

# How To Read the Torah

It is called → Pentateuch, Book of Moses, The Law of Moses, Torah (Gen, Exo, Lev, Num, Deu)  
Creation, Fall, Patriarchs, Exodus, Law, Wilderness, Law 2nd time → the edge of the Promised Land

## CONFUSION - Which of the 613 Commandments Are We Required to Keep?

- Some believe we should be Torah Observant keep the feasts, customs, food restrictions, and Sabbath
- Some believe we are under moral BUT NOT civil or ceremonial (segment undefined in the Bible)
- Some who hold to the moral part of the law will keep the 10 Commandments, but not the Sabbath
- Lev 19 love our neighbor as ourselves, AND don't wear a garment of cloth made of 2 kinds of material
- Lev 20 punish sexual sins as a capital offense, AND to execute our children if they curse parents
- Deut 22 woman not to wear a man's garment AND make a parapet on your roof so no one falls off
- Even theologians interpret the law thru different lenses (covenantal view, or dispensational view)
- Others believe we are not under the law at all → there is a new covenant and his law is on our heart

## CONTRAST - A Clear Line of Demarcation After Christ Came

- Luk 16:16 ESV "**The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then** the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it.
- Joh 1:17 ESV For the **law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**
- Gal 3:24-26 ESV 24 So then, **the law was our guardian until Christ came**, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But **now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian**, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

## CLARITY - What value is the Torah to NT Christians? How do we read and teach it?

**Torah is quoted 250 times in the NT...**

2Ti 3:16-17 ESV All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training** in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be **competent, equipped** for every good work.

**When Reading → Ask → What does it teach about God?**

- **HIS HEART ABOUT MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE** Mat 19:8 ESV He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, **but from the beginning it was not so.**
- **HE IS HOLY** Lev 19:2 ESV "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall **be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.**

**When Reading → Ask → What does it teach about people?**

- **(WILDERNESS)** Heb 3:7-8 ESV Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, **8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion**, on the day of testing in the wilderness,
- **(GOLDEN CALF)** 1 Cor 10:11 Now **these things happened to them as an example**, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

**When Reading → Look for insight into God's plan of redemption (the book is about Jesus)**

- 1Co 5:7(b) ESV ... For **Christ, our Passover lamb**, has been sacrificed.
- Col 2:16-17 Therefore do not let anyone judge you with respect to food or drink, or in the matter of a feast, new moon, or Sabbath days—these are only the shadow of the things to come, **but the reality is Christ!**

**What principles or practical truths can be gleaned that are reinforced in the NT?**

- 1Co 9:9-11 ESV **For it is written in the Law of Moses**, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? 10 **Does he not speak entirely for our sake?** It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. 11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

## Carry Out the Righteous Requirements of the Law in a New Way

**THE LAW OF LOVE** Rom 13:8-10 ESV Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for **the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.** 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law.**

**THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE** Rom 8:1-4 ESV There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For **the law of the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from **the law of sin and death.** 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

- **The law of the spirit of life means we were married to the law but no longer...now married to Christ who was raised** → Rom 7:1-4 ESV Or do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to those who know the law--that **the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?** 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. 4 Likewise, my brothers, **you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead,** in order that we may bear fruit for God.

### SUMMARY

**I don't believe we are under the law - but under the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus and LOVE**

**If people ask why I don't keep the feasts, or the Sabbath, or eat certain foods, it is because**

1. I am not under the law, but living under a new covenant (because I cannot keep the law & be righteous)
2. The law was actually a covenant between God and Israel, NOT the Gentile world
  - a. As Gentiles we were never under the law → righteous is only found in Jesus

**What about people who want to keep the feasts, or eat the food or be Torah observant**

1. (there is no restriction to this in the NT)...but IF it becomes a **mandate for you for righteousness** and/or IF you impose that upon others as a standard of righteousness, **that is a serious error**

**What about the 10 Commandments?**

- Most of those (I believe all except the Sabbath) are included as NT commands
- The 10 commandments contain moral standards for all peoples and all generations...even those who have never heard of the law or 10 commandments have a CONSCIENCE that bears witness to these things
- Murder was morally wrong BEFORE the law (Cain and Abel)
- God included these moral codes IN the law...
- We obey it today NOT BECAUSE we are trying to gain righteousness by the law, but because it is a moral code for all generations...and fulfilled by the Law of LOVE in the NT.