

There are many aspects regarding the subject matter of "the Torah," for today's broad Messianic movement to consider. These range from: the validity of the Torah or Law of Moses, the historicity and reliability of the Torah, the degree of applicability of the Torah to Jewish and non-Jewish people, the role of tradition in following the Torah, *and* natural changes affected to the role of the Torah in the post-resurrection era via the sacrifice of Yeshua (Jesus). Some of these aspects surrounding Messianics' study and appreciation of the Torah, are handled quite well by the current generation, and some of them are frequently avoided or handled rather poorly.

The *Messianic Torah Helper* is a valuable compilation of articles and analyses designed to assist you, your family, and your friends, in approaching those important areas of the Torah which need to be considered. How have Jews and Christians approached the Law of Moses in their theology? What are some of the controversies surrounding the Pentateuch? Has the Law been abolished? Are Jewish and non-Jewish Believers in Israel's Messiah *both* supposed to keep the same basic Law, or are there various differences to be acknowledged? Does Jewish tradition play any kind of role in following Moses' Teaching? Are non-Jews who keep the Torah actually trying to replace or diminish the Jewish people? These questions, and many more, are some of those considered in the *Messianic Torah Helper*.

If you have ever inquired about a wide range of Torah-related issues, then the *Messianic Torah Helper* is definitely something for you. This book is an excellent follow up to the extensive study *The New Testament Validates Torah* by J.K. McKee.

MESSIANIC

TORAH HELPER

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edited by Margaret McKee Huey
with J.K. McKee

MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Messianic Torah Helper

© 2013, 2016, 2025 Messianic Apologetics

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Cover Image: blueenayim via Istockphoto

ISBN 979-8315980728 (paperback)

ASIN B00GBLQG14 (eBook)

Published by Messianic Apologetics, a division of Outreach Israel Ministries
P.O. Box 516
McKinney, Texas 75070
(407) 933-2002

outreachisrael.net / outreachisrael.blog
messianicapologetics.net / messianicapologetics.blog

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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)

Introduction

The *Messianic Torah Helper* is one of numerous publications by Messianic Apologetics, which has originated entirely out of circumstance. In the Winter of 2010 and Spring of 2011, when the paperback edition of *The New Testament Validates Torah* was being prepared by J.K. McKee, it was obvious to him that many of the things which he wanted to see addressed in that book, simply could not be, because of space limitations. Rather than cast away the various appendices from the previous, 2008 spiral comb edition of *NTVT*, it seemed more appropriate that they should be transplanted into a different, or even new book. As files began being shuffled around, and we began to consider various ideas, it became obvious that this new book needed to be a unique volume within our *Messianic Helper* series.

Up until the present time in 2013, the three previous releases within our *Messianic Helper* series have pertained to the Spring, Fall, and Winter holiday seasons. They concern how Jewish and non-Jewish Believers can be blessed and enriched in their Messianic faith, as they celebrate and honor Yeshua in the appointed times. Two volumes which have been planned for an extensive paperback release, and will hopefully be completed sometime in 2014, will address the issues of the seventh-day Sabbath and kosher eating for Messianic Believers. All of these different areas of Torah observance involve daily, weekly, and seasonal practices, various traditions and customs—as well as associated questions and debates. The *Messianic Torah Helper*, however, includes an array of far more than just important articles transplanted from the 2008 edition of *NTVT*.

When surveying not only the broad Messianic community, but also the theological heritage which the Messianic movement has inherited from both the Jewish Synagogue and Christian Church—it should be most obvious that the subject of the Torah or the Law of Moses, is rather big. If you are a person who has been a part of the Messianic movement for some period of time, or you are just now being exposed to it, the following list of questions, among others, are some which you have doubtlessly encountered:

- What is the best way to be familiar with the accounts and regulations of the Torah?
- Should the Torah ever be referred to as “the Law”?
- How should God’s people approach the issues contained in the Pentateuch? Are some commandments truly conditioned by an

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ancient context and setting, and are other commandments more universal to all times and settings?

- While the Torah is an undeniable part of the ethnic and cultural heritage of the Jewish people, what is the relationship of people from the nations to Moses' Teaching?
- What about texts of the New Testament like Galatians, Romans, or Hebrews, and what they say about the Law?
- Can people actually be saved through their Torah observance?
- Does the sacrifice of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah change anything, in terms of the relationship which God's people have toward the Law?
- What about the role of Jewish tradition and *halachah* for today's Messianics?
- What about the role of the Holy Spirit in obeying God's Instruction?
- What is the purpose of the contemporary Messianic movement, the salvation of the Jewish people, *and* why are so many non-Jewish Believers turning to the Torah?
- What about the distinct needs of Messianic Jews?

These are just a selection of the questions which are probed by the *Messianic Torah Helper*. Obviously, a single book cannot address the many issues and sub-issues, which involve how today's Messianic people, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, should orient themselves to the varied areas which involve God's Torah. But, the *Messianic Torah Helper* composes a wide compilation of articles and analyses, which need to be read by many of today's Messianic people—especially those who have been subjected to a few unnecessary theological and spiritual extremes, and now need to be balanced out, acquiring some more information.

The difference between the preceding *New Testament Validates Torah* book, and this publication, is that *NTVT* largely addressed the general validity and relevance of the Torah or Law of Moses for God's people today, answering a great many arguments given by contemporary Christians. The *Messianic Torah Helper* addresses a number of significant, associated topics, as people within the broad—and still developing or emerging—Messianic movement, consider Moses' Teaching and apply it to their individual and congregational lives. The questions and issues this book analyzes—within the orbit of "Torah"—are those which many, many Messianic people encounter in their different fellowships and assemblies, either from teachings from the leadership (both positive and negative), or from individuals with whom they interact at gathering times. These same questions and issues have also been posed by many others within the Messianic movement, *especially including* those who make an avid use of online social media.

It should be obvious to each of us in the Twenty-First Century, that today's Messiah followers are not the original people to whom the Torah was first given at Mount Sinai in the Fifteenth/Thirteenth Century B.C.E. And, we are not exactly like

the First Century C.E. *ekklēsia*, composed of Jews, Greeks, and Romans in the Mediterranean basin, either. As such, to properly appreciate the different articles and analyses which compose the *Messianic Torah Helper*, it needs to be stressed that **each of us needs to consciously be aware** of the context of the Torah or Pentateuch as given to its original recipients in Ancient Israel, how the Torah was approached by Yeshua and His Apostles—but most especially consider various post-resurrection realities, specially inaugurated via the work of Israel’s Messiah—**and** then couple them with what is happening in our time with the Messianic movement.

Whether you are aware of it or not, today’s Messianic community has already entered into a very decisive stage of its theological and spiritual development. We have already seen positive strides made in seeing a generation of Jewish people come to faith in Messiah Yeshua, and in seeing a wide number of evangelical Protestants embrace their faith heritage in Israel’s Scriptures in a very tangible way. *It is now time to move forward*, and it is our hope that this unique publication, with the scope of subjects it addresses and the information it has compiled, will be able to assist in this endeavor.

In the early 2010s, those of us who serve in full time Messianic ministry—especially in some sort of educational capacity—have discerned some noticeable factors regarding our developing theology. **The Messianic community has already entered into that realm of examining the Bible as history, as law, as philosophy, and as psychology**—but far too many people at large do not even realize it, nor would they have an adequate orientation of what to do with it, per some significant issues on the horizon. Considering the experiences of the Ancient Israelites, in the Ancient Near East, does not often appear on the radar of your average Messianic person. Considering those experiences, *and* factoring in the thoughts and teachings of the additional revelation of the Prophets, Writings, and Apostolic Scriptures, does not occur to as many as it should.

The three main contributors to the *Messianic Torah Helper* are the main writers and researchers for Outreach Israel Ministries: Mark Huey, Margaret Huey, and John McKee. There is certainly overlap among some of the chapters. There are also some critical, but we would hope constructive, remarks, made in this publication, toward some of the thoughts, ideas, and ideologies seen in the present Messianic community. As you read the *Messianic Torah Helper*, the articles and analyses and FAQ entries which compose it, be aware of one thing: there are additional Messianic Apologetics publications which go into much more further detail, and others which are currently in various stages of completion. We certainly look forward to some of the possible, future publications, articles, and FAQ entries, which may emerge.

While the teachers of Outreach Israel Ministries are all from evangelical Protestant backgrounds, rather than be like some in the widely independent

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Hebrew/Hebraic Roots movement, who tend to exhibit a great deal of disrespect toward Christianity—we intend to instead be fair and respectful of those Believers who have preceded us in faith, especially as we come from spiritual backgrounds in Calvinism and Wesleyanism, which have always believed that the so-called “moral law” of the Torah, and especially the Ten Commandments, has remained valid and godly instruction for Messiah followers. We intend to take the virtues of our evangelical heritage, and see them properly complemented and merged with the edifying faith heritage we have inherited via the Jewish Synagogue and Jewish people—so that both Jewish **and** non-Jewish Messianic Believers can employ all of their gifts, talents, and skills for God’s service.

We fully affirm those great words of the Psalmist, who decreed, “How happy are those whose way of life is blameless, who live by the *Torah of ADONAI!*” (Psalm 119:1, CJSB). At the same time, we recognize that it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit, upon a redeemed heart and mind, that the Torah can be truly fulfilled (Romans 8:1-4). So as you prepare to read through the various perspectives present and issues considered in the *Messianic Torah Helper*, let us “put away all moral filth and excess of evil and receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21, TLV). For, as important as the Torah is, so much more important is the One to whom the Torah points (Romans 10:4, Grk.): Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ). **May we eagerly be about accomplishing the Messiah’s tasks in the Earth today, as we enter into the final stages of salvation history!**

*Margaret McKee Huey
with J.K. McKee*

This 2025 update of the *Messianic Torah Helper* has mainly seen the addition of Part V: **God's Torah, and Ongoing Developments in the Messianic Movement**. The *Messianic Torah Helper* was originally in development for release in 2013, with this resource being widely prepared during our family's final year in Central Florida. At the end of 2012, we relocated back to North Texas, and found ourselves reintegrating into the Messianic Jewish community, where we first got our start. Over the past dozen years or so, those of you who have been following Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics, have doubtlessly noted the many new and useful experiences we have had.

This updated edition of the *Messianic Torah Helper*, takes into consideration our involvement in Messianic Judaism, various developments in the One Law/One Torah sub-movement, the stress on non-Jewish Believers needing to be specially called into the Messianic movement, and the emergence of both Pronomian Christianity and Distinction Theology. There are a number of updated chapters, new chapters, and FAQ entries.

PART I

**APPROACHING
THE TORAH**

