

October 18, 2022

## Torah, the Foundation

Shalom,

The Torah, or the Pentateuch, is comprised of the first five books of the Bible. The word, “Torah,” contrary to how it is often translated, does not mean “Law,” but should be rendered as “Instruction” or “Teaching.” Torah is the foundation for all scripture. Jesus taught extensively from its books, often explaining meanings that were different from traditional understanding.

**Since the words of Torah are foundational, it seems important that we should know them and know how to live our lives in accord with the meaning Jesus taught.**

Israeli scholars divided the Torah into *Parashot*, or *Portions*, before chapters and verses were added and devised reading plans that direct the schedule of the portions throughout a yearly cycle. In these emails, we highlight the portion, or portions, scheduled through the Hebrew Calendar year, beginning after the fall feasts. Our intention is to, not just read and comment, but to relate various other passages throughout the older and newer covenant scriptures back to **the foundation**. In this way, we are not just studying history, or religion, but allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us things about God’s Word that are so easy to miss; for instance: How does the story of the offering of Isaac relate to us today? or What can we learn from the teaching of the various sacrifices that still have meaning for born-again believers? We can’t cover all of them, but we try to hear what the Holy Spirit is leading us toward.

In this first Torah portion found in ***Genesis 1:1–6:8*** and called ***Bereishith*** which is translated “**In the beginning**,” the Word of God teaches that God created all things, and in John 1:1, we are told that **The Word of God (Jesus) created all things**, and in Hebrews 1:3, that all creation **continues to be upheld and maintained by the power of the Word, who is Jesus the Messiah**.

This portion of Scripture called, “**Bereishith**,” is also the name of the first book of Torah and covers the six days of creation to the time of Noah. During those six days, the scripture records that, “**God saw the light that it was good**.” On the next five days, as His creative work progressed, the words, “**And God saw that it was good**,” were written. At the end of the sixth day, we read:

***And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.*** And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31 KJV)

It is believed that the time span from creation to the time of Noah is over 1600 years. Notice what changed during those years that led up to the days just prior to the flood.

## **What caused the “Very good creation” to sink to unrepentant depravity?**

*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. And the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them.” (Genesis 6:5-7 KJV)*

*And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:9 KJV)*

*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17 KJV)*

It is obvious that the disobedience of Adam and Eve unleashed evil on the earth into all God’s “very good” creation that was passed on to their children. **Remember, God had blessed mankind with authority to rule in the earth. God’s perfect plan was that His people would carry out His will on the earth, not as servants, but as friends in covenant working in concert to expand His garden.**

## **Opening the door to the natural mind**

The eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was not just disobedience and rebellion, but also was the beginning of mankind operating in the flesh.

*For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6-8 ESV)*

**Thinking naturally about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** may seem like something we should want to know, but **God made it clear that His plan for mankind**

**is that He might direct them by His Spirit through their spirit instead of their discerning and judging by their natural senses.**

Consider what happened during the next 1600 years as men became increasingly wicked until every imagination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5) **We can easily see that such natural reasoning is rampant today with the result being that many now determine right and wrong by using the limited resource of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the natural intellect infected with the deceptive, satanic wisdom of the world.**

*The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.** (1 Corinthians 2:14-16 NIV)*

We are often confronted with the choice to believe God and His Word completely or to take a little from the Bible and a little from the wisdom of this world. **I choose life! We get to eat from the Tree of Life!**

*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **choose you this day whom ye will serve;** whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.** (Joshua 24:15 KJV)*

Building on the Rock,  
Terry

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