



## What Kind of Life do You Want?

(An accompanying teaching for the Torah portion Vayera for 2020)

By Moshe Schwab

### Names

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Shaul – Paul

S'dom and Amora – Sodom and Gomorrah

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

### Terms

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

Vayera – 4<sup>th</sup> Torah portion

### While Praying:

\* God is good and all powerful; mankind must muster up its strength. (Enjoy the goodness of God.)

\* Are you serious about God? Do you want truth or just a bunch of made-up theology? (Are you willing to examine how the context of the scriptures apply?)

\* Those who deny the Jewish context of the scriptures have been deceived by devil spirits.

\* Real life comes from a proper understanding of the Bible in its original context. All else is just bottled up theology.

God is good and all powerful; mankind must muster up its strength. (Enjoy the goodness of God.)

Our God is powerful and can do amazing works. He was the creator of the heavens and the earth, so nothing is beyond his ability. God even gives special gifts associated with the Holy Spirit to those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua.

In contrast, mankind must develop their strength and abilities. Mankind uses teamwork to accomplish big tasks. I used to play adult football with ex-college players. These were some amazing players. I got to see first hand some really good plays. It is one thing to watch these players on TV; it is quite something else to see these plays from the sideline.

The Rams had considered drafting our quarterback. I could actually hear the ball whistling toward me when he threw it to me. You wouldn't expect these guys to be so special and talented. Most of them were relaxed and kind, yet they had learned to excel. So, no matter what your personality is, if you are willing to apply yourself, you can be successful. No one personality is the best for success.

Accomplishing tasks is so much different with God. When God created everything, it was perfect to begin with. Genesis 1:31 NKJV says, "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." People have to work hard to achieve that. God said in Jeremiah 32:27 NKJV, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

God is good, kind, merciful, and loving. Good thing for us! Exodus 34:6-7 NKJV says, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." We can have great joy in knowing that God is good and is for us. Is says God is, "abounding in goodness." Thank you God! So enjoy your relationship with God. But we must be serious about our relationship with God.

Are you serious about God? Do you want truth or just a bunch of made-up theology? (Are you willing to examine how to know the true context of the scriptures and what they mean?) I am serious about God and so are many people. I had an interesting conversation with someone recently. I asked them if someone treats them badly on purpose, are they their friend? They answered no. God gave us His word for our benefit and to help us. It says His commandments give us 'wisdom and understanding' (Deuteronomy 4:6). How amazing is that! If we reject Him, it is like rejecting a good and kindly gift and throwing it on the ground. Instead of treating God's goodness with respect and appreciation, we reject Him when we reject His commandments (which give us 'wisdom and understanding').

*We reject God when we reject  
His wisdom and understanding.*

Someone who comes to our congregation likes to listen to various preachers. Just last week, on the way over he said that the guy on the radio said that those who keep the Torah are cursed. Shaul quotes a verse in Galatians and people take that verse out of context to say that those who keep the Torah are cursed. The verse Shaul is quoting from the Old Testament portion says, "Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them. And all the people shall say, Amen!" Deuteronomy 27:26 NKJV. Is that radio preacher for real? I understand that he is supposed to be a good and respected teacher. You see what's going on in Christianity and it is just ridiculous.

That is what theology is doing. It is turning around what the Bible says and making sin okay to do. In our Torah study, we shared what Kefa said in 2 Peter 2:4-10; they will face God's judgment. I wouldn't want to be in the shoes of those who are contradicting God.

Those who deny the Jewish context of the scriptures have been deceived by devil spirits. You can take a person's words out of context and accuse them of almost anything. You can take the Bible out of context and come up with the exact opposite of what was meant. How can an educated person read a scripture and take it completely out of context? Some of us have heard this before, but it is a good example of how ridiculous people are behaving. The Bible actually says, "There is no God;" Psalms 14:1 NKJV. So far no one has quoted it in this

way, but is it any different than taking any scripture out of its proper context. In context, it says in Psalms 14:1 NKJV, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

In another teaching, I shared 1 John 3:4 NKJV, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." The ancient rabbis used the Greek word *nomia* for the Torah.<sup>1</sup> Lawlessness is translated from the Greek word *anomia*; the "a" in front of *nomia* negates it. So Yochanan is saying that those who don't keep the Torah are sinning. You see, theology would say, its lawlessness, not the Torah. What kind of lawlessness is it? Would that be not following a recipe correctly? No, it not keeping God's commandments in the Torah. There was no New Testament when Yochanan wrote this. These theologians are blind leaders of the blind. Open your eyes people!

So you say where does the devil enter into this? The Bible says there is a devil. We accept the Bible because men wrote down what God gave them. 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV says, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Let's continue reading in 1 John 3:7-8, "He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning." So Yochanan says that those who do what is right (practices righteousness) are righteous (live right). I shouldn't have to explain this. Those who actually do what is right live right. This may confuse some of you because you've been told you live right without actually doing what is right. Now some of you are thinking, you'd have to be crazy to form that kind of logic.

Computers need logical code that works together in order to work right. Some of us have found that out with frustrating buggy software. If you try to sow without a needle in the sowing machine you're not going to get anything done. You can say you are sowing, but you aren't doing anything. That's the logic in being told you live right without actually living right.

*There is no logic in saying you do  
what is right without actually doing that.*

Notice how Yochanan says that sin is of the devil. What was sin? Not keeping God's commandments in the Torah; that's the context. So people who are saying God's commandments are done away with are of the devil. That's what Yochanan said. Some of you are thinking that the Old Testament portion of the Bible contains antiquated commandments or they are too hard to keep. It says not to commit murder. Is that antiquated? Many of the commandments were made for the priests who served at the Temple in Jerusalem. So we have a few hundred commandments to keep. Some of you have heard all this before, but some of you haven't yet and are still reading the Bible out of context. People are lifting scriptures out of context like there is no God. Maybe they really don't believe in God.

Real life comes from a proper understanding of the Bible in its original context. All else is just bottled up theology.

All this shouldn't be too hard to understand, but people are blind to the fact they have been

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<sup>1</sup> 70 rabbis translated the Hebrew Old Testament portion into Greek. They used the word *nomia* for the Torah.

taught lies. Jeremiah 9:6 NKJV say, "'Through deceit they refuse to know Me,' says the LORD." The God who created the heavens and the earth gave us directions to help us. That's what Yeshua said. John 14:15-18 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another** Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

First of all, Yeshua said that if you love Him, keep His commandments. What commandments did He give us at Mount Sinai? Is there something wrong with commandments that are intended to help us? Deuteronomy 4:8 NKJV says, "And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day." Hmm; God seems to think what He gave us is a blessing for us. Yeshua said that the Father will give them, "**another** Helper;" namely the Holy Spirit that we are to receive when we believe in the Messiah.

The first helper that Yeshua gave us is the Torah. Another helper that Yeshua gave us is the Holy Spirit. You see, it's important that we believe in the Messiah, but don't forget about His commandments which are intended to be a tremendous blessing for us.

So why are people sharing things that are so contrary to the Bible?

Maybe they don't believe in God.

Perhaps their theology gets in the way of truth.

They don't know how to read.

They don't know how to treat the Bible with respect.

Yochanan said they are deceived by the devil.

I don't think they would share such nonsense if they understood the consequences. That is what started me on my quest. I read scriptures that said we are to be faithful until the end. Yeshua said, "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved." Matthew 24:11-13 NKJV. Could these false prophets be people that have led us falsely to not keep God's commandments? That's what it says; people will be deceived. There is that word lawlessness again, *anomia*; which mean to not keep the Torah. These false teachers, prophets, whatever you want to call them are teaching people not to keep the Torah and God's commandments.

Some of you are saying you don't want to keep God's feasts; it's such a burden to have your life revolve around God's feasts. The American feasts of Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving Day is enough for me you say. What! You are saying no to God; don't we understand? Leviticus 23:2 NKJV says, "The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts." These are "My feasts." What could be wrong with celebrating biblical feasts? You see, this misunderstanding of the scriptures is just a diversion to get us off track. Pretty soon, the major denominations are going to be saying that the things the Bible says are sin are not sin at all. Don't misquote me now. Theology bottles up its false doctrine and tells us to drink garbage. Is that what you

want to live on or do you want the life giving commandments of God that give us 'wisdom and understanding?'

God's words give us life and are pertinent for life. Proverbs 4:21-23 NKJV says, "Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." If you want a real life, keep God's commandments close to you; be diligent in your walk with God. By the way, Proverbs is in the Old Testament portion of scriptures.

### **In Closing**

God is the almighty and powerful God who can do all. Mankind must develop themselves in order to accomplish their tasks. We can have joy in knowing we have a good God who is for us. Are we serious about God? Do we respect Him and want to do what He says? Yochanan said that those who don't keep the Torah are of the devil. The life God intended for us comes only through God; that is the true reality for life.