


Our true freedom
from the Law (Torah)
- Part 1 -
by Tony Robinson



OUR TRUE FREEDOM FROM THE LAW (TORAH)

Part I

We Are Free From the Law (Torah) – Really?

Our True Freedom From the Law (Torah)

- The Problem
- A Biblical View of the Law
- Torah Observance in the book of Acts
- Different Purposes/Roles of the Law
- The Law Makes Sin Abound?
- Conclusion
- What's the App?

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- **The Big Three**
 - Romans 6:14 – For sin shall not have dominion over you, for *you are not under law but under grace*.
 - Romans 7:4 – Therefore, my brethren, *you also have become dead to the law* through the body of Christ . . .
 - Romans 7:6 – But now *we have been delivered from the law*, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in the oldness of the letter*.

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➤ How Have These Been Interpreted?

- The Mosaic Law: Its Function and Purpose in the New Testament by J. Hampton Keathley, III (Bible.org) – One of the profound emphases of the New Testament, especially the epistles of Paul, is that Christians are no longer under the rule of the Mosaic law.
- He is not under the Law as a rule of life, i.e., sacrifice, Sabbath keeping, tithing
- He is dead to the Law

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➤ A Common Paradigm of the Law/Torah?

- It has been said by various Christian ministers that the Law/Torah is:
 - Evil, sinful, old and outdated, needing to be replaced, temporary
 - Something that needed to be broken down, abolished, blotted out
 - Something that was/is nailed to Yeshua's cross, taken away, only a shadow, a rudiment of the world, something that's going to perish with using

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
 - From **Psalm 119** we see that the Torah is ... better than gold and silver, faithful, *settled in heaven*, sweeter than honey, a lamp unto our path, a heritage, strength, wonderful, pure, truth, *eternal, endures forever*.

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
 - Deuteronomy 32:4 – Moses commanded *a law for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob*.
 - Psalm 1!
 - Psalm 19:7 – *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;*

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➤ A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!

- Jeremiah 31:31-33 – “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when *I will make a new covenant* with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah . . . *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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➤ A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!

- **Romans 13:8-10:** “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not covet,’ *and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’* Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
 - **Galatians 5:14:** “The entire law is summed up in a single command: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*”
 - **Matthew 27:37-40:** “Yeshua replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*”

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
 - **Romans 7:7** – What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. *For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
 - Romans 7:10 – And the commandment, *which was to bring life* (not eternal life)
 - Romans 7:12 – Therefore *the law is holy*, and the commandment holy and *just and good*.
 - Romans 7:14 – For we know *that the law is spiritual*, but I am carnal, sold under sin.
 - Romans 7:16 – If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with *the law that it is good*.

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- **Did the Apostles Teach That the Law (Torah) Had Been Abolished?**
 - Acts 6:13 – *They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.*
 - Acts 10:14 – *But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean* (Peter spoke this approximately 10 years after he was supposedly delivered from Torah).

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➤ Did the Apostles Teach That the Law (Torah) Had Been Abolished?

- Acts 21:19-24 – *And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law . . .*
- Acts 22:12 – *A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.*

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➤ What Did the Apostles Teach?

- II Timothy 3:16-17 – *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- James 1:25 – *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

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➤ What Did the Apostles Teach?

- Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.
- Note how often the apostles quoted from the Tanakh as the basis for ALL their doctrine!

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➤ The Different Functions/Purposes of the Law (Torah)

- Matthew 5:17-21 – Yeshua states that the Torah functions as the guideline for the lifestyle of His disciples, to which obedience and/or disobedience will determine their future status in the Kingdom. *Torah reveals/explains lifestyle.*
- Romans 10:4 – For *Christ is the end of the law* for righteousness to everyone who believes. Paul states that the Torah's ultimate goal/purpose was to lead Israel to Yeshua the Messiah. *Torah leads us to Messiah.*

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- **The Different Functions/Purposes of the Law (Torah)**
 - The end (telos in the Greek) means the goal, not end/completion
 - James 5:11 – . . . You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the *end* intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
 - I Peter 1:9 – receiving the *end* of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

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- **The Different Functions/Purposes of the Law (Torah)**
 - Romans 7:7 – Paul states that the Torah defines sin. *Torah teaches what is clean and unclean, right and wrong, good and evil, what causes death and brings life.*
 - Galatians 3:23 – Paul states that the Torah was given to preserve the nation until the Messiah came. *Torah preserves individuals' lives until they come to know Messiah.*

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- **The Different Functions/Purposes of the Law (Torah)**
 - Luke 24:44 & John 5:39, 46 – Yeshua explicitly states Torah taught about Him. *Torah teaches us about the Messiah and His role in redemption.*
 - Romans 7:7 – What shall we say then? *Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary . . . For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” The Torah defines a moral code of how to live.*

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- **The Different Functions/Purposes of the Law (Torah)**
 - Romans 5:20 – Paul states that the Torah was given to cause offenses (sin) to increase. *Torah has a specific effect on people as a result of sin within them.*
 - The Scriptures define these different roles of Torah, *and context determines the role of which the writer is speaking.*

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- **Key #1 – What Role/Function/Purpose of the Torah is Paul Referencing in Romans 6-8?**
 - Romans 5:20-21 – Moreover *the law entered that the offense might abound*. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more
 - The Torah was given to cause offenses to increase?
 - Let's note how often this function is mentioned in Romans 6-7!

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- **The Torah's Role/Function/Purpose in Making the Offense Abound!**
 1. Romans 5:20-21 – Moreover *the law entered that the offense might abound*.
 2. Romans 7:5 – For when we were in the flesh, *the sinful passions which were aroused by the law* were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.
 3. Romans 7:8a – But sin, *taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire . . .*

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➤ The Torah's Role/Function/Purpose in Making the Offense Abound!

4. Romans 7:9 – I was alive once without the law, *but when the commandment came, sin revived* and I died.
5. Romans 7:10 – *And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.*
6. Romans 7:11 – For sin, *taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me*, and by it killed *me*.

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➤ The Torah's Role/Function/Purpose in Making the Offense Abound!

7. Romans 7:13 – Has then what is good (the Torah/Law) become death to me? Certainly not! *But sin, that it might appear sin*, was producing death in me through what is good, *so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*
8. Romans 8:3 – For what the law could not do in that *it was weak through the flesh . . .*

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➤ The Torah's Role/Function/Purpose in Making the Offense Abound!

9. I Corinthians 15:56 – The sting of death *is* sin, and *the strength of sin is the law*.

➤ Summary

➤ Paul is dealing with ONE aspect of the Law, it's ability to stir up sin within an individual.

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➤ The Most Profound Scripture About Justification (the Purpose of Faith)

➤ Genesis 15:6 – And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

➤ The Most Profound Scripture About Sanctification (the Purpose of Obedience to the Law/Torah)

➤ Leviticus 18:5 – You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, *which if a man does, he shall live by them*: I am the Lord.

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- **The Fundamental Function/Purpose of the Torah (at the Pashat Level) is to Secure/Ensure/Give Physical LIFE to Those Who Keep it!**
- Devarim 4:1, 4 and 10, Devarim 5:33, Devarim 6:24, Devarim 8:1 and 3, Devarim 30:19, Leviticus 26:3-13, Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21 and 25 and much, much more!

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- **A Biblical View of the Law (Torah)!**
- Matthew 5:17-19 – “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*

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Part II

When, Why and How?

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- Review of Last Week's Conclusions
- The Stirring Up of Sin Effect – Why?
- The Stirring Up of Sin Effect – When?
- The Stirring Up of Sin Effect – How?

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Our Running Summary Statement of Romans 6-8

- We are dealing with one function of the Torah, its ability to stir up sin within an individual (*The Stirring Up of Sin Effect*)
- This function is reiterated numerous times throughout Romans 5-7!

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➤ **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?

- Romans 7:4-5 – Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. *For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.*

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - What does Paul mean by “when we were in the flesh” in verse five?
 - Sometimes it simply means in the body
 - I Peter 3:18 – For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, *being put to death in the flesh* but made alive by the Spirit
 - I John 4:2 – By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ *has come in the flesh is of God*

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Sometimes it describes a lifestyle of sinfulness
 - Ephesians 2:1-3 – And *you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world*, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, *3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh* and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
 - Romans 8:8 – So then, those who are *in the flesh* cannot please God.

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Romans 7:5 – *For when we were in the flesh*, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.
 - Ephesians 2:3 – . . . *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh* and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
 - Both clearly reference life **BEFORE** Messiah!

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - “*In the flesh*” is Paul's way of saying *in the unregenerate state*, i.e., *before salvation* or *before the new birth/creation*.
 - Why use “in the flesh” as a metaphor for sinfulness?
 - [1] The "body" is here viewed as the instrument by which all the sins of the heart become facts of the outward life, and [2] as itself the seat of the lower appetites; and it is called "our mortal body," (Jameison-Faucett-Brown)

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Romans 7:9-11 – *I was alive once without the law*, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.
 - From the previous verses, this cannot be when Paul became converted since the stirring up of sin effect is operable in unbelievers!

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- **WHEN** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Summary – In summary, we can see that Paul is describing how the Torah **functions in an unsaved person** who still lives in bondage to sin because *the old man is still quite alive and responsive to sin*. It is within an unregenerate man that Torah functions to arouse sin. Notice that this is a *limited function of Torah*. Also notice that this is the *primary function* of Torah that Paul is dealing with throughout Romans chapters 5-8! However, the Torah produces life for a person who has been separated from sin (its intended purpose).

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Our Running Summary Statement of Romans 6-8

1. We are dealing with one function of the Torah, its ability to stir up sin within an individual (*The Stirring Up of Sin Effect*)
2. The Stirring Up of Sin Effect occurs within the life of the unsaved/unregenerated

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- **WHY** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Romans 5:20 – Moreover *the law entered that the offense might abound*. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more
 - Romans 7:5 – For when we were in the flesh, *the sinful passions which were aroused by the law* were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.
 - Romans 7:8a – But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.

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- **WHY** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Romans 7:8b – For *apart from the law sin was dead*.
 - Romans 7:9 – I was alive once without the law, *but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died*.
 - Romans 7:11 – For *sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me*, and by it killed *me*.

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- **WHY** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?
 - Romans 7:13b – But *sin*, that it might appear sin, *was producing death in me through what is good*, so that *sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful*. Romans 5:20!
 - I Corinthians 15:56 – The sting of death *is* sin, and *the strength of sin is the law*.

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➤ **WHY** Does the Torah Function to Stir Up Sin?

- Summary – When an unregenerated/sinful heart comes face to face with God’s Torah, a reaction occurs!
Because of *sin* in the individual!

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Our Running Summary Statement of Romans 6-8

1. We are dealing with *one function of the Torah, its ability to stir up sin* within an individual (The Stirring Up of Sin Effect)
2. The Stirring Up of Sin Effect occurs *within the life of the unsaved/unregenerated*
3. This Stirring Up of Sin Effect occurs *because of sin* in the person (a sinful unregenerated heart *or a believer who is living a sinful life – more later!*)