

# Get Out of Jail Free Card – Where is God in these Curses upon us?

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August 17,  
2018

By Joseph F. Dumond



**News Letter 5854-021**

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**The 2nd Year of the 4th Sabbatical Cycle**

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**The 23rd year of the 120th Jubilee Cycle**

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**The 6th day of the 6th month 5854 years after the creation of Adam**

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**The 6th Month in the Second year of the Fourth Sabbatical Cycle**

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**The 4th Sabbatical Cycle after the 119th Jubilee Cycle**

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**The Sabbatical Cycle of Sword, Famines, and Pestilence**

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August 18, 2018

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Shabbat Shalom family,

## **Where is God?**

A large bridge collapses in Genoa Italy this week and at least 39 have now died. Where was God? Why did He not stop the storm or save the bridge?

Wild Fires are decimating California and British Columbia. Last month a wildfire raced across Greece and burnt 79 people alive. Many tried to drive away from the fires in their cars only to run into other cars that were abandoned on the road. This is where they raced to the sea. Some were burnt in their cars others were burnt trying to run and then still more drowned in the sea.

Thousands are being displaced from their homes. Where is God? Why does He not sent the rain? Why does He send the lightning instead?



So many praying for their houses to be spared many others pray for the dead and the victims, but He does not hear their prayers. Why?

As Elijah said to the priest of Baal, maybe the god they are praying to is busy having a dump. Maybe that is what god is doing or maybe he is asleep.

Why is Australia again in the worst drought in 400 years?



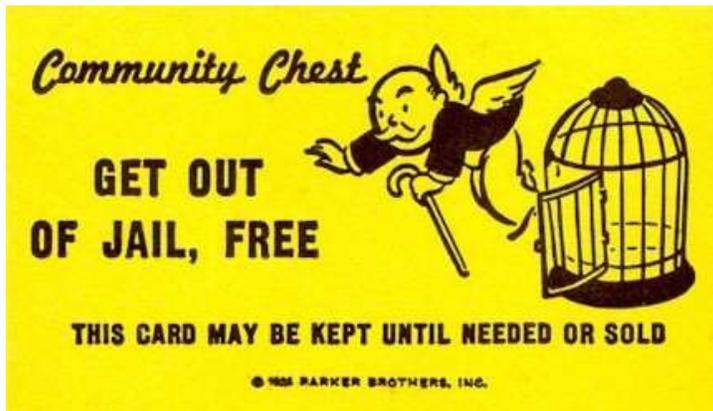
COONABARABRAN , NEW SOUTH WALES – JUNE 20: The Jerry family farm 'Marlborough', 40 km outside Coonabarabran. The New South Wales State government recently approved an emergency drought relief package of A\$600m, of which at least A\$250m is allocated for low interest loans to assist eligible farm businesses to recover. The package has been welcomed, though in the words of a local farmer "it barely touches the sides". Now with the real prospect of a dry El-Nino weather pattern hitting the state in Spring, the longer term outlook for rain here is dire. June 20, 2018 in Coonabarabran, Australia. (Photo by Brook Mitchell/Getty Images)

Yes, that must be it. god is too busy to come and help because he is having a royal dump. Elijah is right.

Maybe all these self-righteous Christians that keep writing to me should pray harder and pray louder. I know maybe they should get more people to pray and have huge prayer chains going. Maybe then god will wake up and hear.

Oh yes, there were over 400 Christians slaughtered in Nigeria this month by the Muslims. God must have been busy looking for the millions of Christians who used to be in Iraq and Syria just a few years ago who are nowhere on this earth to be found because they too were slaughtered by ISIS. I guess god did not know they were in trouble.

No, they were not raptured. If they were then god forgot the rest of you and us. I guess those Christians did not have the right get out of jail card like many of you think you have.



The Anglo Saxon nations of the UK Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand have all been Christian nations for the past 300 years or so. Oh and I do not want to forget the Philippines too. They too have been a Christian nation and yet they have had Typhoons after typhoon and earthquakes and mudslides. Where was god in all of this?

Like President Duterte said, the god of the Christians is a stupid god. And I must agree!

Your god can't stop any of these things. Your Grace keeps going to war and disasters keep coming upon your lands. And you are called a Christian nation.

I call SKUBALA the exact same way the Apostle Paul did on those calling themselves Christian. I will let you look up the word in Greek.

Yes, I said **SKUBALA**. All of you who call yourself Christian you are full of **SKUBALA**!

If the god you are praying to was a real god then he would have loved you enough to stop all of these disasters.

Oops. I forgot, most of those who claim to be Christian have never read the bible from front to back. They only study the last half of the bible. They are clueless as to how to solve these problems.

Many roll their eyes at the notion that Yehovah controls the weather. Instead, they blame Mother Nature or weather systems, global warming, climate change or just bad luck. They deny any Bible-based understanding of why natural disasters occur. But they are not natural at all, they are Yehovah sent.

But what about those who do believe and pray for an end to droughts and other natural disasters? Yehovah does not and will not hear their prayers if they continue to sin.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Can these Christians of these nations answer the deep questions? Does Yehovah listen? And why would a loving god allow these things to happen in the first place?

No Christians are not able to answer these questions because they have rejected the only one from whom they can get the answers.

When Eastern Australia roasts, Western Australia is flooding, why does this happen in a Christian Nation? In similar fashion, the U.S. suffers hurricanes and deluges on one side and terrible fires on the other. Again why is this happening in a Christian nation? There is an answer.

But because it is in the “OLD TESTAMENT” the Christian will not consider it nor do they understand it. Until we do understand it and then begin to obey, Yehovah says these unnatural disasters will continue. Welcome to the new normal.

Yehovah warned that He would inflict many of these disasters on us if we will not obey. On the other side of the coin, Yehovah also promises fertile lands and bumper crops.

Yehovah promised us in Leviticus 26:3

“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid.

So why are we receiving so many disasters after one after another? Disaster after disaster and not the blessings?

We are reaping the fruits of our actions. But, wonderful blessings could be at our fingertips if we were just to obey!

Can Yehovah say it any plainer? Obey me, and I'll make sure you never suffer drought or any other natural disaster! This obedience requires repenting of our former way—the way that brought on these curses. Imagine the impact on the Earth if mankind heeded in repentance and obedience!

Now notice what Yehovah says will happen as a result of not keeping His law.

Lev 26:14 “But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you. And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

Yehovah is very direct. Break my laws, and I will send drought so bad it will seem like the sky is made of iron. A sky of iron and earth of brass sums up the parched Australian interior or the wildfires of Western USA and Canada.

Leviticus 26 has the answer to stop the wildfires. Lev 26 has the answers to stop the drought. To end these unnatural disasters all we have to do is repent. Repent and obey Yehovah's law!

Proverbs 28:9 If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Proverbs 1:22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

How many goodie two-shoed Christian says as long as they don't bother me then it is ok when talking about LGBT or Pride. How many Christian LGBT fellowships are there now? Christian LGBT Priests seems like an oxymoron, a contradiction of words in the same sentence.

First, consider this proverb.

Proverbs 28:4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,

In the Marikina district of Manila in 2018 they held their pride parade. Yes, this is a Christian nation. I am fully aware that Israel and even Jerusalem also have Pride Parades and Yah calls Jerusalem Sodom.

Ezekiel 16:46 And your elder sister is Samaria, who lived with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who lived to the south of you, is Sodom with her daughters. Not only did you walk in their ways and do according to their abominations; within a very little time you were more corrupt than they in all your ways. As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it. Samaria has not committed half your sins. You have committed more abominations than they, and have made your sisters appear righteous by all the abominations that you have committed.

Rev 11:8 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.





Here is the caption under these pictures for this year's 2018 Pride parade using 2017 pictures.

Currently on its 24th year, this year's Metro Manila Pride March will be following the theme #RiseUpTogether. If last year's #HereTogether was about spreading the love and support in the community, this year's campaign is marked by a heightened awareness of the inequality that LGBTQIA+ people have to face every day. In response, Metro Manila Pride calls for the community to come together and learn from each other in order to become better advocates and create meaningful, longterm change.

Now do not forget the Philippines is the most Christian nation in all of Asia.

But this is what Proverbs says about tolerance of evil.

Proverbs 28:4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,

Christians who do not keep the law praise those who are evil.

Now this year's Pride parade took place July 13, 2018.

Then in August 11, 2018, one month later. Yehovah responded.

Tropical Storm Karding exited the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Saturday afternoon, but it spawned the southwest monsoon rains over most parts of the main island of Luzon, including Metro Manila, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

The continuous rainfall has caused flooding in many parts of Metro Manila.

Particularly hard hit was Marikina, where the river swelled to a level of at least 20 meters Saturday evening.

As rainfall continued on Sunday, many of those areas remained flooded.





Proverbs 16:18 PRIDE goes before destruction, and  
a haughty spirit before a fall.

HMMMMM

But what do I know?



I could have just as easily shown PRIDE parades in the USA and then shown you the wildfires they are having after their parades and the same for Canada.





He may have saved his house this time but next month there are going to be mudslides now that the brush is all gone.

Yehovah is pleading with all of us right now. But few are listening. The 4th curse is about to begin and that curse is war. You can read in the comments section after many News Letters from the scoffers and fools delighting in the downfall of this ministry. They are praying for it.

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The longer we do not keep the commandments, the Sabbath, the Holy Days of Lev 23, and the Sabbatical and Jubilee years the worse this drought and wildfires and flooding and mudslides and earthquakes will get. These cattle

are swarming the water truck because they are dying from no water. Once this source of food goes then what will you do?

Christians, as President Duterte said the god you worship a stupid god. It is time for you to repent and learn about the one true Yehovah who is able to send the rains so that they are a blessing and not a curse so that the land and the animals are blessed and not flooded or destroyed. That God is the God we at Sightedmoon.com pray to and teach about and obey. Will you be able to say the same thing?



We are about to go into Romans and expound on the grace that Paul talks about there. But I want to point out something that many of you will have just right over.

Proverbs 1:22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

Yehovah is pouring out His Spirit on all flesh in these last days. Some of you have answered that call by obeying the commandments. You are now being saved by His grace. Christianity wants the grace, they want and claim to have the Holy Spirit that is being poured out but they have missed something.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual,

Yehovah’s spirit in you keeps the law and teaches you to keep the law. If the spirit in you is telling you the law is done away with then you have the wrong spirit. You have Satan’s Spirit who deceives the whole world and even you.



You see this was not a get out jail card as you assumed. It was a get out of my kingdom I do not know you, card. And it is going to be given to many who do great works in the name of Jesus. It will be given to many who cast out demons and who write great prophecies. It will be given to many who have done away with the law

Mat 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

How do you get to know the Father? By the keeping the commandments.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Many Christians assume they are going to be married to Yehshua and that they have the invitation to the wedding. Again read what you are being told about the 5 foolish virgins.

Mat 25:10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward, the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

Again we read about the wedding in Mat 22

### The Parable of the Wedding Feast

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

All of the prophets have been killed by those to whom they were sent. Read the comments from the Christians on our News Letters.

Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

And what is the wedding garment that you are to have on? Remember what Romans 7:14 says about the spirit that is to be in you.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual,

Now add to this Psalm 119:172

Let my tongue sing of thy word; For all thy commandments are righteousness.

The commandments are the very thing you have to put on, in order to be righteous. The law is what you must have in you in order to be spiritual.

Heb 10:16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

And again in Heb 8:10

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And it is this law that Christians will not keep and say is done away that Yehovah is going to write upon our hearts. The same law He told Jeremiah He would write on our hearts at the end of this age.

Jer 31:32 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

That law that Christian refuse to do is what Yehovah is going to write on our hearts. That law that they say is done away is the Holy Spirit that is to dwell in us. This Awesome law that frees us from the penalties of death as we obey it is our righteousness. And it the grace of Yehovah that any of us at all have been blessed to understand these things.

Many are called and few are chosen

Let those who want to quote Mathew 5 read it all in context. They claim that Jesus fulfilled the law so they do not have to now follow the law. Now read the rest of what is written there.

Mat 5:17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments**, and teaches men so, shall be **called least in the kingdom of heaven**; but **whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven**.

I have chosen to do the commandments and to teach them to others. It is my hope to be called Great in the Kingdom of Yehovah. Can you say the same thing?

## Romans Law and Grace Explained

We have been showing you these past few weeks about the teachings of Paul and how they were as Peter said twisted by those who know not the Torah.

2Pe 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

We are showing you how many in the Christian world use grace in order not to keep the law and this is where they have erred. At the same time as we do this, this teaching will cause many in the Messianic groups to become uncomfortable. I know I am when I study this. Why? Because we too, need to be reminded that we are not saved because we keep the Torah. There is a line that some cross between keeping Torah for the Love of Yehovah and keeping all the other laws to justify themselves.

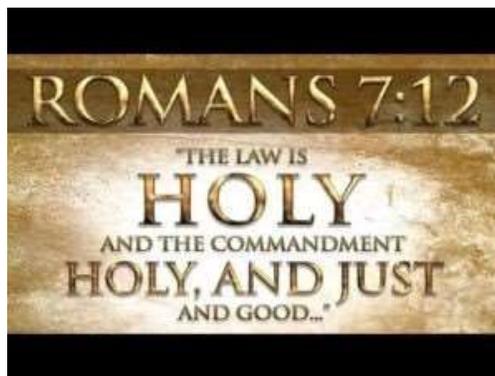
Never forget Yehovah called you while you were not keeping the Law, while you were still keeping the pagan holidays.

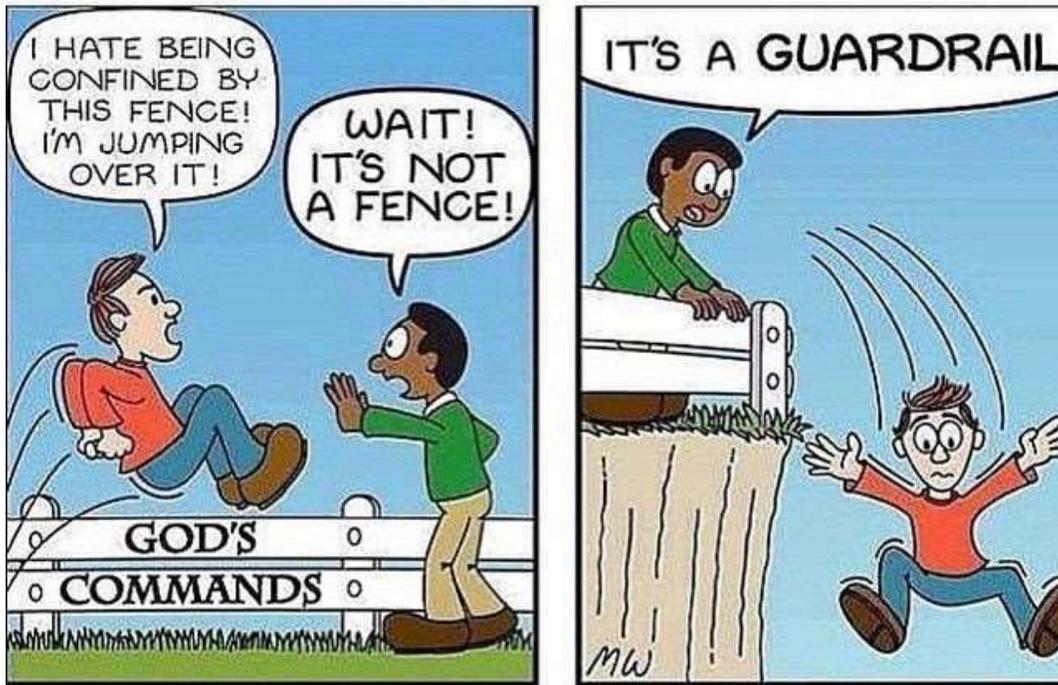
He called you when you were doing that!. That is the grace He showed to you. Think about this as you read.

Last week we covered the controversial subject of grace and law and we focused on Galatians and we showed you that Paul did not do away with the law. What we did show you was that if you use the law to gain your salvation you are in error. We also showed you that if you throw out the law and do not obey it, and claim that you are saved by grace alone that this too, is in error.

Indeed you are saved by the grace of Yehovah and that alone, but you still need to obey the commands because you love Yehovah.

This week we will look at the controversial scriptures in Romans and show them as they should be.





Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,  
 but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.  
 – PROVERBS 19:16

**I am again going to quote from Torah Rediscovered by Ariel and D'vorah Berkowitz. Pages 115-117.**

The theme of Shu'al's letter to the Romans is similar to that of his epistle to the Galatians, only more comprehensive. The main topic is justification, or righteousness (the same root is used for both in Hebrew and Greek). In Romans, the rabbi is seeking to expound on the theme of Yahweh's righteousness in all its various aspects. As in Galatians, he also must deal with the concept of the Torah, for there were some in Rome as well who sought to be justified or made righteous by following the system of law that they thought was the Torah.

Since the themes are similar, the traditions of interpretation of the "law passages" are also similar. The church has consisted mostly of non-Jews throughout the centuries, most of whom have neither comprehended nor appreciated the Torah of Moses. Therefore they have taken little care to interpret the "law passages" properly. There are two key passages in Romans which have been especially misunderstood by many exegetes, resulting in a gross anti-Torah sentiment among the people of Christianity.

The first is in Romans 10:4 'For Messiah is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.' Many understand this verse to mean that Yahshua put an end to the Torah; that anyone who believes in Him no longer has any responsibility to follow the Torah, because Yahshua followed it for him.

A closer look at the Greek however reveals a different meaning. The Greek word translated "end" is the word telos. This word actually stresses the "goal" or the purpose for something. When used in this verse, we can say that Messiah is the "goal (telos) of the law". Or, as Stern commentary translates it, "Messiah is the goal at which the Torah aims". In other words, in the context, Sha'ul is speaking of people seeking the righteousness of Yahweh. They should seek it as revealed in the Torah and most fully realized in the Messiah. Stern writes, 'The goal at which the Torah aims is acknowledging and trusting in the

Messiah, who offers on the ground of this trusting the very righteousness they are seeking. They would see the righteousness which the Torah offers is offered through Him and only through Him.’

Thus, instead of teaching that through faith in Messiah the Torah is now done away with. This verse teaches that the Torah’s goal is to point someone to the righteousness found through faith in the Messiah. However, as a new creation in Messiah after receiving Yahshua, he is now able to live the Torah lifestyle through the power of the indwelling Spirit of Yahweh. In so doing, he is living out who he now is—the righteousness of Yahweh in Messiah. The Torah is the revealed righteousness of Yahweh. The Torah lifestyle is the living out of that righteousness. What is it that is written in the new-creation heart and mind? The very Torah of Yahweh! (Jeremiah 31:33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, ” I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.)

Now we will look at one of the passages most commonly used to demonstrate that the believer has no responsibility to follow the Torah: the seventh chapter of the book of Romans. To be sure, this is a difficult passage to understand completely. However, it can be interpreted accurately enough to confirm that it has nothing to do with eliminating a believer’s responsibility to live the Torah, to live the righteousness of Yahweh that he has become as a new creation in Messiah.

The key questions that we must ask about this passage are these: What has died? What has changed? Was it the Torah that died, or was it something else? We ask these questions because the first half of the chapter speaks about a death, a separation, a change that occurred when Messiah came into our lives.

We know from reading Mathew 5:17 that the Torah could not have died. It is Yahweh’s eternal Word! Therefore, something else must have died. What has changed is our relationship to the Torah, because of our changed relationship to sin. Before we knew Messiah’s righteousness by faith, we attempted to use the Torah as a means of earning righteousness, something it was never intended to be. Only one outcome could ever have resulted from such an illegitimate usage, and is condemnation because such works-righteousness could never remove our sin.

When Yahweh brought us to faith in Messiah, however, everything changed. By faith, we transferred our trust from works we attempted to do ourselves to the finished work of Yahshua. Our new reality is that Messiah has atoned for our sin and made us new creations. In other words, we submitted to Yahweh’s righteousness found in Yahshua instead of relying on man’s righteousness through our own efforts.

Thus, our relationship to the Torah has changed. Before, because we were using it wrongly by attempting to earn our justification through following it, all the Torah could do was condemn us. Now, because we believe in Messiah and are trusting in Yahweh to justify us, the Torah has become something completely different. Just as its Author designed it to be, it is ‘Holy, Righteous, and good.’ (Romans 7:12).

Our relationship to the Torah can change, according to Sha’ul, because the problem was not the Torah—it was sin. “Therefore, did that which is good [Torah] become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.” (Romans 7:13)

For years, many have been hearing a different interpretation of this crucial passage. Now we want a new voice to be heard. Listen to it one more time as a summary. This passage teaches that our enemy was sin, not the Torah. Because we are new creations in Messiah, our entire relationship to sin has changed. Therefore, our entire relationship to Torah has changed. Before Messiah, sin caused the Torah to be a book which, because we followed it in an attempt to earn righteousness, largely served to condemn us. But Messiah has shown us that we cannot earn righteousness. Rather, it is a gift from Yahweh to all who trust in the sacrificial atonement and the subsequent resurrection of Messiah. Hence, after we trusted in the Messiah, the Torah became for us what it was really meant to be all along: a holy, righteous, and good book.

Torah is Yahweh’s teaching to men about righteousness—what it is and how it behaves. The true believer (anyone who is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb) does not do in order to become. He does because he is what Yahweh has made him righteous of Yahweh in Messiah. Thus James writes, “I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18) The true Torah is the walk of faith—faith and rest in the finished work of Messiah. “This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says, ‘In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it’.” (Isaiah 30:15) Instead, “Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from Yahweh, and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to Yahweh’s righteousness’. Romans 10:3)

These words of Sha'ul summarize perfectly why and how man has perverted the true Torah of Yahweh into a system of works by which he believes he can establish his own righteousness. Read the rabbi's words once again, and think about them carefully:

“Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from Yahweh, and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to Yahweh's righteousness.”

James, fully comprehending this, declares, “I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18) “The man who looks into the perfect Torah”-the what?-"the perfect Torah that gives freedom"-that gives what? Freedom! Freedom for what?-Freedom to be who we are now!-"and continues to do this, not forgetting who he is but doing who he is-he will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:25, our paraphrase)

There is a righteousness that is by the Torah (Romans 10:5). It is a righteousness that is ours in Yahweh (Romans 10:3), and it is by faith (Romans 10:6). This is the Good News of Romans 10:16. But not all the Israelites accepted the Good News. Instead they, and mankind throughout the ages, have developed the concept of "law". As we have seen, performance-based acceptance is a detrimental theological idea all in itself.

“Thus says the Lord, “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.’ But you said, ‘We will not walk in it’” (Jeremiah 6:16) The true Torah is “a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.” (Proverbs 3:16-18)

When the words of life (true Torah) are changed into “law,” they cease to be the words of life.

We will next examine some of the passages in Romans from the book Hold fast pages 137-143.

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

The question from this passage is, “Who is a real Jewish person? It seems to be teaching that anyone whose heart is circumcised is a Jewish person. Thus, the thinking goes, gentile believers in Yahshua, having their hearts circumcised, are “spiritual Jews.”

We do not interpret this passage to mean that gentile believers in Yahshua are “spiritual Jews”. The reason is simple. In the context, Paul is addressing the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or the physical Jewish people. Gentiles were addressed in 2:1-16, Beginning 2:17, Paul began to speak directly to Jewish people.

In that light, Paul is making an important distinction in this passage. He is saying that although he descendant of Jacob is circumcised (in the flesh) that alone does not make him the kind of Jewish person Yahweh called him to be. To prove his point, Paul makes a play on the word “Jew”. The readers understood that the word “Jew” is a derivative from the word “Judah” (Yehuda), which means “one who praises Yah.” Hence Paul is saying that a descendant of Jacob who praises Yahweh from a new creation heart is a true worshiper of Yahweh. Mere physical circumcision does not make one's heart circumcised. It is clear from the context that Paul was saying that the only way to receive this circumcision of the heart was to submit to Yahweh and receive His righteousness as a gift of grace through faith in Yahshua the Messiah. Any Jewish person who has done this is a spiritual, as well as physical, descendant of Abraham.

Romans 3:19-31

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His

righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

In this section, Paul appears to say that the purpose of the Torah (rendered “law” in just about every English translation) is to give one a knowledge of sin (3:20). That is true. However, that is not the only purpose for the Torah. This is where many Bible teachers become confused. The reason that Paul says in this passage that the Torah reveals sin is because he is teaching that no one may be justified by living according to the Torah. If one were to attempt to do so, the Torah could only do two things for him: 1) help to make him aware that he is sinful and desperately in need of Yahweh’s righteousness instead of trying to establish his own, and 2) reveal the Messiah to him.

Verse 28 states the issue clearly when Paul declares that justification is a gift from Yahweh and has no connection whatsoever to what a person does, especially what a person does concerning Torah obedience.

In verse 31, Paul affirms the validity of the Torah. He says that the Torah itself teaches the principle of justification by faith and faith alone. Receiving Yahweh’s gift of salvation (justification) is perfectly consistent with the Torah’s teaching on the matter (see Genesis 15). Because of this, believing in Yahshua does not nullify the Torah; rather it upholds its teachings.

Romans 4:13-15

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

Here is another passage that appears to teach the purpose of the Torah. Like the previous section of Romans, many Bible students read, “for the law brings about wrath” and assume that, along with revealing sin, the purpose of the Torah is to bring about wrath. Our comments for this passage are similar to those made in Romans 3. The only things the Torah can do for the unbeliever who relies upon his adherence to a set of rules in order to earn his righteousness, is help to reveal his sin, warn him of the impending judgment of Yahweh’s wrath, and point him to the Messiah.

This passage is not in a context that speaks about following the Torah as a lifestyle for believers. Like most of the passages in Romans, the context is a refutation against the attempt to use the Torah as a means of justification.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

When doing any teaching from the pages of the books of Moses is suggested to some believers in Yahshua, the usual response is something like, “Does not that make me under the law? In Yahshua I am under grace, not the law.” This rather typical response is based on such passages as Romans 6:14. We think that there is a better way to understand this passage. First, let us quote a respected Bible scholar on the meaning of the phrase in question and then we will finish with our own comments.

C.E.B. Cranfield has shed some light on the meaning of these two Greek phrases, helping us to perceive what Sha’ul actually meant as well as to understand more fully his true stand on the Torah.

‘It will be well to bear in mind the fact (which, as far as we know, had not received attention before it was noted) that the Greek language of Paul’s day possessed no word group corresponding to our “legalism”, “legalist”, and “legalistic”. This means that he lacked a convenient terminology for expressing a vital distinction, and so was surely seriously hampered in the work of clarifying the Christian position with regard to the law. In view of this we should always, we think, be ready to reckon with the possibility that Pauline statements, which at first sight seem to disparage the law, are really directed not against the law itself but against that misunderstanding and misuse of it for which we now have a convenient terminology.’

We encounter the same dilemma in the Hebrew language. There is no Hebrew word which can easily convey the concepts of “legalism” or “legalist”. Thus Sha’ul, whether using his Hebrew-oriented mind or his Greek language, was hindered in his attempts to explain that legalism was not what Yahweh intended.

Based on this understanding of the Greek in Romans 6:14, we can say, then, that this verse is teaching, that because Yahweh regenerated us and caused us to believe in Yahshua, we now have an entirely new relationship to sin. We no longer rely on any legalistic efforts to earn Yahweh’s righteousness. Instead, we rely on the grace of Yahweh. Legalism and grace never mix! Or, to put it in slightly different terms, law and grace never mix. But Torah and grace go hand in hand.

One of the many implications of trusting in the grace of Yahweh is that we become new creations in Messiah. This means, among other things, that we now have a new relationship to sin. It is just as 6:14 states, “sin is no longer our master”. For the new creation person, this is most definitely true! Relying on legalistic methods to attain salvation could never change our relationship to sin. Only trusting in the grace of Yahweh could affect such a change. For those of us who are now a new creation by virtue of the new birth, our relationship to sin is forever changed. The Torah is not a legalistic document. It describes the lifestyle of the redeemed, and it was never Yahweh’s intention that obeying it would achieve salvation.

Romans 7:1-12

Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? 2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband. 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET .” 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

At first glance, this seems like a very devastating passage for those believers who desire to live by the Torah. After all, does it not say, “you were also made to die to the Law through the body of Messiah?”

Indeed this is a tricky passage. Keeping in mind two things will help to open up this passage for us in a more accurate way. First, as always, notice the context. These verses fall in the larger context of Romans 5-8. In this section of Romans, the rabbi from Tarsus is discussing some of the practical effects of being justified by grace through faith. As we stated in the previous verse, one of these effects is that a believer in Yahshua now has a completely different relationship to sin than he had before. He has died to sin and sin is no longer his master.

Secondly, verse 10-12 provide us with an insight into what Paul really thought of the Torah. As we can readily see from those verses, the Torah was not the problem. Sin was the real culprit in man. Let us see how this unfolds from this passage.

In 7:1-2, it becomes clear that before we trusted in Messiah, our problem was not the Torah, but sin! Sin is that which wrecked havoc with our lives. One of the miracles of the new birth-as this passage is pointing out-is that a believer does not relate to sin the same way any longer. Consequently, Paul says in verse 11, “for sin, taking opportunity through the commandment deceived me, and through it killed me.” Sin, not Torah was the problem. Human sin is what messed Yahweh’s pure word up!

Hence when Messiah comes into our lives we are released from our bondage to sin and any legalistic relationship we may have previously had with Yahweh's teaching. That is what Paul means in verse 4 when he says that we were made to die to the law. Before Messiah came into our lives, we related to the Torah in a legalistic way. The only thing the torah could do for us in those circumstances was to condemn us by revealing our sin to us. That relationship to both the Torah and to sin had to change.

Thank Yahweh that in Messiah it did change! As far as sin is concerned, it was circumcised from us and relegated to our flesh. (Romans 7:17 Colossians 2:11-13) As far as Torah is concerned, once our relationship to sin was changed through our becoming a new creation, the real value of the Torah for the believer began to come to light. Accordingly, Paul says several positive things about the Torah in verse 10-12.

Yahweh's intention that the Torah would be real life for His people can now become fulfilled. It was our own sin that caused the life of the Torah to become death in us. Now in Messiah, Yahweh's real intention for the Torah can be fulfilled in us. Yahweh's Torah is Holy. There is nothing about it that needs to be avoided. It is not evil. It is not unhealthy for Yahweh's people. In fact the Scriptures themselves clearly declare, "These words are not just idle words for you, they are your life" (Deuteronomy 32:47) It is a covenant and a set of instructions making clear to Yahweh's people how to live out their new creation lives in the righteousness of Yahweh.

Yahweh's Torah is good. The Greek word translated "good" is agathe (?????) . It stresses both external and moral goodness, and usefulness and perfection. It can also be rendered "useful". In other words, far from the Torah being a detriment to the believers life, it is useful and helpful to follow for our spiritual, moral, and ethical well-being.

The Torah is righteous. It is the teaching about Yahweh's righteousness. Moreover, being intrinsically righteous, it was meant only for those whom Yahweh has made righteous by His grace. It is not a vehicle to attain righteousness; rather it is a book of instruction revealing what Yahweh's righteousness looks like and how to live out the righteousness that we now have become in Messiah.