

Are We Saved by Torah?

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Definition of Sin

Sin is the breaking of God's Ten Commandment law. "Sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4).

The law of God is perfect (Psalm 19:7), and its principles cover every conceivable sin. The commandments cover "man's all [the whole duty of man]" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Nothing is left out.

Definition of Torah

Torah - The Hebrew word "Torah" (תּוֹרָה means "instruction," "teaching," or "law," and can refer to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) or the entire body of Jewish law and wisdom.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Literal Meaning:

The word "Torah" comes from the Hebrew root "yarah" יָרָה (which means "to throw, cast, or shoot," and in this context, it means "to throw a direction" or "to throw instruction".

In Judaism:

The Five Books of Moses (Pentateuch): The Torah is often specifically used to refer to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

Jewish Law and Wisdom: More broadly, "Torah" can encompass the entire body of Jewish law and wisdom, including both written and oral traditions.

Divine Guidance: In a broader sense, "Torah" can refer to God's revealed teaching or guidance for humankind.

The Law of Moses & God's Law?

Are they the same? **NO!**

“And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.”

(Deu. 31:24-26 KJV)

The Law of Moses

Moses' law contained the temporary, ceremonial law of the Old Testament. It regulated the priesthood, sacrifices, rituals, meat and drink offerings, etc., all of which foreshadowed the cross. This law was added "till the Seed should come," and that seed was Yeshua (Galatians 3:16, 19 KJV).

The ritual and ceremony of Moses' law pointed forward to Yeshua's sacrifice. When He died, this law came to an end, but the Ten Commandments (God's law) "stand fast forever and ever" (Psalm 111:8 KJV). The fact that there are two laws is made clear in Daniel 9:10, 11 KJV.

The Law of Moses

The fact that there are two laws is made clear in Daniel:

Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God,
to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his
servants the prophets. Yea, all Israel have transgressed
thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy
voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the
oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of
God, because we have sinned against him.
(Daniel 9:10, 11 KJV)

God's Law

God's law has existed as long as sin has existed. The Bible says, "Where there is no law there is no transgression [sin]" (Romans 4:15 KJV). So God's Ten Commandment law existed from the beginning.

Men broke that law (sinned—1 John 3:4 KJV). Because of sin (or breaking God's law), Moses' law was given (or "added"—Galatians 3:19, "Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.") till Christ should come and die. Two separate laws are involved: God's law and Moses' law.

God's Law

Moses' Law	God's Law
Called the law of Moses - Luk. 2:22	Called the law of the Lord - Isa. 5:24
Called "law...contained in ordinances"-Eph. 2:15	Called the royal law - James (Ya'acov) 2:8
Written by Moses - 2 Chron. 35:12	Written by God on stone -Exo. 31:18; 32:16
Placed outside the ark - Deu. 31:26	Placed inside the ark - Exo. 40:20
Ended at the cross – Eph. 2:15	Will stand forever - Luk. 16:17
Added because of sin - Gal. 3:19	Points out sin - Rom. 7:7; 3:20
Contrary to us, against us - Col. 2:14	Not burdensome - 1 Joh. 5:3
Judges no one - Col. 2:14-16	Judges all people - James 2:10-12
Fleshly - Heb. 7:16	Spiritual - Rom. 7:14
Made nothing perfect - Heb. 7:19	Perfect - Psa.19:7

The 10 Commandments – Old & New

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

(Exo. 20:3 KJV)

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10 KJV)

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

(Exo. 20:4-6 KJV)

“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

(1 John 5:21 KJV)

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” (Exo. 20:7 KJV)

“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.”
(1 Tim. 6:1 KJV)

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” (Exo. 20:8-11 KJV)

“He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works.' There remains therefore a rest ["keeping of a sabbath,"] for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” (Heb. 4:4, 9, 10)

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The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Exo. 20:12 KJV)

“Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Matthew 19:19 KJV)

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Thou shalt not kill.” (Exo. 20:13 KJV)

“Thou shalt not steal.” (Exo. 20:15 KJV)

“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” (Exo. 20:16 KJV)

“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (Rom. 13:9 KJV)

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

**“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”
(Exo. 20:14 KJV)**

**“He saith unto him, Which ones? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness”
(Matthew 19:18 KJV)**

The 10 Commandments - Old & New

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.”

(Exo. 20:17 KJV)

“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.” (Romans 7:7 KJV)

Can God's Law Ever be Changed?

NO!. The Bible is clear that the law of God cannot be changed. The commandments are revealed principles of God's holy character and are the very foundation of His kingdom. They will be true as long as God exists.

“My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips” (Psalm 89:34).

“All His precepts [commandments] are sure. They stand fast forever and ever” (Psalm 111:7, 8).

“It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail” (Luke 16:17).

Why Worry About the Law?

Isn't our conscience a safe guide? NO! The Bible speaks of an evil conscience, a defiled conscience, and a seared conscience—none of which are safe. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12). God says, “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool” (Proverbs 28:26).

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Luke 1:37 - For nothing will be impossible with God. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight. Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Not just hearers but doers.

Can Anyone Be Saved by the Law?

NO! No one can be saved by keeping the law. Salvation comes only through faith, salvation (justification) is the free gift of God, and we receive this gift of Grace (God's imputed righteousness at Christ's expense, which we don't deserve) by faith (a demonstrated belief in Yeshua's sacrifice) by our actions and deeds (works) by turning from our sinful life and following God's Torah (commandments). The law serves as a mirror that points out the sin in our lives. Just as a mirror can show dirt on our face but cannot cleanse our own face, so cleansing and forgiveness from that sin comes only by the free gift of God.

Can Anyone Be Saved by the Law?

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20 KJV).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8, 9 KJV)

Does Grace Free Us From The Law?

No! The Scriptures teach the very opposite. Grace is like a prisoner's pardon. It forgives them, but it does not give them the freedom to break another law. The forgiven person, living under grace, should actually want to keep God's law in their gratitude for salvation. A person who refuses to keep God's law, saying that they are living under grace, is lost.

Does Grace Free Us From The Law?

“Sin [breaking God’s law—1 John 3:4] shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin [break the law] because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (Romans 6:14, 15).

“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law” (Romans 3:31).

Did Yeshua Abolish God's Law?

NO! Jesus specifically asserted that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill (or keep) it.

**Instead of doing away with the law, Jesus magnified it as the perfect guide for holy living:
“The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.” (Isaiah 42:21)**

Did Yeshua Abolish God's Law?

For example, Jesus pointed out that “You shall not murder” condemns anger “without a cause” (Matthew 5:21, 22) and hatred (1 John 3:15), and that lust is a form of adultery (Matthew 5:27, 28). He said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law. ... I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ... Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled” (Matthew 5:17, 18).

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Does Colossians & Ephesians Teach the Law Ended at the Cross?

NO! These passages both refer to the law containing “ordinances,” or Moses’ law, which was the ceremonial law governing the sacrificial system and the priesthood. All of this ceremony and ritual foreshadowed the cross and ended at Christ’s death, as God had intended. Moses’ law was added till the “Seed should come,” and that “Seed ... is Christ” (Galatians 3:16, 19). God’s law could not be involved here, for Paul spoke of it as holy, just, and good many years after the cross (Romans 7:7, 12)

Does Colossians & Ephesians Teach the Law Ended at the Cross?

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ (Colossians 2:14-17 KJV)

Does Colossians & Ephesians Teach the Law Ended at the Cross?

Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; (Ephesians 2:15 KJV)

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. (Rom. 7:7 KJV)

Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. (Rom. 7:12 KJV)

God's Law Stands Forever....

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[commandments] are
sure. They stand fast
forever and ever”
(Psalm 111:7, 8).**