

Do You Obey The Torah?



The *Torah* is the teachings and laws which Yahweh* gave to the Israelites, and by extension, to all humanity; and is found in the five books of Moses known as the Pentateuch. Whether you are Jewish or Christian, or some combination of the two, the purpose of this tract is to make you aware that some parts of the Torah cannot be obeyed unless we have current communication from Yahweh!

The subject of divine communication is most fundamental in the study of religion. Bible students can hardly fail to see that if the book is true, then the Creator, by some means, did communicate divine instructions to Moses. But very few understand that within the Torah we find both, the necessity for, and the provision for, maintaining contact with Yahweh throughout the centuries, and that without this ongoing divine contact, some of its most important parts cannot be obeyed. It also warned that neglecting to obey, could result in being cut off from the source of the Creator's communications.

Rival doctrines debate whether certain parts of the Torah are still in effect; and whether or not Gentiles should obey their Creator. But this important subject of current divine communication, is sadly ignored, and many seem unable to even distinguish between real divine contact, and the absence thereof! They prefer fantasy rather than reality, and they fail to understand that the same Yahweh who has power to communicate, also has power to withhold His communication, and that we have inherited the condition of being cut off from Yahweh's presence, and from His people, just like the Torah had warned.

* To learn who Yahweh is, consult a good dictionary, or get our tract, The Creator Knows You By Name.

RESOLVING CIVIL DISPUTES

Conflict arising from an infinite variety of human conduct, cannot always be resolved by a mere finite code of law. That is why courts are needed to apply the law. (**Deut 1:16 & 16:18**) Circumstances of individual cases can sometimes be so difficult or unique that a court's decision must be appealed to a higher court. The Torah provides that individuals, or the lower judges, had access to Yahweh himself who was the supreme court judge! We have four examples of judicial decisions from Yahweh, on a case by case basis: **Lev 24:10-16** concerning blasphemy; **Nu 9:6-12** concerning the second Passover; **Nu 15:32-36** concerning Sabbath breaking; and **Nu 27:1-7** concerning real estate inheritance. And Yahweh did not resign from the supreme court bench, due to a lack of additional cases! (**Deut 4:7**)

Deut 17:8 says: "If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgmentthen shalt thou arise and get thee up into the place which Yahweh shall choose..." (You can't go to court unless you know where the court is located!) In verse **12**, we see that contempt of Yahweh's court was punishable by death. This is because the high priest, by using the Urim and Thummim, received these supreme court decisions directly from Yahweh Himself. (**Ex 28:30 & 29:42**) Even a fair and honest human judge cannot always detect perjury, but **Deut 19:16-19** shows that Yahweh is the ultimate lie detector! The Torah clearly requires obedience, not only to Yahweh's commandments and laws, but also His judgments. See **Mat 23:23**. But without access to Yahweh, we have no way to receive His court judgments.

WHERE IS THE PLACE?

The geographic location of Yahweh's court is important, not only for civil litigation, but also for observing the Passover and annual festival convocations. The Torah requires that these sacred appointments must occur at a specific location. (See **Deut 12:5-14; 16:2-16**; and our tract, The Place which Yahweh Shall Choose.) It is crucial to note that the location of

this place is not given within the Torah itself! In accord with **Deut 12:10-11**, it was only later, after entering Canaan, that Yahweh chose Shiloh. (**Josh 18:1; 19:51; Judg 21:19; 1 Sam 1:3**) Yahweh's court was mobile, and the people needed to stay in touch and be informed whenever Yahweh moved to a new location. Later, He did move His place to Jerusalem, but not permanently! (See **Jer 7:11-15 & 26:6** and our article Is Jerusalem the Place?)

YAHWEH'S CALENDAR

As with any appointment, Yahweh's annual feasts, which are sacred appointments, must occur, not only at a specific place, but also at specific times. The dates of the month, are of course, specified. (**Lev 23:5-34**) But what is not permanently specified, is the correct first month in which to observe Passover each spring. Yahweh's months are lunar, but 29 1/2 day lunar months occur at random, and do not come out even with a solar year. Therefore some years will necessarily have 13 months. **Ex 12:1-2** tells that Yahweh Himself chose the month, and told Moses when to begin the new year. (See our articles The Months begin with the Visible Crescent and Which Month is Abib?) The Torah requires people to assemble at the correct times by responding to the summons of the trumpets. (**Nu 10:10**) But it does not give sufficient instructions to select the first month each year, based on the equinox or ripening grain. It clearly says that the sons of Aaron were responsible for blowing the trumpets. (**Nu 10:8**) Thus it becomes clear that Yahweh Himself selected the correct first month each year and communicated His calendar to the high priest! If the Messiah is your high priest, then every year you need for him to tell you which is the first month of the new year. You cannot keep the Passover or Feasts correctly without knowing when and where.

Deut. 12:5-14; 16:1-16; 17:8-12; 17:15; & 19:16-19 are some very important portions of the Torah which cannot be obeyed without a high priest, or some other means of receiving current communication from Yahweh!

FAMINE FOR YAHWEH'S WORDS

When the nation of Judah was exiled to Babylon, Yahweh withheld His communication from them (**Ezek 20:3 & 31**) causing the famine of **Amos 8:11**. When they returned after 70 years and built another temple, they never again had divine communication for purposes of national defense or civil justice, as the Torah requires. Having lost contact with Yahweh, Judaism began substituting *human judgments*, which are compiled in the Mishnah and Talmud, and used as legal precedents and revered as *Oral Torah* by Rabbinic Judaism. And they falsely claim that Moses received it from Yahweh. But these human decisions can never be an adequate substitute for real divine judgments from Yahweh Himself, and this was the major point of conflict between Judaism and the New Testament Messiah. (**Mat 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13 & John 7:19.**)

But most of Christendom neglects the Torah and does not see the need for communication from Yahweh. They fail to recognize that the Messiah could have supplied that need. His very purpose was *to be* that divine contact, making civil justice possible. But Christendom promotes the opposite, trying to circumvent true justice; by teaching that a Saviour can relieve one of any need to receive or obey Yahweh's judgments.

The purpose of this tract is not to provide an excuse for neglecting the Torah, but rather to expose the fact that all of us, whether we like it or not, are experiencing the famine for *current* communication from Yahweh. Because He "hid His face", Yahweh may seem to be non-existent, but **Deut 4:29-30** promises that *in the latter days*, we will find Him, *if* we seek with all our heart and soul. And the good news is that the prophets promise a future time when He will again communicate and no longer hide His face from us! See **Ezek 36:37; 37:26-28; 39:22-29; Isa 58:9; 65:24; Hos 2:21 & Mal 3:5.**