poor, inferior, stupid Jewish Christians hadn't yet come to realize that Christ had set them free from the Law. Pastors and theologians add insult to injury and in their arrogance, ignorance and pride they say that *the Apostles "didn't know any better."* Can you imagine that?! Thinking that they know more than the Apostles and the Holy Spirit who inspired the Book of Acts? If the Apostles were wrong shouldn't the Holy Spirit, when Luke wrote Acts in 64 AD, have told us so? Those who teach that the Law has been done away with are Pharisaic Christians. Please let that "sink in." It's no mere superficial phrase. They are spiritual descendants of the Jewish Pharisees in the days of Jesus.

Nowhere does Scripture say that these Jewish Christians were wrong for being zealous for the Law, or that Paul was wrong for taking a vow *that entailed animal sacrifice, which is at the heart of the Law, and which Christian theologians say was done away with at the Cross.* Who is right? The theologians or the Word of God? The Church or Luke? Isn't that why Jesus spoke of the Pharisees as hypocrites? Because their teachings overrode God's Word?

Christian theologians and commentators realize that the vow that Paul entered into (Acts 21:26) *was the Nazarite Vow* due to its *shaving of the head* (Num. 6:5, 18; Acts 21:24). This Vow was designed by God to allow the average Hebrew to walk in a similar holiness as the High Priest of Israel, for a specified amount of time. In the days of Yeshua it would generally be 30, 60, or 100 days. The Nazarite Vow is the only vow that calls for the shaving of the head, and so that's why theologians write that Paul was entering into the Nazarite Vow:

"The Nazarite shall then *shave his dedicated head of hair* at the doorway of the Tent of Meeting, and take the dedicated hair of his head and put it on the fire which is *under the animal sacrifice of peace offerings.*" (Num. 6:18)

The problem that theologians have with Paul taking the Vow is that it entails at least three animals sacrificed for Paul and the other four men, and Paul was paying for all of them, including himself:

"And the Nazarite shall present his animal sacrifices to Yahveh: one male lamb in its first year without blemish as a burnt offering, one ewe lamb in its first year without blemish as a sin offering, and one ram without blemish as a peace offering." (Numbers 6:14)

That's at least 15 animals sacrificed for the group. How can this be? How can the Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13) take a Vow that entails animal sacrifice 25 years *after* the Resurrection *if Mosaic Law has been cancelled for the Christians at the Cross, and Jesus' sacrifice did away with animal sacrifice?* And Paul is the only Apostle that the Church goes to for its anti-Mosaic Law theology? Truly, it doesn't get "any more Mosaic Law" than the Nazarite Vow with its animal sacrifices. Yet here is Paul, "the Church's "No Law!" champion!," taking the Nazarite Vow *so everyone, including us today, can know that he walked "orderly, keeping the Law"!* (Acts 21:24).⁴¹

According to Church doctrine, Paul should never have consented to the Nazarite Vow. He should have stood up to James and told him the Law was not for Christians, and if Paul believed that he obviously would have. He stood up to Peter in Galatia (Gal. 2:11f.), why not to James in Jerusalem if animal sacrifice was wrong? Was Paul afraid of James? Could it be that Paul felt outnumbered in Jerusalem and so he didn't say anything and therefore he did something that he knew was wrong? If so why didn't he ever write about it in one of his letters? Or could it be that Paul didn't think it was wrong for him to keep ani-

⁴⁰ If the Apostles in Jerusalem had been preaching a different Gospel than Paul, Paul would taken them to task for not fully understanding the Gospel. The Jerusalem Apostles extended their right hand of fellowship to Paul, knowing the Gospel he preached was identical to theirs, and Paul accepted them (cf. Gal. 2:1-10), and so both Gospels are identical. There aren't two different Gospels; one for the Jew and a different one for the Gentile. That would certainly go against what Yeshua said about their being one Flock (John 10:16).

⁴¹ For more understanding on this passage in Acts 21 see, [The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21](#), p. 158f. Especially pitiful and distressing is F.F. Bruce's comment on how Paul could take the Vow, and still be anti-Law, and my response to Bruce; pp. 174-175, note 728.

mal sacrifice and the Law? Paul willingly goes along with the suggestion of James that is designed to show all the Christians in Jerusalem that Paul still kept the Law (Acts 21:24). The Church needs to be confronted about its theology on Mosaic Law as God's Christian lifestyle.

Each of those four men, at the end of their Nazarite Vow, would present at least three animals for sacrifice upon the Altar at the Temple in Jerusalem, and Paul was paying for it all, including his own. Acts 21:26⁴² uses the Greek word προσφορα (*pros'forah*; "offering" KJV; more correctly, animal "sacrifice" NASB), which Wesley Perschbacher says is, "a sacrifice, a victim offered" with specific reference to Acts 21:26.⁴³ This confirms that it is animal sacrifice that Paul was willing to participate in. If the Nazarite Vow was still in effect, and it certainly was according to God's New Testament Word, it means that Paul was willing to pay for the sacrifice of three animals for himself and 12 animals for the other four men. That's 15 animals to be sacrificed in the Temple at Jerusalem.

What is Paul doing if the sacrifices had been done away with by the one-time sacrifice of Jesus? Why doesn't he just straighten Yakov (James) out by telling him that Jesus' sacrifice did away with the need for animal sacrifice?, and that the Law was "no more"? *Paul doesn't say a word against it. He doesn't argue with James.* On the contrary, he accepts what James says and begins to walk it out for seven days.

Animal sacrifice was still valid for Paul 25 years *after* the Resurrection. He *intentionally* takes the Nazarite Vow to proclaim to everyone that he was *still* walking out his faith in Jesus through all the rules of Mosaic Law that applied to him.

Some, trying to nullify God's Word, point out that Paul didn't actually get to offer the sacrifices. The crowd rose up against him just before he was to sacrifice the animals (Acts 21:26f.). In other words, Paul was stopped, in their eyes, "from sinning" even though he didn't realize it was sin. This is a very interesting theological position, especially for the man the Church credits for doing away with Mosaic Law. This meeting in Jerusalem is dated at 55-58 AD, when many of Paul's Letters, especially Galatians and Romans, had already been written.

The Scriptures never once denounce Paul for wanting to sacrifice or for entering into the Nazarite Vow, anywhere in the New Testament, and Paul never once says that he was wrong for thinking that he could. Those who declare that Paul was wrong for taking the Nazarite Vow, and wanting to complete it with animal sacrifice, are following the Roman Catholic Church, which in 120 AD threw out Mosaic Law, and they only could do that after all the Apostles were dead. For if any of them were still alive when Bishop Sixtus threw out Passover and brought in Easter, etc., there would be many more letters in the New Testament warning us about that heresy and the heretic who began it.

Scripture literally speaks of Paul commanding his Corinthian Gentiles to imitate him as he imitated Jesus (1st Cor. 4:16-17; 11:1), and to keep Passover—the Feast of Unleavened Bread (1st Cor. 5:6-8). The Nazarite Vow is a major part of Mosaic Law that the Church says is done away with, and the most interesting thing about this is that Paul was taking the Vow in order to silence his accusers who said that he wasn't keeping the Law. Is anyone in the Church listening to what the Spirit is saying?

Two Different Rules for the One Flock?

Are there two different sets of sin in the New Testament? One for the Jews and one for the Gentiles? The Jew kept the Law, but the Gentiles didn't have to, unless he wanted to, maybe? We never see Paul address-

⁴² King James Version, Acts 21:26: "Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the Temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an *offering* should be offered for every one of them." The *New American Standard Bible* makes it clear that the "offering" was an animal sacrifice: "Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the Temple, giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the *sacrifice* was offered for each one of them."

⁴³ Wesley J. Perschbacher, editor, *The New Analytical Greek Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publications, 1990), p. 356.

sing only the Jews in his Letters, and then only the Gentiles. So much for the *one* Flock of Jesus:

“I have other sheep (the Gentiles), which are not of this Fold (the Jews). I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice, and *they will become One Flock* with one Shepherd.” (John 10:16)

Are there two different sets of laws for that one Flock? Is that the way that God operates? Whenever we see the Law in Acts, Luke always upholds and elevates it. The next time you read Acts, note this. God who says that when a man marries a woman, the two are now one (Gen 2:24). Can you imagine if the woman is a Gentile and the man is a Jew? The Jew assembles on the Sabbath, but the woman on Sunday? The Jew keeps Passover, but the woman Easter? Or do they just do both? Assemble on Sabbath and Sunday and keep Passover and Easter, and let's not forget everyone's special day—Xmas! It's theoretically possible, but is that what God desires for His people Israel? (cf. Rom. 11:11f.; Eph. 2:11f.) Two totally different standards for sin and righteousness? Is this really the undivided Kingdom of Jesus? (Mk. 3:24)

The Master Deceiver

If we asked 10 Christians to biblically define God's love, we would most likely have 10 different answers. Try it sometime in your Bible study, church or prayer group. A great illustration of the current Christian lifestyle is that of a newly married couple on their honeymoon. The wife asks her husband what he wants for breakfast the next day. He says his favorite breakfast is steak and eggs and she says, “Great! I'll make it for you tomorrow.”

The next day at breakfast though, the husband is served pancakes. The husband, not quite sure what's going on, asks his wife what happened and she says, “I know you wanted steak and eggs for breakfast, but *I wanted to give you what I like best.*” This is not quite an accurate illustration as most in the Church don't realize that God wants something else other than Xmas, Easter, Sunday and pigs in a blanket, but the concept is close enough. God desires for His people Israel, both Jew and Gentile who love Jesus (Gal. 6:16), to walk in the Way that *He has outlined* for them in His Word, not the way Satan, the Master Deceiver, would have Christians worship God, with Satan's pagan days and pagan ways.

Why is it that the Church keeps Sunday, Easter and Christmas and not Sabbath, Passover and Feast of Tabernacles, etc., and eats animals that are sin for Jesus? How could God allow something that catastrophic to go on for 1,900 years? We saw that Daniel knew about it 700 years before Pope Sixtus did it.⁴⁴

Changing, altering or doing away with God's Law is exactly what Satan has done through the Church of Rome, whose obedient daughters in this area of illicit SEX⁴⁵ are the Protestant churches, and any church that keeps Sunday, Easter and/or Xmas and/or allows the eating of pig. The Protestants have gotten Sunday, Easter and Xmas, and anti-Law theology, not from the New Testament, but from the Roman Catholic Church, and Rome got it from ancient Babylon, which got it from Satan. It's time for you to come out of Babylon, as God says through the Apostle John, who wrote,

“And I heard another Voice from Heaven saying, “Come out of Her, *My people!* Lest you share in her sins and receive of Her plagues!” (Revelation 18:4)

Every Reformer (e.g. Luther and Calvin) believed that the Roman Catholic Church was the Harlot of New Testament Babylon (Rev. 17:1ff.)—the *Her* of, “Come out of *Her*, *My People!*” Some might say, “I'm not Catholic so I don't have to be concerned,” but every Protestant walking in *Her Ways* (Sunday, Easter, Xmas, the eating of unclean animals and anti-Mosaic Law theology), *is an honorary Catholic*. Protestants and Charismatics, etc., need to stop following the Pope and begin to follow Jesus and the Christian lifestyle that He wants for you to observe. God wants His people to leave the Babylonian Days and Ways

⁴⁴ See page 7 for Daniel 7:25.

⁴⁵ *Illicit SEX* is an acronym for Sunday, Easter and Xmas, which includes the eating of unclean animals and a contempt for Mosaic Law.

of worshipping His Son, and worship Yeshua in both Spirit *and* Truth—His Truth. The Word of God, the whole Word of God, is divine Truth, and Mosaic Law is the foundation of God’s Truth.⁴⁶

It’s recorded in Church History that there was a fierce battle, for a couple of hundred years, from 120 AD to about 330 AD and beyond, concerning Sabbath and Sunday; Passover and Easter (and all Mosaic Law). Xmas was introduced into the Church around 350 AD and it would also be hotly contested for awhile, even by the Catholic priests who knew it was pagan.⁴⁷

Passover and the Gentiles

The Catholic bishop-historian Eusebius, 260-340 AD, speaks of the Passover being celebrated by Christians in the second century and the conflict within the Church because of Easter. About 190 AD, Bishop (Pope) Victor of Rome⁴⁸ (189-199 AD) wrote to all the Christian churches in modern day Turkey and,

“threatened to excommunicate the recalcitrant Christian communities of the province of Asia, which refused to follow his instruction.”⁴⁹ (To stop celebrating Passover and change to Easter.)

This “excommunication” would effect the entire Christian community of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), and Christian communities further east (e.g. in Israel and Syria) who had kept Passover from the time of the Apostles. The churches in Asia Minor would have included all the churches spoken of in chapters two and three of Revelation, as well all the cities where Paul did his evangelizing. Samuele Bacchiocchi writes:

“Polycrates, Bishop of Ephesus *and representative of the Asian Churches*, strongly advocated the traditional Passover date of Nisan 14, commonly called “Quartodeciman Passover.” Polycrates, claiming to possess *the genuine apostolic tradition transmitted to him by the Apostles Philip and John*, refused to be frightened into submission by the threats of Victor of Rome.”⁵⁰

Quartodeciman breaks down into “quarter” (fourth or four), and *deci* (ten). This four and ten equals fourteen or the day that God commanded Israel to sacrifice the Passover lamb—on the 14th day of the first Hebrew month.⁵¹ That’s why the controversy was labeled the “Quartodeciman Passover.” The date generally corresponds to some time in early to mid April.⁵² The Church of Rome celebrated *Easter* at the traditional time of Easter Sunday.⁵³ Easter is a pagan “holy day” that has absolutely nothing to do with Yeshua’s Resurrection, and was celebrated by pagans more than a thousand years before Jesus. Because Rome calculates the date for Easter differently than the biblical Passover, Easter Sunday may or may not fall on the Sunday of the biblical Resurrection.

⁴⁶ Truth is a synonym for Torah in Psalm 119:43, 142, 151, 160; Mal. 2:6, and also Jesus (John 14:6). The two are one.

⁴⁷ Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, 2nd American edition. (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1959; originally written in 1862, it is a classic), pp. 91-103.

⁴⁸ The office of Bishop of Rome would have another title in the fourth century, that of Pope. Pope is just an anglicized word for Papa (the Latin-Italian Popa or Father). Victor, as well as those Bishops of Rome before him, are recognized by Catholicism as Popes.

⁴⁹ Bacchiocchi, [From Sabbath to Sunday](#), p. 120.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 121.

⁵¹ Ex. 12:6: “You must keep it until the *fourteenth* day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the Congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight.”

⁵² The Passover is always the same day in the Hebrew calendar, but in the Gregorian calendar it will be on different dates in April, sometimes even falling in May.

⁵³ Bacchiocchi, [From Sabbath to Sunday](#), pp. 198-199.

Until 120 AD *all* Christians assembled on the 7th day Sabbath and kept Passover, etc. If Satan could not stop people from believing in Jesus, he perverted the way Jesus was worshiped. The Church today presents Jesus as a bacon eating, Sunday keeping, Xmas gift giving and Easter resurrecting Christ. This is a false and heretical picture of the Savior and it leads God's people into a lot of sin. Now this heresy might not mean much to most Christians, but to the Jewish people Jesus *cannot* be their Messiah. Their Messiah would never break Mosaic Law (and we know that Yeshua *never* did), or do away with Mosaic Law, which is what the Church claims happened at the Crucifixion, because Mosaic Law is God's Standard as to what is right and wrong.⁵⁴

DISCERNMENT AND DECEPTION

Many of us have walked in the interpretation of the New Testament that was handed down to us from the Church—that because the Law was no more, we could eat pig and shrimp and assemble on Sunday and not Shabat (Sabbath), and keep Easter, but not Passover, etc. We didn't know. In these last days though, the Lord has begun to open the eyes of many Christians to His precious truths in these areas of Christian lifestyle.

I too was deluded and deceived before I came into this understanding, which I call The Hebraic Perspective. I had been a Christian for eight years before the Lord began to show me this. I gave my life to Jesus in October 1975. In 1983 the Lord began to open His Word up to me concerning the place of the Law in the life of every Christian. Many “well intentioned” Christians have come against me because they were not able or willing to scrutinize their belief system concerning the place of the Law in their walk.

Early on, every time I found myself without an answer to an accusation leveled at me, I would go to Yeshua. He would open up another passage of New Testament Scripture to me, confirming Torah as our lifestyle, and I would have the answer to the accusation or Scripture that seemed to nullify Torah. At first, when someone would accuse me, it was very unsettling. Was he right?! Was I “going to Hell for preaching another Gospel!?” The Holy Spirit though would neutralize those fears as the divine Picture of the Law began to emerge and grow. Today, I may not know all the answers to all the accusations, or even legitimate Scripture questions that may arise, but the Lord has shown me so much that the burden of proof that “the Law has been done away with,” now lies on those who hold that heretical position. Hopefully after reading this article, you can begin to see that the Church's “no Law” Wall has is full of holes.

Keeping the Law doesn't save anyone. Only a real faith, trust and belief in Yeshua does. For those who love Jesus they will want to know what is pleasing to Him and what is not. I am speaking about how to walk after one has been Born from Above. The whole Christian world keeps pagan feast days and perverse ways and thinks nothing of it. If one desires to walk in God's holy Feast Days, then one is accused of being “under the Law” and/or a Judaizer. Satan has blinded Christians to God's holy Days and Ways and has given Christians pagan feast days and a theology straight from the Pit. One truly begins to understand just how powerful and subtle Satan's deception really is.

Please realize that there is not a shred of *biblical* evidence for Sunday, Christmas and Easter. Not one. All this pagan stuff has become so entrenched in the Church that many Christians swear that it's “Gospel,” but ask them to give you a Scripture reference for either anyone *eating* ham or celebrating Xmas or observing an Easter sunrise service, or assembling on Sunday because God says so in His Word, and they cannot do it.⁵⁵ These are very real concerns for Christians who say they take the Bible seriously. Either Christians follow Jesus and the Bible, or they follow the Pope and Roman Catholicism.

⁵⁴ For the letter that Polycrates presented to Victor, see [Passover and the Apostle John](#), p. 24, note 93.

⁵⁵ The Bible is our authority for what we believe and therefore, what we practice. If these things are not in the Bible, they cannot be justified as “Christian,” especially since they *all* come from Babylon. Christmas, Easter and Sunday were pagan holy days a thousand years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

If Yeshua is Lord of our Life, shouldn't He determine which days and ways are holy for us and what foods we can or cannot eat? He has. It's in the Law that God gave to Moses and Israel, for their wisdom and knowledge.⁵⁶ Before you head to your local synagogue though, to get a better grasp of "Jewish things," I need to share about Judaism with you. The Hebraic Perspective is not "Jewish." It is biblical, and many things in it are "Jewish" because Judaism keeps Passover and the Sabbath day holy, etc., but even in this we need to know what things of Judaism in their keeping of the Sabbath, etc., is biblical and what is Pharisaic.

A WORD ABOUT JUDAISM

Judaism today is not what Moses received from God at Mt. Sinai. Israel worshiped Yahveh with sacrifice and priesthood in the Tabernacle and then the Temple. Sacrifice, which offered forgiveness of sins (e.g. Lev. 4), is the center of the Mosaic Covenant and reveals how God could dwell among sinful Israel. Sacrifice and priesthood were put "on hold" in 70 AD when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Roman Army, and then the religion of the Pharisees and Rabbis took over.

Someone might say it's Mosaic Law without sacrifice, priesthood and Temple. In that they would be partially correct. Unfortunately, Pharisaic and Rabbinic "understanding" of how to interpret and walk out Torah wasn't good in Yeshua's day, as much of it didn't line up with what Moses and Joshua understood, as exemplified by the clash between the Pharisees and Yeshua when the Temple still stood.

Over the last 2,000 years it's only gotten worse. An example of this is Pentecost (Shavu'ot). In the days of Yeshua the Sadducean Priests controlled the calendar (cf. Num. 10:1f.). They believed, and rightly so, that the 50 day counting "from the day after the Sabbath" in Passover Week, began on the Sunday of Passover Week (Lev. 23:11-21). The Pharisees believed it began on the day after the first annual Sabbath day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is always the 16th day of the first biblical month. When the Temple was destroyed, the Levitical Priests were not able to perform their Temple duties, in this case relating to the determining of when the Feasts were, and so the Pharisees took over, and the Pharisaic understanding for Pentecost prevailed in Judaism.

We know that the Sadducean way of interpreting which Sabbath Pentecost was on is correct because both those events because both the offering of First Fruits and then Pentecost 50 days later, do not have dates. In Leviticus 23 every feast has a date except First Fruits and Pentecost, and that's because God couldn't give a date to them, as every year First Fruits, and Pentecost 50 days later, will be on a different day/date in the biblical calendar.

With the Pharisaic and now rabbinic understanding there are two "set" dates. First Fruits is always the 16th day of the first biblical month and consequently, 50 days later, Pentecost is always the 6th of Sivan. If the correct understanding of which Sabbath to begin the understanding of when First Fruits was Pharisaic, God would have put their dates into Leviticus 23. In that He didn't we know that the Sadducees were right, unless one would take the untenable position that God was trying to trick Israel by not giving her the two set dates as the Pharisees understood it.

All that to say that not everything Jewish is biblical. The Rabbis have perverted the Word of God, chief among things is that good deeds are the ticket to eternal life in Heaven and also, today there is much in Judaism that is anti-Christ in spirit, having had 2,000 years to fortify itself against Christianity's Jesus and

⁵⁶ Deut. 4:5-8: Moses says to Israel, "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as Yahveh my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the Land where you are entering to possess. Keep and do them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is Yahveh our God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole Law, which I am setting before you today?"

Christian illicit SEX. Then there is Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah), which is nothing more than Babylonian Gnosticism in Jewish clothes. This too pervades Judaism and blinds my people to their Messiah.⁵⁷

We can glean some things from Judaism such as ethical behavior (how to love one's neighbor), but the place "to go" if you want to know the Lord and His Ways is your Bible. Ask Yeshua to reveal The Hebraic Perspective of it to you, which is His Way of understanding the Word. We must have eyes to discern God's Truth. He is calling us out of *both* perverted Camps—Christianity and Judaism, to learn to walk with Him in His Days and His Ways. That's not to say that we can't glean wonderful things from both Camps, but perversion and heresy is resident within those two Camps and as you might imagine, neither Camp wants to give up its heresies in search of God's Truth. In other words, the Jewish Camp is blind "to Jesus," and the Christian Camp is blind to Torah. Yeshua is God's Truth. He is pure and holy, and Mosaic Law reflects Him, as do the Gospels, etc.

God doesn't want His people to live in pride and ignorance. Hosea 4:6 states, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." (i.e. God's Ways), and God says this to us through Jeremiah:

"Therefore, thus says Yahveh! "If you return then I will bring you back and you shall stand before Me! If you take out the precious from the vile you shall be as My mouth! Let them return to you, *but you must not return to them!*" (Jeremiah 15:19)

CONCLUSION

Is Passover done away with because Jesus is the Passover Lamb? Or does His fulfilling of the Passover now give Christians the reason why God instituted Passover in the first place? Passover honors Yeshua the Passover Lamb who frees us from a slavery that ancient Egypt typified. Easter is a pagan holy day that honors the pagan "Christ." All its ceremonies, like the Easter Egg, are pagan and have absolutely nothing to do with the Messiah of Israel.

Church History reveals that all Christians kept Passover up until 120 AD, and then many Christians continued to keep it for hundreds of years after Rome replaced it with Easter. The only reason why Christians don't keep Passover today is because of Pope Sixtus and all the anti-Mosaic Law Popes who followed him, "won out" when Constantine, in 323 AD, raised up Rome to be the official religion of the Roman Empire, along with Mithraism. Christians should keep Passover today, and not Easter as it is not of God.

The Church interprets not being "under the Law" as license to keep pagan days with Jesus' name on them, but not being under the Law means the Law cannot condemn Christians when they sin. The goal is to walk like Yeshua walked, for truly, He is our Example in all matters of faith *and* practice. We must not let Satan's deceptions take us out of the Way.

The Church teaches that Mosaic Law was done away with at the Crucifixion, but one has to corrupt the words of Jesus and also twist many New Testament Scriptures relating to the Law to do that. One such heretical Church teaching is Peter's Vision, which has nothing to do with the Mosaic Dietary laws being nullified, but with the Gentiles as being invited into Israel and the Kingdom of Heaven (cf. Is. 49:6), with Mosaic Law being the holy Standard of living and Yeshua as their Jewish King.

Another passage which the Church abuses is where Jesus is seen to be declaring all foods clean (Mk. 7:19), but the Greek should be translated into English as the food which passes through the stomach and then out of the body; the body purging the food, not making unclean food "clean" (as the KJV rightly translates it).

The major things of the Law that the Church teaches that have been done away with are still very much valid in the New Testament, like the Sabbath, the Feasts of Israel and the Mosaic Dietary laws. The Law

⁵⁷ See [Goodbye Messianic Judaism!](#) for why Messianic Judaism has failed to live up to its mandate from God, and why we shouldn't look to it either.

is for Christian lifestyle; not Christian salvation. The Church is blind to the former, leading all its adherents to sin against Jesus by eating unclean animals and fish, as well as not keeping God's holy days, but Satan's holy days.

What those Christian Jews in Acts 21 had been told about Paul was a slanderous lie—that Paul had stopped keeping Mosaic Law, specifically that Paul was telling Jews outside Israel *not* to circumcise their sons, forsaking Mosaic Law. Most in Christianity today would say, “Amen!” to that, but those thousands of believing Jews, two half brothers of Jesus (James and Jude), along with all the Apostles, were concerned that something needed to be done to show the Body that those accusations were not true. Paul took the Nazarite Vow, which according to the Church was not valid, and that, by the man (Paul), they teach invalidates it, to stop the rumors that he didn't keep Mosaic Law. Paul enters into the Old Testament Nazarite Vow to reveal to everyone today that he was walking out his faith in Christ through all the laws of Moses that applied to him. Sacrifice of animals, 25 years *after* the Resurrection, was still being practiced by all the Apostles, including Paul (cf. Acts 18:18 where Paul took his first Nazarite Vow).

There is nothing that Paul, or anyone else, ever writes in New Testament Scripture that contradicts what Paul did, saying that Paul shouldn't have taken the Vow. This, the Nazarite Vow with its animal sacrifices, and Paul taking it, to prove to everyone that he still kept Mosaic Law, overwhelmingly reveals that Mosaic Law was the Way that all Christians walked out their faith in the Jewish Messiah, unless one thinks that the one Flock of Jesus has two totally different sets of rules for sin for the Jew and the Gentile. That though, is an absurd theological position because it separates what God has brought together—the One New Man (Eph. 2:15).

Illicit SEX is an acronym for **S**unday, **E**aster and **X**mas, which includes the eating of unclean animals and a contempt for Mosaic Law. This “Way” was not given to Christians during the days of the Apostles nor is it supported by New Testament Scripture. In 120 AD Pope Sixtus threw out Mosaic Law and brought in *illicit SEX*, which also includes anti-Semitism. This is where and when Christian anti-Semitism began, which is an oxymoron if ever there was one. The Apostle Paul would have given up his eternal life if it would have helped Jews who didn't believe or like Jesus (or him!), to come to their Messiah (Rom. 9:1-35). The Church continues in these perverse things, but today the Holy Spirit is opening Christian eyes so that they can reevaluate their understanding of Mosaic Law and the Jewish people.

Paul's words on Mosaic Law are divided into Two Streams. When he teaches on salvation he says that no law, attached to faith in Christ, can save us; only faith in Yeshua. Once that concept is established, that only by being Born Again can anyone enter the Kingdom, Paul teaches that Mosaic Law is God's holy Standard for lifestyle, which reveals to Christians the full extent of what is sin and what is holy and pleasing in God's eyes. If we throw Torah out, like the Church has done, then one can “bless the food” that God calls an abomination⁵⁸ and unclean, and think that it's alright with Jesus, but is sin. The Church has deceived generations of Christians, only understanding Paul in his contrast of the Law with salvation, but not with the Law being God's holy Standard for how Christians are to walk out their faith in Christ once they are Born Again.

What part of Mosaic Law do we live? The parts that apply to us. To find that out we need to read Torah and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what we are to see and do. Five Pillars of Mosaic Law are certainly for everyone today:

1. The Feasts of Israel,
2. The laws of loving God and Man,
3. The Mosaic Dietary laws,

⁵⁸ Leviticus 11:1ff.; especially vv. 10, 11, 12, 13, 20, 23, 41, 42. The word *abomination* is an extremely strong word, for God to use. For instance, in speaking of homosexuality (Lev. 18:22) God calls it an abomination. Eating unclean animals and fish, etc., is no light matter in God's eyes, as He also calls some of them an abomination (e.g. Leviticus 11:11-13, 20).

4. The Sabbath, and

5. Tithing.

The only law that isn't for the Gentile is physical, covenantal circumcision. Do you know that at any one time in Israel, half the covenant people were not circumcised? Physical, covenantal circumcision does not apply to women. Were they in sin because they weren't circumcised? Of course not, but my point is that Gentile men don't need to be, and must not be, physically covenantally circumcised to be in the Kingdom of Heaven.⁵⁹

Jesus did not keep all the laws of Moses, as some ignorantly say. Yeshua was not the High Priest while He was on Earth and so He didn't sacrifice the goat on the Day of Atonement (cf. Lev. 16), etc. Once you begin to investigate what laws apply to you, you'll see that it's not as formidable as the Mt. Everest the Church makes it out to be. On the contrary, it is a divine Treasure of God's wisdom, knowledge and blessing to Israel.

Read the first five books of Moses and you will be led to keep the Sabbath day holy and to celebrate Passover, etc. Don't try to do everything at once, but allow yourself to gradually learn and keep the laws by doing them. Your desire and knowledge will grow and you will be delighted with the gifts that God has given to you. Ancient Treasures from Above picture our Savior.

Hopefully, this article has awakened within you the desire to know more about the Law of Moses being valid today for you, if you haven't already been led of the Lord into Torah. I know that it takes time and the Holy Spirit to confirm something like this. I hope that you will pray about it and if you have any questions let me know. Yeshua will deal with your fears and concerns. After all, the Messiah of Israel is the Author and the Finisher of your Faith—in Him (Heb. 12:2).⁶⁰

⁵⁹ See my article, [Gentile Circumcision?](#), in order to understand why Gentile Christian men must not be physically, covenantally circumcised.

⁶⁰ There is much here in this article that I have not written of, in relation to many questions concerning the Law of Moses and many other Scriptures that seem to indicate that the Law has been done away with. This article began as a response to an email inquiry from someone in Zimbabwe.

Approaching the Law from another perspective is my book, [The Lifting of the Veil—Acts 15:20-21](#). Those two verses form the foundation for Mosaic Law being God's lifestyle for every Christian.

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