

Torah Study
“Through the Parash’ot”
Shabbat 10am-12:30pm

Confirm time and location on our
Web Site at: www.bethdavidfresno.org



Introduction

Scripture is read in synagogues and study halls worldwide each and every Shabbat (Sabbath). By participating in the same readings, we create and maintain a special connection to Jewish people around the world. Our weekly study at Beth David is:

1. Centered on our Messiah, Yeshua (Luke 6:40, 1 John 5:1-5)
2. Based on grace (Ephesians 2:8-10)
3. Oriented towards obedience (Deuteronomy 6:4, Romans 3:31, 1 John 5:3)

What is “The Torah?”

The Torah is the ancient writings that include the five books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. It is the story of God’s people and how they came to be God’s people in the first place. It is the common ground of all Christianity and Judaism, and the source of modern Western society and law. Torah is the foundation upon which all biblical revelation is built. It is God’s book, and it is a good book.

The Torah has been described or defined as the *Law of Moses*, because Moses wrote it. But it is more than law or legal code. The Hebrew word, *Torah*, comes from the root word, *yarah*. Strongs’ defines it as “to flow as water;” to rain; “to throw or lay, especially an arrow, that is, to shoot;” to point out (as if by aiming the finger); to teach. So *Torah* is God’s teaching and direction, enabling us to aim and to hit the target.

We do not believe in “keeping” the Torah in order to be saved, to earn salvation, or to maintain salvation. But we do believe that when you know and love Messiah, obedience follows because we are saved.

What is “Parashah?”

In ancient times, the Torah was read in the synagogue from beginning to end on a three-year cycle. Today, it is read over the course of one year. “Parashah” is a Hebrew word meaning, “portion.” The Torah readings are divided into fifty-four portions, and one portion is read each week. “Parash’ot” is the plural form of “Parashah.” It refers to all of the “portions” as a whole. The name of each Parashah, each portion, is derived from the first significant Hebrew word in the first sentence of the Parashah.

What are our objectives?

First and foremost to proclaim the Word of God out loud, in public

In ancient times, no one had a personal copy of the Torah. The only place that had one was the temple or synagogue. This is no longer the case, as most of us have our own copy, and many have multiple copies of various translations and versions. We encourage study from different versions and translations.

Although we can each read the weekly Parashah on our own, we believe it is important to read the Torah, out loud, in public. The Torah was originally written in Hebrew. Since most of us do not speak or read Hebrew at the level that would be required, we read the Torah from the *Complete Jewish Bible*, an English version by David H. Stern. This version was selected for consistency and its Hebraic perspective.

Secondly, to create a forum for discussion and sharing

The facilitator may bring questions to stimulate, encourage and guide discussion that will occur in small groups, with the entire group of attendees, or both! God can speak to everyone, and each of us brings unique life experiences to the table. It is important to share together in discussion.

Who can attend?

Anyone can attend - just show up. All we ask is that everyone in attendance be considerate of others and follow the direction of the facilitator/leader. When attending for the first time, we encourage you to just sit back and observe until you feel comfortable contributing to the discussion. Children are welcome, but must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Other “ground rules” may develop, so be sure to have the most current copy of this information.

If you have never studied the first five books of the bible in depth before, there is no better time than now to open the scriptures, unroll the scroll, and learn. If you have experience in these five books of Moses, then come along and dig deeper, find new insights and discover more about our Messiah, the King of the universe. We invite you to come, discover and rejuvenate your faith, and deepen your understanding as we share our lives together around the Torah. Although there is an annual cycle, you don't have to wait for the beginning – you can enter into the study at anytime.

Please bring any comments, concerns and suggestions to the attention of our leadership. We want this to be a “family” time of sharing, learning, and hearing God's Word!

Our prayer for this time comes from Psalm 119:18 - “Open my eyes, so that I may see wonders from your Torah.”

In the mighty name of our Messiah, Yeshua,

Rebbitzin Lynette Shor, Pastor Rick Aarii
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