

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE LAW OF GOD

The vast majority of the time when the Bible speaks of the “law” it means Torah which is the first five books of the Old Testament. For instance, according to Strong's Concordance, the original Hebrew word behind the word “law” in the following texts is “Torah.” “To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20) “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” (Psalms 1:2) “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:17-18) So when the Bible speaks of the law, it means Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, and not just the Ten Commandments. And, Jesus upheld the Torah as we see in this text in Matthew 5:17-18 where He said He did not come to abolish the Torah. In John 5:46-47 Jesus says something very significant. “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed in Me; for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?” In other words, Jesus was saying that believing in the Torah is a prerequisite to believing in Him. If we don't accept and believe the Torah, we won't accept and believe in Jesus. In other words, the Torah is the foundation of the Bible, and of our faith and our relationship with God; everything else builds on the Torah. As we conduct this study through the Torah our main goal is to see Jesus in the Torah.

Here's another reason why the study of the Torah is so important. Just before Moses died, He repeated the words of the Torah to Israel and then he said this. “Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you...And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on they gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:1, 6-9) Now, here's the EGW commentary on these very verses. “When we bring our lives to complete obedience to the law of God regarding God as our supreme Guide, and clinging to Christ as our hope of righteousness, God will work in our behalf. This is a righteousness of faith, a righteousness hidden in a mystery of which the worldling knows nothing, and which he cannot understand. Sophistry and strife follow in the train of the serpent; but the commandments of God diligently studied and practiced, open to us communication with heaven, and distinguish for us the true from the false. This obedience works out for us the divine will, bringing into our lives the righteousness and perfection that was seen in the life of Christ.” (MS 43, 1907)

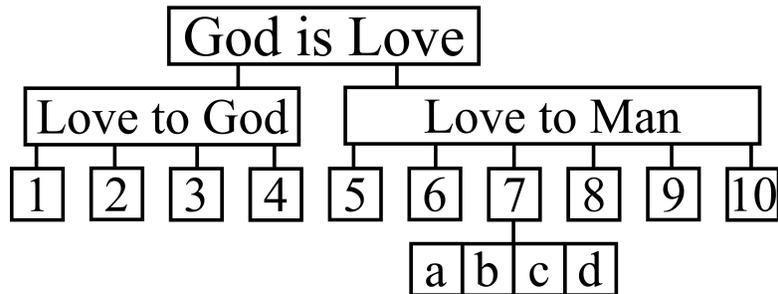
Question: Notice that the above text in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 states that God's law is to be a sign upon our foreheads and upon our hands. Does this remind you of something? What else does the Bible say is a sign upon the foreheads of God's people? See Revelation 7:3 and Revelation 14:1.

Malachi chapter 4 has a message for the last generation which is to remember the Mosaic Law. “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly....And they shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. **Remember ye the law of Moses**, my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.” (Malachi 4:1, 3 4)

A lawyer came to Jesus and asked Him, “Master, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus gave a very interesting answer. He said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40) When Jesus stated that the first great commandment is to love God with all our heart, He was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5.

One can go through the Torah, or the Mosaic Law, and put every statute under one of the Ten Commandments, with the exception of those laws that were eliminated at the cross. [The Bible plainly tells us what was eliminated at the cross. It is the sacrificial system (see Daniel 9:27). God gave us the law and only God has the right to revoke any part of His law and He plainly tells us what part He revoked in Daniel 9:27. About the rest of His law, He says, "I change not." (Malachi 3:6)]

We can illustrate the principle of Matthew 22:36-40 where Jesus said that on these two commandments hang all the law like this:



Statutes further defining the 7th commandment regarding adultery:

- a. Do not lie with your daughter-in-law. See Leviticus 20:12.
- b. Homosexuality is condemned. See Leviticus 20:13.
- c. Do not lie with your father’s wife. See Leviticus 20:11.
- d. Do not lie with a beast. See Leviticus 20:15.
- e. Etc.

“In consequence of continual transgression, the moral law was repeated in awful grandeur from Sinai. Christ gave to Moses religious precepts which were to govern everyday life. These statutes were explicitly given to guard the Ten Commandments. They were not shadowy types to pass away with the death of Christ. They were to be binding upon men in every age as long as time should last. These commands were enforced by the power of the moral law, and they clearly and definitely explained that law. (*Signs of the Times*, April 15, 1875 and *SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 1104)

“As soon as the seeker for truth opens the Bible to read the utterances of God with reverence, possessing an earnest desire to know "what saith the Lord," light and grace will be given him, and **he will see wondrous things out of God's law**. He will not regard the law of Jehovah as a yoke of bondage, but as the gracious commands of One who is all-wise and full of compassion. He will make haste to fulfill His requirements. Great truths which have been neglected and unappreciated for ages, will be revealed by the Spirit of God, and new meaning will flash out of familiar texts. Every page will be illuminated by the Spirit of truth. The Bible is not sealed but unsealed. The most precious truths are revealed; the living oracles are heard by wondering ears, and the consciences of men are aroused into action.--TSS 30. {CSW 34.3}

“Said my guide, **There is much light yet to shine forth from God’s law** and the gospel of righteousness. This message, understood in its true character, and proclaimed in the Spirit, will ‘lighten the earth with its glory.’” (*Manuscript Release*, Vol. 2, p. 58)

“Light and grace will be given to those who thus obey God. They will behold wondrous things out of His law. Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God's word in their native purity.” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 473)

It is our desire in this study of the Torah to see Jesus in the Torah and to see “wondrous things” out of His law which will lead us into a deeper relationship and closer walk with God.