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Restoring the Roots of Our Faith

Ephesians 2:14-16

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, **who has made the two one** and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create **in himself one new man out of the two**, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body **to reconcile both of them to God through the CROSS**. NIV



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THE 8TH DAY

SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHA TORAH



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I. Shemini Atzeret

A. The Command

Leviticus 23:33-35

³³ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ³⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the **Feast of Tabernacles for seven days** to the Lord. ³⁵ On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. NKJV



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He added another day

Leviticus 23:39 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the Lord for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and **on the eighth day** a sabbath-rest. NKJV

Numbers 29:35 '**On the eighth day** you shall have a sacred assembly. You shall do no customary work. NKJV

"Shemini Atzeret" – Shemini is eighth, Atzeret possibly means gathering.



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God's people were commanded to rejoice with Him for seven days:

Leviticus 23:40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. NKJV



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Deuteronomy 16:14-15

14 And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates. 15 Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God NKJV

Extension of Sukkot?

Rabbinic explanation.



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B. Biblical significance

- Completion of a cycle – a new beginning
- Creation lasted for seven days
- Seventh day – Shabbat, eighth day starts a new week
- 7 weeks of counting the omer, from Passover to Pentecost
- 7 years for Shemitah (Sabbath of the land)
- 7 Shemitot (plural) for Jubilee
- Male babies were circumcised on the eighth day. Also signifies him entering a new life in covenant with God



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C. End-time Meaning

- Feast of Tabernacles for 7 Days – Yeshua's millennial reign (Revelation 20)
- Eighth Day – All things made new; New Jerusalem, New Heaven, New Earth (Revelation 21-22)



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II. Simcha Torah

Joy in the Torah



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What is Torah?

Technically the first five books of the Bible but also used generically for the whole Old Testament (TaNaK)

Torah – first five books (Pentateuch)

Nevim - Prophets

Ketuvim – Writings (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes etc)



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Torah translated as "Law"

In our mind, law = punishment

Psalm 1:1-2

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But **his delight is in the law** of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. NIV



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Psalm 119:69-70

69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. 70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, **but I delight in your law.** NIV

Psalm 119:35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. NKJV



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B. Proper Translation

"Instructions" - Given to teach Israel how to live as His people

Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now **if you obey me fully and keep my covenant**, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." NIV



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Torah was the covenant God made with the fledgling nation (Exodus 20 – 24)

Exodus 24:6-8

6 And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "**This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.**" NKJV



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It contained instructions about all aspects of life for the Israelites

- How to do business – no dishonest scales: Leviticus 19:36 "You shall have honest scales"
- How to recompense your neighbour – Exodus 21:33-34
- Treatment of skin disease (Leviticus 13)
- Disposal of human waste – Deuteronomy 23:12-13

He wanted them to be different from the nations



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C. Parasha

Simcha Torah begins a new cycle of reading the Torah



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Torah (5 books) were divided into 52 portions for weekly reading. (possibly began during Babylon exile)

Added a portion from the prophets (Haftara)



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Luke 4:16-17
 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. NKJV

Not a random event, it was the haftara reading for that Shabbat

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D. Law & Grace

Christian understanding – law no longer required because of grace

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Galatians 3:24-25
 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. NKJV

Context – Galatians trying to justify themselves by works i.e. circumcision after being saved by grace.

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Romans 7:7 Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."

Law shows us that we fall short of God's glory.

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Yeshua & The Torah


Matthew 5:17 "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete. (CJB)

24

He raised the bar

Matthew 5:21-22
21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. NIV

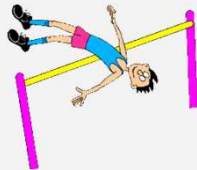
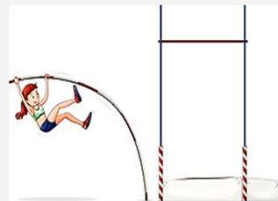
Matthew 5:27-28
27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. NIV

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Torah is High Jump

Yeshua raised the bar

Pole = grace

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The Destination of the Torah


Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes NKJV

End = Greek "telos" destination

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. NIV

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Tracks keep the train on course to reach the destination – Torah

Electricity propels the train – Grace

"Law" and Grace work together to bring us to our destination to be like Yeshua

That's why we can rejoice!

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