

Torah Portion #20: Tetzaveh (תצוה) "you shall command"

Torah ~ Exodus 27:20-30:10 | Prophets ~ Ezekiel 43:10-10:27 | New Covenant ~ Acts 1:1-2:47; Hebrews 13:10-17

### Giving of the Torah

In our last few portions, God has been giving Moses the Torah on top of Mt. Sinai in *Exodus 19-31*. The day in which the Lord started this process of giving us the Torah is what would later become known as the Feast of Pentecost.

Pentecost (Shavuot) is on Sivan 6th on the Hebrew calendar and May / June on the Gregorian calendar. The first Shavuot occurred at the foot of Mt. Sinai, fifty days after crossing the Red Sea. Although receiving the Torah (Law) on Shavuot is not plainly stated in the Bible, scholars have carefully calculated events in the Bible to reach this conclusion.

#### But hasn't the Law been done away with?

Unfortunately, many believers seem to view the laws of the Torah as if they are a bad thing. It is commonly taught that the Law is the opposite of grace. This comes from a wrong understanding of what "Torah" and "Grace" really means.

*Torah* = God's guidelines, instructions, or teachings for His people that they can be more like Him and be blessed.

*Grace* = God's loving and unfavored forgiveness when we break His law and repent of our sins.

*Under Law* = Under the ultimate punishment for violating the Torah, which is spiritual death and separation from God.

*Sin* = Disobeying God's guidelines, instructions, or teachings (Torah).

*Repent* = To turn from our sins and not do them again by obeying God's Torah.

*Romans 2:12b* "and as many as have sinned under the law will be judged by the law" MEV

*Romans 6:14b* "for you are not under the law, but under grace" TLV

*Galatians 3:23* "But before faith came, we were kept under the law" KJV

*Galatians 5:18* "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." NKJV

#### The Holy Spirit & The Torah

As Yeshua ascended to Heaven, He told the disciples to wait for the Promise of God in *Luke 24:49* & *Acts 1:4-5*. On Shavuot, the disciples received the Promise, the baptism of the Holy Spirit in *Acts 2:1-4*. The Holy Spirit then wrote on the hearts of the disciples the same Torah that was given on the first Shavuot, fulfilling *Jer. 31:31-33* & *Ezek. 36:26-27*.

#### The New Testament teachings Torah Observance

Yeshua's own words in *Matthew 5:17* was that He did not come to get rid of what was written in the Old Testament.

*John 14:15* "If you love Me, you will keep My commands." TLV

*Romans 3:31* "Do we then make the law void through faith? God forbid! Instead, we establish the law." MEV

*Romans 6:15* "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? God forbid!" MEV

*1 Corinthians 11:1* "try to imitate me, even as I myself try to imitate the Messiah." CJB

#### Some Laws are Weightier than Others

Within the Torah we have laws that are Moral and laws that are Ceremonial. Yeshua said in *Matthew 23:23* that some Laws are "weightier" or "more important" than others. These weightier Laws of Torah that Yeshua is referring to is the Moral Laws. But He also says in this same verse that the lesser important Laws of Torah need to be obeyed as well, these would be the Ceremonial Laws.

#### In Closing

*Romans 7:12* "So the Torah is holy; that is, the commandment is holy, just and good." CJB

*1 Timothy 1:8* "We know that the Torah is good, provided one uses it in the way the Torah itself intends" CJB