

Perfect!

[פרשת פקודי] [כא] אלה פקודי המשכן משכן העד

An Accolade of Torah!

Today's *Parashat* is *Pekudei*: “²¹These are (eleh) the accounts (Pikudei) of the Tabernacle of the Testimony (hamishkan mishkan haedut)...” (Ex. 38:21). The Hebrew word (פקודי) (*Pekudei*) can also be pronounced (*Pikudei*) and it also appears in *Psalms 19:8* — which is an accolade of the *Torah of Adonai* (*Torat Adonai*) {See my May 4, 2024 message: *What is Written in the Heart*}.. Notice the Hebrew pun in *Ex. 28:21*: (*hamishkan mishkan haedut*) literally, *The Mishkan*, a *Mishkan of the Testimony*. The eulogy begins in *Psalms 19:7*: “*The Torah of Adonai is perfect.*” . Perfection is a catchy word and a common word included in the slogans of many businesses (e.g., *Perfection Auto Repair in Gainesville*). The Hebrew Word for perfect is *Temimah* (תמימה), which means: whole, flawless, unblemished, perfect, honest, upright, ingenuous, artless, guileless, simpleminded, cherubic, naive, childlike, unsophisticated. We in *Kol Simcha*, keep (guard, *shomer*), honor, reverence and esteem Scripture, and especially His *Torah*.

⁷The *Torah of Adonai* {תורת יהוה} is perfect (תמימה, *Temimah*: whole, flawless), *converting the soul: the testimony* (עדות, *edut*) of Adonai is sure (נאמנה, *Ne-emanah*: sure & trusted), *making wise the simple*.
⁸The statutes (פקודי, *Pikudei*) of Adonai are right (ישרים, *Yesharim*: right & honest), *rejoicing the heart: the commandment* (מצוה, *mitzvah*) of Adonai is pure (ברה מאירה, *Barah Meirat*: pure light), *enlightening the eyes*.
⁹The fear (יראה, *yirat*) of Adonai is clean (טהורה, *Tehurah*: clean & untainted), *enduring for ever: the judgments* (משפטי, *mishpetei*) of Adonai are true and righteous (אמת צדקו יודו, *Emet Tzadku Yachdav*: true and righteous) altogether.
¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb (Psalm 19:7-10, KJV).

1. We keep, honor, reverence and esteem *Torah* because *Abba* and *Yeshua* tell Us To.

There are 613 *mitzvot* (commandments in the *Torah*), however, there are over 1,000 *mitzvot* in the *B'rit Chadasha*. *Yeshua* said: ¹⁰"If you keep My commandments (*mitzvot*), you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments (*mitzvot*) and abide in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be full." ¹²This is My commandment (*mitzvah*), that you love one another just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I command you' (John 15:10-12). In the previous chapter *Yeshua* had said: ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments... ²¹He 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 and a mandate – whether to honor *Shabbat*, not murder, or not lie, or to honor our parents, or to eat clean food (to not eat what is not food), or to rejoice in *Sukkot*.

2. We keep, honor, reverence and esteem *Torah* because *Torah* gives us definition.

The *Torah* tells us how to become a child of Abraham. Many Jewish traditions are purely cultural, but the *Torah* presents a lifestyle in holiness that *transcends culture*. The *Torah* is what gives the descendants of Abraham their identity. Believing in *Yeshua* only makes that identity complete!

3. We keep, honor, reverence and esteem *Torah* because it is who we are.

We are new creations: ¹⁷Therefore 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) and ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor

uncircumcision means anything – but only (being) a new creation" (Gal. 6:15). The Word tells us we are completely made over. What is inside of us now? The answer is *Ha-Torah (Yeshua)*. Jeremiah said: *"³¹not 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. ³²"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. ³³No 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. 31:31-33).* Consider the Scripture: *"¹⁴For 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. ¹⁵They 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 this passage from Hebrews, which quotes Jer. 31:31-33: *"¹⁰For 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. ¹¹And 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. ¹²For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and their sins I will remember no more" (He. 8:10-12).* Since the *Torah* is written in our hearts, the *Torah* is part of our *basic makeup* as believers in *Yeshua*. New creations should do what comes naturally to them – keep the *Torah* that is inscribed in their heart.

4. We keep, honor, reverence and esteem *Torah* because this is *the Scriptural Mirror*.

Yaakov (James) said we needed to look ourselves in the mirror and see ourselves through the *Torah*: *"²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. ²³For 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 — ²⁴for once he looks at himself and goes away, he immediately forgets what sort of person he was. ²⁵But 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).* So it is the person who sees himself in the mirror – the *Torah* – and *remembers what he looks like*. It is the one that is the *doer of the work* the Word requires. The reflection we 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 inside us, the hope of Glory*.' Unless we enter in to this relationship with *Ha-Torah*, a whole new realm of new life in Messiah is unavailable.

5. We keep, honor, reverence and esteem *Torah* because Messiah did.

Yeshua is the Word (*Torah*) made flesh. Thus we should strive to be like the old hymn we used to sing in services: ♪*To Be Like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I ask, is to be like Him*♪ *Yeshua* lives inside of us. How awesome is that! This is why Scripture states: *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, so that the surpassing greatness of the power may be from God and not from ourselves" (2 Cor. 4:7).* *Shabbat Shalom!*