

# Calgary L'chaim Bible Fellowship

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A study series with Saskatchewan & Bontoc Ekklesia group

Text: Exodus 20:8-10, Isaiah 56:3-6, 66:23

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Torah for All- Shabbath for Everyone

Introduction:

The followers and believers of Yeshua during the first century were Torah people. Yeshua Himself was a Torah teacher. He told His disciples to keep and teach Torah, He encouraged them to demonstrate their love for Him by being faithful to His commandments (Matt 5:17-20, John 14:15-21, Acts 21:20) In some ways in History and the passing of time we lost this understanding.

“Christians and the Torah”

The Torah (teachings) is for “Christians”- (followers of Christ), in Hebraic terminology “Messianic”- (followers of Messiah). The proof is “Christians” keep the Torah ( ex. Keeping the 10 commandments, loving your neighbor, care for orphans and widows, looking after the poor, prohibitions on theft, injustice, sexual deviations, faith, grace, prayer etc... for the most part the “Christian life is” based on Torah.

Fact – “Christianity” in general has spread the faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, using the Torah (the Bible) as the source of faith and practice. Spreading the awareness of the concept of the Messiah (Christ) and the knowledge of the Land and the chosen people to everyone in the world. Letting everyone around the world to personally know the most important Jew in the world – Jesus ( Yeshua) the Jewish Messiah, the Christ of all Nations!

Some things were lost in History!

The early Yeshua movement ( The Way) which is what the early believers were known for ( Acts 9:2, 19:9, 23, 22:4, 24:14, 22) presumably because of the statement of Yeshua when He said “He is the Way” (John 14:6, Acts 18:26, 2 Pet 2:2) , we lost many things in the early development and the spread of the faith, which is impacted by the First and Second Jewish Revolts against Rome (70 and 130 CE), it is unpopular to be identified as a Jew or anyone sympathetic to the Jewish religion and its Torah. At the same time there is distrust between non-jewish and Jewish believers because of issues in the early Synagogue (Acts 15 – Council of Jerusalem), the destruction of the Temple that added to the demise of the organizational set-up of biblical Judaism and the banishment of Jews from Jerusalem and they were scattered all abroad. (Matthew 24: 9-12).

The Love of God is the Greatest Commandment

According to Deut 6:4-5, Love for God is demonstrated by obedience to His commandments which is in similar context with 1 John 5:3. With this many Bible believers (Torah keepers) held on to the early practices that Yeshua and the early disciples taught well into the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. However with the rise of the Roman World including its religion many were lost or not practiced at all in fear of death by the roman sword. One of this is the observance of “The Sabbath Rest” in contrast to Constantine’s decree of Sunday Rest – March 7, 321 CE/ AD “ On the venerable day of the Sun.”

The Biblical Sabbath Rest

God commands His people to cease from labor on the seventh day of the week. This day of rest is called Shabbath or the Sabbath. In Luke 6:5 Yeshua himself mentioned that “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”. Apostle Paul also writes in Colossians 2:16-17 that the Sabbath is a shadow of things to come and the substance of it is the Messiah.

These biblical texts are saying one thing: That the Sabbath is about the Messiah and the Sabbath is for the followers of the Messiah. The Sabbath is the first thing that was set apart as holy in creation. Before there was a temple, an altar, the bible, a commandment, before there was a church...there was already the Sabbath.