

The New Testament Validates Torah is a study all Messianic people need, especially in terms of the future growth and expansion in which our faith community finds itself. On the whole, today's Messianic movement holds that the Torah or the Law of Moses remains valid instruction for God's people, and that Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) did not come to abolish or do away with it (Matthew 5:17-19). Yet throughout much of Christian history, many theologians have argued that the Law has been rendered inoperative, and/or that it was only to be followed by those in the pre-resurrection era. Many Messianics are incapable of responding to the common arguments delivered by their Christian family members, friends, acquaintances, or even various pastors and teachers they know—who quote verses to them from the Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) which supposedly prove that the Law has been "done away."

Has Moses' Teaching been abolished? This publication is a lengthy study which analyzes and critically examines, in detail, a wide number of New Testament passages commonly offered as proof texts to claim that the Torah is not to be followed by those in the post-resurrection era. Statements such as not being "under the Law" (Romans 6:14-15), "Christ is the end of the Law" (Romans 10:4), "All things are lawful" (1 Corinthians 6:12), "abolishing...the Law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15), "having nailed it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14), and many more, are considered. Considerable attention is given to the Greek source text of the Apostolic Scriptures, and where translation errors into English appear to have been made by various modern versions. Cross-examination and discussion with various scholars have also been offered, as well as an exploration of important subjects present within today's Biblical Studies.

The New Testament Validates Torah is an important apologetic study which will benefit Messianics and evangelical Protestants alike. There is literally nothing in today's Messianic movement which has compiled as much information on Torah relevance for God's people into a single book. Also, unlike some other publications issued on the message of Torah relevance, *The New Testament Validates Torah* is highly respectful to Christian voices over the centuries who have valued what they have considered to be the "moral law" of the Old Testament, and seeks to honor those who have preceded us in the faith.

THE NEW TESTAMENT VALIDATES TORAH

Does the New Testament Really Do Away With the Law?

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2 0 2 4 S T A T U S

J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS

messianicapologetics.net

The New Testament Validates Torah

Does the New Testament Really Do Away With the Law?

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Dedication

The New Testament Validates Torah is dedicated to my spiritual and ancestral forbearers in both the Reformed and Wesleyan theological traditions. These were men and women who have always valued the moral instructions of God from the Old Testament as a standard of Christian holiness and piety, emulating the life and faithfulness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Messiah.

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Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as *TWOT* for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
CJSB: Complete Jewish Study Bible (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)

Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: New Jerusalem Bible-Koren (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: King James Version
Lattimore: The New Testament by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT: Masoretic Text
NASB: New American Standard Bible (1977)
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: New English Bible (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*

NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint (2007)

NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*

NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*

NIV: New International Version (1984)

NJB: New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic (1985)

NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)

NKJV: New King James Version (1982)

NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)

NLT: New Living Translation (1996)

NT: New Testament

OT: Old Testament

REB: Revised English Bible (1989)

RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)

t. Tosefta

Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament

Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*

TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)

TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)

TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*

UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition

v(s). verse(s)

Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*

Vul: Latin Vulgate

YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

Preface to the 2024 Status Edition

The ongoing validity of God's Torah for the post-resurrection era, is a conviction held by most throughout the Messianic sphere of influence. For almost two decades (2004-2024), one of the main reasons people have sought out my books and commentaries, has been to see me vigorously defend the ongoing relevance of the Law of Moses for today's Messiah followers. Since 2012, when the massive **Reference Edition** paperback of *The New Testament Validates Torah* was released, it is fair to conclude that this resource may very much be regarded as the flagship publication of Outreach Israel Ministries. It has been used to answer many questions, prompt further studies, and has even started a few small groups.

Some significant developments have taken place since 2012, prompting the release of this **2024 Status Edition**. This started in late 2012 with our family's relocation from Central Florida back to North Texas, as we saw ourselves reintegrated into the Messianic Jewish community—where we originally got our start on this quest. In June 2015, TNN Online or the Theology News Network, transitioned into Messianic Apologetics. 2017 saw the release of the significantly enlarged *New Testament Validates Torah MAXIMUM EDITION*, which incorporated many new passages, transplanting material from our *for the Practical Messianic* commentary series—going slightly beyond just the general validity or relevance of the Torah.

To be sure, both inside and outside the Messianic sphere of influence, there have been things taking place. A more clear distinction between the Messianic movement and Hebrew Roots movement, is far more apparent in 2024 than it was in 2012. The former is engaged with matters of Israel and the Jewish community, Jewish ministry and evangelism, and standing against anti-Semitism. The latter is more known for dismissing the positive contributions of the Jewish Synagogue and evangelical Protestantism, as well as being a hotbed for all manner of false teachings and conspiracies.

Many non-Jewish Believers in the various independent Torah movements, have not always been pleased by a frequent lack of gospel proclamation or emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit. What good does it do any non-Jewish Believer in Israel's Messiah, for example—to do outward things of Torah such as the seventh-day Sabbath/*Shabbat*, appointed times or *moedim*, or eat a kosher style of diet—if it is not also enjoined with some participation in the Romans chs. 9-11 trajectory of salvation history: “all Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26)?

For our own ministry, in getting reconnected to Messianic Judaism and the Messianic mission—those who have followed us have seen us more clearly emphasize matters of Jewish outreach, evangelism, Israel solidarity, and the question of whether non-Jewish Believers doing outward things of Torah *are truly called by the Lord into this*.