

## We Uphold **Torah!**

Do we nullify (make void) *Adonai's Torah* because we now have faith in *Yeshua*? *May it never be!* (I like the KJV rendering of *God forbid!* This is what Scripture says: *"<sup>31</sup>Do we then nullify the Torah through faithfulness? May it never be! On the contrary, we uphold the Torah"* (Ro 3:31) or the more familiar: *"Do we then make void the law (Torah) through faith? God forbid: yea, we Uphold the law (Torah)! (KJV)"* But then, how do we uphold (Uphold or confirm) the *Torah*? Is it merely by saying or believing that it is so? Among such a noble group of saints in *KS* there must be some more palpable reasons since as a Messianic Jewish Congregation **we certainly do uphold the Torah**. Here is what King David thought about the subject matter as detailed in *Psalm 19*: *"<sup>♪</sup> The Torah (KJV, Law) of Adonai is perfect, converting the soul...<sup>♪</sup>"*

### 1. We Uphold **Torah** because **Adonai and Yeshua** tell us to!

While there are 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) in the *Torah* (by some accounts), there are over 1,000 commands in the N.T! *Yeshua* said: *"<sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>This is My commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you"* (John 15:10-12). And: *"<sup>15</sup>If you love Me, you will keep My commandments... <sup>21</sup>He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him"* (John 14:15,21). A commandment is an order, whether to forgive our debtors, not to lie, not to eat things that are not food or to rejoice in *Sukkot*. It is encapsulated in obedience (the Hebrew *sh'ma*).

### 2. We Uphold **Torah** because **Torah** gives us our identity!

The *Torah* tells us how to be a Messianic Jew (a Jewish believer in *Yeshua*). Many Jewish traditions are purely cultural, but the *Torah* presents a lifestyle that transcends culture. We are called to precisely that lifestyle. The *Torah* is what gives the Children of Abraham their identity. Believing in *Yeshua* completes that identity. If you are a Non-Jewish Believer, you also get your identity from *Torah*: *"<sup>29</sup>And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise"* (Gal. 3:29).

### 3. We Uphold **Torah** because **'The Torah is who we are!'**

We are new creations: *"<sup>7</sup>Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new"* (2 Cor. 5:17). This is all that matters: *"<sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means<sup>[d]</sup> anything—but only a new creation"* (Gal. 6:15). The N.T. tells us we are completely made over. Who is in our inside now? None other than *HaTorah* (this is the name the early Believers called *Messiah Yeshua*). This was prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures: *"<sup>30</sup>Behold, days are coming" – it is a declaration of Adonai – "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah – <sup>31</sup>not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them." it is a declaration of Adonai. <sup>32</sup>"But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days" – it is a declaration of Adonai – "I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people. <sup>33</sup>No longer will each teach his neighbor or each his brother, saying: 'Know Adonai,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest." it is a declaration of Adonai. "For I will forgive their iniquity, their sin I will remember no more" (Jer. 31:30-31). If we now consider the Scriptures: *"<sup>14</sup>For when Gentiles, who do not have the Torah, do by nature the things of the Torah, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the Torah. <sup>15</sup>They show that the work of the Torah is written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts switching between accusing or defending them"* (Ro. 2:14-15) and *"<sup>10</sup>For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says Adonai. I will put My Torah into their mind, and upon their hearts I will write it. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>11</sup>And no more will they teach, each one his fellow citizen and each one his brother, saying, 'Know Adonai,' because all will know Me, from the least of them to the greatest. <sup>12</sup>For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and their sins I will remember no more"* (Heb. 8:10-12 quoting Jer. 31:30-33). Since *Torah* is written in our hearts, *Torah* is part of our **BASIC***

**MAKEUP** as believers in *Yeshua*! New creations obviously should do what comes naturally to them, that is, keep the *Torah* that is inscribed in the Believer's heart!

#### **4. We Uphold Torah because Torah is Jacob's (James') Mirror!**

James (*Ya'akov* or *Jacob*) said we needed to look in the mirror and see ourselves through the *Torah*:  
“<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror – <sup>24</sup>for once he looks at himself and goes away, he immediately forgets what sort of person he was. <sup>25</sup>But the one who looks intently into the perfect Torah, the Torah that gives freedom, and continues in it, not becoming a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts – he shall be blessed in what he does” (*James* 1:22-25). The person who sees himself in the *Torah mirror* and remembers what he looks like is this one that is the doer of the things the Word of God requires. The reflection we should see in the *Torah* is that of **ONE WHO HAS BEEN REDEEMED**. It is not merely a list of **DO's and DON'TS**, it is literally *Yeshua in us, the Hope of Glory*. Unless we enter into this relationship with *HaTorah*, a whole new realm of new abundant life in *Messiah* is unattainable!

#### **5. We Uphold Torah because Messiah Yeshua Upheld and Followed Torah!**

*Yeshua* is the *Torah made flesh*. We should strive to be what the song articulates: “*To Be Like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask is to be like Him...*” *WWYD* (WWJD)? *Yeshua* is inside of us (*2 Cor. 4:7*) so we should do what he did: *Live a Torah Lifestyle!*

#### **6. We Uphold Torah by what we communicate to non-believers!**

We need to correct one of the major theological tragedies and error that has been evident in the body of *Messiah* for over 1,800 years! Many theologians today continue to swallow the anti-*Torah* teachings of the church fathers! They continue to publish and teach today with the **VERYSAME BIAS!** Our brothers and sisters in the body of believers may not be as anti-Semitic and anti-*Torah* as many of the church fathers were, but **THEY HAVE INHERITED THEIR ANTI-TORAH and ANTI-JEWISH INTERPRETATIONS and DOCTRINES OUT OF THE N.T. SCRIPTURES!** Truly we have inherited lies from our fathers. If people were honest in the exegesis of the Scriptures, they would conclude that the N.T. is **TORAH FRIENDLY** after all! For those of us who are Messianic Jews, what does our inherited anti-*Torah* attitude say to our Jewish people and the traditional Jewish world? How do they see us? What do our Jewish families and friends see? Do they see us as *observant* or *apathetic*? Why would any Jewish person then want what we have? Rabbi Benjamin Blech of the Jewish Orthodox Yeshiva in NY writes:

*“Christianity therefore rejected the Torah and gave a new interpretation to the covenant at Sinai. This is the crucial distinction between the Newer and Older covenants. The Torah was assuredly given to the Jewish people at Sinai, but its laws were no longer binding, according to Christianity. How could God have given directives that He Himself later saw fit to change or do away with?”*

Thus, to many Jewish people, the **Good News** is nothing but **Bad News**. According to conventional, replacement-theology-based Christianity Jews are *non-entities*! But we in *Kehilat Kol Simcha* provide undisputable and non-negotiable proof that Believers are grafted into the Olive Tree of **Am Israel Chai**.

*“♪ When the Torah of Adona-i is in my heart I will live like Jesus (Yeshua) lived ♪”*

*Shabbat Shalom!*