

Torah Study

Confirm time and location weekly on our

Web Site at: www.bethdavidmc.org

“For from the earliest times, Moshe has had in every city those who proclaim him, with his words being read in the synagogues every Shabbat.”” Acts 15:21 CJB

Introduction

Scripture is read in synagogues and study halls worldwide each and every Shabbat (Sabbath, Saturday). By participating in the same readings, we create and maintain a special connection to 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, John 15:10)

What is “The Torah?”

The *Torah* is an ancient Hebrew writing that is divided into five sections, or “books.” These books are most commonly known as the first five books of the Bible: B’resheet (Genesis), Sh’mot (Exodus), Vayikra (Leviticus), B’midbar (Numbers), and D’varim (Deuteronomy). The *Torah* 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 much more than just law or legal code. The Hebrew word, *Torah* (תּוֹרָה), comes from the root word, *yarah*. Strongs’ Concordance 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. By this definition, *Torah* is God’s teaching and direction, pointing out the way, 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 *Yeshua HaMachiach* (Jesus the Messiah) obedience follows because we are being 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. 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 is derived from the first significant Hebrew word in the first sentence of each Parashah.

What are our objectives?

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

In ancient times, people did not have a personal copy of the Torah. The nearest place where one could be found was the temple or synagogue. This is no longer the case, as most of us have our own copy, and many bible students have multiple copies in many forms. We encourage reading and study from different versions and translations.

Although we can each read the weekly Parashah on our own, we believe it not only biblical, but 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 an English translation. We read aloud from the *Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)*, 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 a message and questions to stimulate, encourage and guide discussion that will occur with the entire group of attendees. God speaks 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 each other and follow the direction of the facilitator. When attending for the first time, we encourage you to sit back and observe until you feel comfortable contributing to the discussion. Children are always 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 questions, 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 study 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,

Pastor Rick Arii
Beth David Messianic Congregation, Fresno, CA