



#20 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10
Torah Teaching
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Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Cohen – Priest
Haftarah – reading from the prophets
House – refers to a school or the Temple
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
Tetzaveh – the 20th Torah portion

The Torah portion for today is Tetzaveh and means, "you shall command." The portion begins by saying that they were to make pure olive oil for the menorah and to keep it burning from evening to morning in the tent of meeting. Many of the commands in this portion have to do with the items and ritual regarding the priests for the Mishkan, the Tent of Meeting in the wilderness. We all have blank areas of understanding, so we need encouragement every week to fill in areas of our spiritual walk that we need to understand better. That is probably why God instituted the weekly readings of the Torah through the prophets.

At the end of our Torah study for today, we have a section on frequent responses to believing in God. We have called it, "Answering Common Questions about God." Perhaps this will help you to answer some of the questions people have. We then conclude with the Aaronic Blessing.

I would like to start out by reminding you of some frequent biblical concepts we talk about. We are to follow God and His commandments in life. Sometimes we are attracted to what seems to be good ideas. Make sure these ideas do not contradict what the Bible teaches.

Some say that all we need to do is love others. While this sounds like a good thing, how does the Bible say we best do that? Those who say we are to just love others often must make up their own ideals for life instead of what God teaches us. We need to know what the Bible teaches and know God's commandments so that know how to love God and treat others with love.

How do we love God? Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." So, the Bible defines how we are to love God. God has our best interests at heart and to love Him is to keep His good commandments and follow how He tells us to live.

Psalms 112:1 NKJV says,
Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.

Psalms 119:35
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

Psalms 119:66 NKJV says,
Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments.

Psalms 119:143-144 NKJV says,
Your commandments are my delights. The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting.

Psalms 119:166 NKJV says,
LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments.

God pleads with us to accept His good commandments. This is an often-quoted scripture because it is important. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

How do we love others? Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "But you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." So, keeping God's commandments is the starting point for loving others because God knows how we should best do that.

Also, allow the work of the Holy Spirit in our life. As believers in the Messiah, we are to receive the Holy Spirit in this temporary Messianic age. Acts 2:38-39 NKJV says, "You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

We are supposed to ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:9-13 NKJV says,
So I say to you, **ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find;** knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Remember, we are still in a time of testing, and we need to resist temptation. There is a devil the Bible says, and we need to resist the temptations of the evil spiritual powers of this world.

Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV says,

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Israel had made it out of Egypt and God provided food and water for them and was with them in the desert. There was fire over the Tabernacle in the desert at night and a cloud over it by day for some 39 years! They may have thought that they had it made and were okay with God. Just like Israel was in a time of testing, we are still in a time of testing. Will we follow God and keep His commandments and succeed spiritually or fail.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 NKJV says,

And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and **test you**, to know what was in your heart, **whether you would keep His commandments or not**. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

We are to be a holy people and not just think we are holy because of a single action. The following is from our "Frequently Asked Questions" page:

The Words Holy or Set Apart.

We are to be God's set apart holy people. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." The Bible says that to be God's holy people, we must keep God's commandments. We are to keep God's commandments and should continue to learn and grow spiritually in life. Theology tends to replace the truth of the Bible by substituting holiness with man-made ideas such as righteousness without being a holy person. The book of Hebrews says something to the contrary. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Those who do not pursue holiness will not be in God's future kingdom. So, we need to talk about this in more detail to address the various false teachings on holiness.

There are conditions for inheriting the future kingdom of God.

Shaul (Paul) says there are conditions for inheriting the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." These sins that Shaul talks about are in the Old Testament portion. There are more commandments than these that we need to follow. We should want to do everything that God commands us.

Understanding lists in the Bible.

The scripture we just shared in 1 Corinthians 6 is a short list of some of the major offensive sins. Short lists were used back at the time this was written to represent longer lists. Complete lists could be tedious to give all the time. So, short lists were a common way to represent God's commandments and other things. For example, God's commandments are sometimes summarized as love God and your neighbor. Matthew 22:37-40 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." In other words, these two commandments summarize God's commandments, but they do not replace God's commandments. If we just say we are to love God and others, then we make up how we should live instead of following God's commandments. God knows all, knows what is best for us, and has our best interests at heart. So, all of His commandments are to help us live right.

What is loving God and our neighbor?

When we keep God's commandments we respect and love God and also love others. First, Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says tells us how to love God: "You shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." We show God that we love Him by keeping His commandments. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says about loving others: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." There is no better way to love others than by keeping God's statutes because God knows what is best. Loving is not just a feeling we have but requires action. Ask anyone who has a good marriage. They understand the principle of treating those you love with kindness and respect.

God must judge evil.

We are to learn and keep all of God's commandments. Why should we do that? Like we said, God wants what is best for us, so when we do not keep God's commandments, we bring pain and evil into the world. That is why God must punish those who sin. In several places in the Bible, it talks about the punishment in store for those who do not keep God's commandments. Hebrews 10:29 NKJV says, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" Yes, we have grace but not grace to sin as some believe.

Accept the Messiah and the Holy Spirit.

There is another part to being a holy person in this Messianic age. We are to also believe in the Messiah Yeshua and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are supposed to listen to the Messiah. Acts 3:22-23 NKJV says, "For Moses truly said to the fathers, The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." That prophet is the Messiah Yeshua who will someday return and be our God and King (see Jeremiah 23:5-6). To be destroyed from among the people must refer to losing your eternal life.

Yeshua went away temporarily and sent the Holy Spirit as another helper; the first helper was the law. We are to keep God's Old Testament commandments, and we are also to receive the

Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 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." Acts 2:38-39 NKJV talks about receiving the Holy Spirit: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." You can receive God's Holy Spirit when you believe in Yeshua, even those who are "afar off."

We must keep God's commandments and receive the other helper, the Holy Spirit. We are to strive to do what is "right and good" and we do that by keeping God's commandments and also listening to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not tell you to sin. God does not want us to sin. Doing good in biblical and Jewish thought is to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall **do what is right and good** in the sight of the LORD." We are to both keep God's commandments and receive the Holy Spirit in this era. Some people say it is enough to receive the Holy Spirit, but that is incorrect.

Being separate and holy.

We need to also understand the idea of being separate holy people. We are to separate ourselves from doing evil by doing what is "right and good." Being righteous means that we do what is "right." When we do not keep God's commandments, we separate ourselves from God. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God." Holiness carries with it the idea that we separate ourselves from sin, so we bring good into the world and not evil. We do not want to bring evil into the world and separate ourselves from God. Leviticus 20:26 NKJV says, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." We keep God's commandments and separate ourselves; we become distinct in thought, attitude, and behavior.

Saint is the word that is often translated holy.

Sometimes the Bible uses the word saints for God's holy people. It is translated that way at times both in the Old Testament portion and the New Testament portion. Saints in the Old Testament portion were led by God's commandments. In our era, the saints are those who are led in life by God's commandments and the Holy Spirit.

As believers, we are to live holy separate lives. If we live that way, we will not be separated from God. Shaul talks about us not being separated from God in Romans Chapter 8. We should understand that if we are living holy lives, we will not be separated from God. Some say that we are not separated from God no matter what we do. But as we just read, sin separates us from God. Shaul agrees with that concept in several places in the Bible. Shaul quotes this verse in Psalms 118:6 NKJV which says, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" It does not matter what man can do to us, if we do not separate ourselves from God through sin. But if we do not live holy lives, we have turned our back on God. Then we must repent, confess our sins to God, and turn towards God and keep His commandments if we want to be God's holy ones.

Repentance is turning back to God.

When we make full repentance and are committed to keeping God's commandments, we are then restored in relationship to God. God is a good God and wants what is best for us. Therefore, He wants us to fear Him, to have a deep respect for who He is and what He has done for us. We fear God by doing what He tells us to do, namely, keep His commandments. If we turn our life around, then God will forgive us. Psalms 103:10-12 NKJV says, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Be assured that a sincere confession with a deep desire to keep God's commandments will release you from the punishment due you for your wrongdoing. When someone does what is wrong in society, they are punished because of the problems and pain they have caused society. God is no different, He is a just God who helps those who do good but must punish evil.

The Holy Spirit is another helper for life (see John 14:15-17).

We have talked some about how in this temporary Messianic era, we are also to receive the Holy Spirit to be holy. I should note that some people do not like the Holy Spirit because of some people who have misused the Holy Spirit or because of those who have the Holy Spirit but continue to live in sin. Those that misuse the Holy Spirit or are living in sin are not living as holy people and they are separated from God. We should do what is right no matter what others do. Remember, Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God."

Also, Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV in the context about the things of the Holy Spirit, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." In the same context in 1 Corinthians 14:40 NKJV Shaul says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." We are not to misuse the Holy Spirit. He also writes in 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We are not to misuse the Holy Spirit, and we are also to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those who are not using the Holy Spirit in an honoring fashion or not pursuing the associated gifts of the Holy Spirit are therefore sinning.

We are to actually act holy in order to be holy.

The Holy Spirit is our helper just like God's written commandments are our helper. Also, I think we established that we must act holy in order to be holy. Being holy is actually behaving like God's holy people. People may cite different reasons for believing we do not have to act like God's holy people, but they are delusional. We are to be holy as God is holy the Bible says, and a person is holy by keeping God's commandments. Again, Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." We are only God's holy people if we keep His commandments.

The Bible says we are to consecrate ourselves holy. The word for consecrate means to become holy. Leviticus 11:44 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy." We are to become holy and be holy, for God is holy.

Those who do not act holy will not be in God's future kingdom.

Without holiness, no one will see the Lord according to Hebrews 12:14. The Bible says that those who bring evil and pain into the world through living a life of sin will end up in the lake of fire for eternity (see Revelation 21:8). So, be a holy person and bring good into the world and not evil. The Bible says it is not hard to keep God's commandments! Deuteronomy 30:10-11 NIV says, "Obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach."

Do not make it harder than it needs to be. God wants you to succeed. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Be committed to holiness.

Begin your commitment today to be a holy person. Understanding **holiness** and being a separate **set apart** person is important for understanding your spiritual condition. We can be in God's future amazing and good kingdom for doing what is "right and good." It sounds like a win-win opportunity. The streets will look like gold and that is only part of it, I am not kidding! Talking about the future kingdom in Revelation 21:21 NKJV says, "And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." God is a good God both now and forever.

Here are some more things to consider.

God rains down His goodness on mankind. It is not easily apparent in this mixed-up senses driven world. Yet God is there to help us in life. The world can be a complicated place with lots of ideals and philosophies on how to live, or even lots of particulars on how to do the normal everyday things of life. There are a lot of details to take care of in life.

The best place to begin is with God and His commandments. Psalms 111:10 NKJV says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever." If we want good wisdom for life, God's commandments are a good place to start.

Since people are often driven by what they want in life and what they want out of life, they think the things they do and the things they want are an end in themselves. Some may have a basic idea of the wisdom that they need to have a good life, but their concepts are often not tethered to a set of true concepts that they can rely on. Their wisdom therefore changes and is often fleeting at times. This can lead to disillusionment and low expectations in some areas of life and an over attraction to the things of life where one expectation replaces the last achieved goal over and over. People assume they are happy achieving endless goals and desires.

The Psalmist said that we need to fear God. People's goals often have little to do with God. Their fear is that they may miss out on something instead of realizing that there is a good God whom we need to respect and listen to. It is through God's commandments that we have the wisdom we need for life. It is then that we can find true satisfaction through God's wisdom because He knows what is best for us and has our best interests at heart. In the following often

quoted scripture, God pleads with us to accept His good commandments. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

People sometimes think that there are no truths for life, but who would know better what we need in life than the creator God. Therefore, to not keep God's commandments is actually detrimental to life and can even be evil because it lacks a basis in truth. Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV says, "For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water." People will develop their own systems and beliefs and the satisfactions for life, but they are not truths for life and are broken concepts that are worthless. They are like a broken cistern that can hold no water. God's commandments are an unlimited supply of fresh and refreshing water and not the broken systems and ideals that people make up for life.

Those who keep God's truths for life often come to realize that God has good intentions for us and wants to help mankind. Psalms 26:3 NKJV says, "For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth." God's truths in the Bible can give us good direction in life much like a light can lead us when it is dark out. Psalms 43:3 NKJV says, "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! let them lead me." Psalms 86:11 NKJV says, "Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth." God's ways lead us out of the darkness. Wisdom and understanding often refers to keeping God's commandments in the Bible (see Deuteronomy 4:6).

Proverbs 2:10-14 NKJV says,

When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, from those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoice in doing evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked.

Why not be a light in this world instead of the ways of darkness, deception, and evil? Let God's commandments be pleasant to your soul. It is God's light and His good commandments that can help us with many of the details of life. Psalms 119:160 NKJV says, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." God's commandments are forever and are the truths we need for life.

We need to apply ourselves well to His commandments and to the work of the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit so that we stay on track and move forward spiritually. We are to learn and grow spiritually in life and then endure and stick with it. We keep moving forward no matter what. We are to be diligent to keep God's commandments with our whole heart and not do evil.

Psalms 119:1-6 NKJV says,

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways. You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments.

Someday everyone will have to stand before God. We do not want to be ashamed because we did not apply ourselves to keep God's commandments. Shaul said in 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed."

God gave us His commandments for our own good. Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good." We need good directions for life. Have you ever gotten lost because you did not follow the direction you were supposed to go? I got lost on a walk once and I had to retrace my steps about 5 miles to get back to where I started. If I had gone in the right direction to begin with, I would not have had that tough experience. Go the right direction in life.

We love God by keeping His commandments. The people who do not care about God do things their own way. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently." Deuteronomy 30:16 NKJV says, "I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments."

We are to be careful to observe God's commandments. Deuteronomy 26:16 NKJV says, "Observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul." Why not listen to God? We consider all kinds of things in life, but nothing can be more important than listening and obeying the God of the universe.

Do not forget to seek God's gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." The following are some of the things that the Holy Spirit can do. These are supernaturally inspired gifts from God. Romans 12:6-8 NKJV says, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." There are other lists of gifts. They are sometimes called evidences or manifestations (see Ephesians 4:8-13 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Take the effort and time to stay consistent and refreshed spiritually. Everything in life requires effort of some kind. Even relaxation requires that we decide to relax and clear our minds. Clearing our minds is part of relaxation. Just like we stop doing work physically, relaxing mentally requires we rest our minds. We do not stop doing everything physically and mentally, we relax from working our bodies and mind. In the same way, we work on our spiritual life harder at times than at others, but we should never stop engaging with acting and thinking spiritually.

As we make the effort to learn and grow spiritually by consistent and purposeful behaviors and thinking, we form patterns in our life that become more automatic with practice. When I first tried to play catch, I remember it taking me a lot of purposeful thought and effort to play catch

consistently without dropping the ball. By reading the Bible and applying what we learn over and over, our spiritual life becomes more automatic. Also, we need to make decisions in life to think the way we should think so that we apply God's commandments in life. When we think of something that is wrong, we immediately identify the wrong thought and decide not to do that. Often, merely identifying how to do what is right will help us to do what is right. Remember, to do what is right is to keep God's commandments (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18).

Say I like the pen my friend has. It is okay to like what others have but to want to take what they have is to covet what they have and that is wrong. Instead, I could think of going to the store and buying a pen like that. When looking at someone of the opposite sex I might think of their nice smile and kind behavior or that they are worthy of dignity and respect. Use godly behaviors and thoughts to counteract wrong thinking. Often it is enough for me to just use the scripture that says not to do something. Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV says, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God." So, I will not wear anything feminine or act that way because I am a man.

Examine your life and be committed to even the smallest details to make sure you are in line with God's commandments. Yeshua said in Luke 16:9-10 NKJV, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"

Yeshua is using an example from life. The unrighteousness mammon refers to our worldly finances. Yeshua is merely referring to the financial dealings in life. Our daily activities and necessary work are not the most important things in life; the spiritual details of life are the important things in life. Of course, the financial dealings of life are important. Most people treat their finances with great care and can even be very savvy with their finances. Therefore, for many people, how they use their money is very important to them. The little things can matter a great deal. For example, by taking care of the little things financially, people may have the money to have a nice meal or to have money for emergencies. Just like the normal details of life matter, God's good ways matter in life.

The details of our spiritual life also matters more than the daily details of life because we will stand accountable to God for how well we kept His commandments.

Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says,

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

We each have a choice whether to end up in everlasting contempt or to shine like the stars forever. We all have to stand before God and be judged so make every effort to follow God's good commandments. God will forgive us if we repent of our wrongdoing. Psalms 103:11-12 NKKJV says, "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Fear God and have a deep respect for Him. God's commandments are good because

God is the creator and knows what is best for us. To not keep God's commandments is to sin and do evil.

Learning and applying God's commandments are key to our spiritual life because God's commandments help us to have a good life. These often-quoted scriptures in Proverbs teach us this.

Proverbs 3:1-8 NKJV says,

Do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.

A lot of people quote verses 5 and 6 in this scripture about trusting in God, but not the context. What are we supposed to trust? We are to trust in God's law. God's law can be life extending and the person who keeps God's good commandments is often favored by others because God's commandments lead to being a good person. So, do not go by your own ideas and lean on your own understanding because God's commandments will give you the direction you need for life. Do not think you are wiser than our almighty and good God. Have a deep respect for God and do not think wrong evil thoughts. It will make for a healthier life in all aspects of life, and I would include good mental health. Everything we do in life becomes an opportunity to keep ourselves sharp spiritually.

Details are part of life in all that we do. In all of life we learn appropriate ways to act and how to accomplish tasks and that requires us to do things in a certain way. It is the same spirituality. We do not want to take God's commandments lightly. We need to pay attention to following God's commandments all the time just like we pay attention to how we use our money or how most people act in order to be successful and functional.

God rains down His goodness on mankind. It is not so easily apparent in this senses driven world. God gave us His wisdom for life through His commandments. So, apply yourself to God's wisdom well and be diligent to keep His commandments and do not forget to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We need to apply ourselves well spiritually. The daily details of life are important, but our spiritual life is even more important because our spiritual part of life helps us in so many ways and that also includes the important matter of what will happen to us in eternity. Take the effort and time to stay consistent and sharp spiritually. God's law can even help us to be healthier physically and mentally.

Torah Teaching.

Tetzaveh means, "you shall command." The portion begins by saying that they were to make pure olive oil for the menorah and to keep it burning continually in the tent of meeting. In order to do this, they would use only the first few drops from the olive. It would be clear and pure. It

is a spiritual picture that we are to be pure lights to others. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:16 NKJV, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.

The rituals that Israel did often taught principles they were to follow. When Yeshua said, "good works," He is referring to keeping God's commandments, namely, doing what is "right and good." Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "**You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God**, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And **you shall do what is right and good** in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you." So, doing good works is to keep God's commandments. It is not what we think is good, but what God says is good. We are not God.

People are told to read the Bible but since they do not understand the Old Testament portion or often know nothing about it, they do not fully understand that the scriptures in the New Testament portion of the Bible refer to scriptures in the Old Testament portions. The writers of the New Testament portion were referring to concepts the people of that time were aware of from the Old Testament and also sometimes to biblical cultural issues. Therefore, those who do not understand the Old Testament portion will form wrong conclusions from what they are reading. Even some pastors also do this, the true context is often being interpreted wrong.

Ritual and symbolism in the Torah.

God instituted some symbolism as a way for the people to remember what was taught. It was part of culture. For example, when an agreement was made, they would often make a pile of rocks to remind them of the agreement. Jacob and Laban made an agreement while Jacob was on his way back home with his family, and they put a pile of rocks presumably along the road where they were (see Genesis 31:48).

Some people will go too far with symbolism. Some of the rabbis of Yeshua's time probably missed understanding that Yeshua was the Messiah because of their focus on symbolism. This scripture in John alludes to the problem of using a lot of symbolism. Yeshua said in John 5:39 NKJV, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." People who always are looking for symbolism are not helping people to follow God properly but are diverting their attentions.

We should qualify this by saying a lot of the rabbis of Yeshua's time did understand Yeshua is the Messiah. This is another misconception among some people. We know this because the Bible says that 10s of thousands of people at that time believed in Yeshua. Shaul shared his good story and the believers in Jerusalem then shared their good story. Acts 21:19-20 NKJV says, "He told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, 'You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law.'" Isn't that wonderful! The people were zealous for the law. What a great example for us.

Myriads means 10,000s or a countless number (of people) according to Strong's Dictionary. A lot of them must have been rabbis. Even James (Ya'akov) believed Yeshua was the Messiah and

he served as the Cohen Gadol, the High Priest for Yom Kippur after Yeshua's death and resurrection according to the historian Josephus. The High Priest after Yeshua died and rose from the dead was a believer. The people back then understood that the law was good as we just read in Deuteronomy, therefore, they glorified God when they heard that the people were keeping the law. The context there in Acts is sometimes being twisted and interpreted the opposite of what is intended. The preconceived theology of those that misinterpret the scriptures often contradict what the Bible says. Romans 7:12 NKJV says, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."

The oil for the Menorah was to be pure, which points to us being pure. They kept the Menorah lit during the night which points to God never sleeping. Purity also points to an eternal life where there is purity and therefore our eternal life will be wonderful, namely, "right and good." Our hope is also for purity in this life. 2 Peter 1:4 NKJV says, "By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." We can escape sin with the help of God's commandments and the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua.

The portion continues, Aharon and his sons and descendants were to be special consecrated priests for the Lord. Specific instructions for the priestly garments and how they are to anoint Aaron, and his sons were given. Special garments were to be made for them which includes a breastplate, vest, a blue robe, tunic, turban, and a sash. Only the descendants of Aaron were to wear the priestly garments. They were to put the urim and the tumim in the breastplate to make decisions. The stones were said to light up and spell a message supernaturally according to some Jewish writings. They were to serve barefoot as a sign of humility. Serving others should not be conducted as an act of pride. Yeshua washed His disciples' feet and told them they should serve others (see John 13:15-16). Also, some idolators worship the dust of their feet so what Yeshua did could allude to helping others to avoid idolatry.

We are to be humble servants of God.

There would be bells on the bottom of the robe Cohen Gadol to let the people know the High Priest was at work and they should pay attention; it is not true that it has to do with the High Priest dying if they did not hear the bells. Also, the priests were to wear linen undergarments. Then the process of consecration is given with their dress, sacrifices, and rituals and the priests' consecration is to take 7 days. The altar is especially holy and whatever touches it will be holy. Through all their generations they will have burnt offerings, and God would speak to them at the Mishkan, the Tent of Meeting. Aharon and his sons were to be consecrated by God's glory. God will then live with His people.

The Cohen, the Levitical priests.

Real priests of God are descendants of Aharon and only descendants of Aharon can be priests. Most of the time, in free societies leaders are chosen by their ability. God wanted the priestly line to be from one family lineage. There are people who call themselves priests, but they are not from the designated priestly line so they may be teachers or pastors but not real priests.

The priests had a lot of responsibility. They performed the ritual sacrifices, taught God's commandments, and would make decisions based on the law. There were extra laws for the priests. They were to be an example of holiness. Ya'akov said that any of those in spiritual authority would be judged more strictly by God. James 3:1 NKJV says, "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."

Perhaps men were chosen to be priests because men especially need direction for life. Eve is Adam's helper, so the Bible depicts men and women working together. Women are sometimes shown as being bold spiritually in the Bible. For example, the midwives stood up to Pharaoh and did not kill the babies they were told to kill. God told Rebecca that Jacob should be the one to be blessed. She made sure that Jacob got the blessing he deserved. We see both men and women prophesying in the Bible. In Romans 16:7, Junia is called an apostle. Junia is a woman's name. Men should take the lead spiritually, but they do not always do that. Adam failed to lead properly.

Husbands are to be loving towards their wives it says in the New Testament portion. Men should be especially kind and loving towards their wife. Leviticus teaches us to love others. That should especially apply to those who are closest to us. Also, it says that wives should honor and be respectful towards their husbands.

There is a scripture in the New Testament portion that is translated that women are to be subject to their husbands. This cannot be talking about the license to mistreat one's wife. In the Roman Empire, the family of the wife could divorce the wife from her husband. Most likely, Shaul is saying that women should stay with their believing husband and be subject to their husband and not subject to the wife's family. They are not to divorce just because her family does not like the husband.

The portion goes on; they were to build an altar to bring incense every morning and also burn incense when Aharon lights the lamps at dusk. They were not to make any unauthorized offering or incense at the Mishkan. We see in this portion specific instructions about the menorah, the Cohens' apparel, and the consecration of the Cohens. It should again remind us that we are to worship God in the way He chooses.

The High Priest was to wear special clothes while serving and so were his sons. Again, no one was to wear the high priest's clothes, just the High Priest. His clothes were special and glorious, and they included a turban on his head and a crown on the turban. Exodus 29:6 NKJV says, "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban." Aaron's sons also wore a turban with a round hat made of linen under the turban; see Exodus 39:27-29. They covered their heads twice while serving at the Mishkan and so did the Cohens who served under the High Priest later at the Temple in Jerusalem.

There is a misunderstanding in many circles of Christianity concerning 1 Corinthians 11 where it is actually referring to men not wearing a veil on their heads. 1 Corinthians 11:4 NKJV says, "Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head

of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head."

The head covering and Greek words in that verse refers to a veil which is an article of woman's clothing. Shaul is merely telling them to keep the Torah which says that we are not to wear clothing that is solely for the opposite sex. Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV says, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God." Also, it should be understood that since we are to love others (see Leviticus 19:18-19), men should be especially kind and loving toward his own family. Being loving does not mean we are to be permissive towards sin.

Shaul later says he is referring to customs and not God's commandments, but it always stands that if anything is explicitly an article of clothing for the opposite sex, it is forbidden. 1 Corinthians 11:16 NKJV says, "But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God." What is the contention? It is not about the Torah; **it is about custom it says** except where he is talking about obeying the Torah. They would have understood what he was talking about because most early believers were Jewish.

Always remember that the word church is the Greek word for assembly and doesn't refer to a denomination or building. Acts 20:20 NKJV says, "I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house." Why house to house? Because for the most part, people met in the home. 1 Corinthians 16:19-20 NKJV says, "The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house." People who meet in buildings would have you believe that Shaul was teaching leadership from house to house. Their man-made theology aims to make people believe that they are legitimate because they have a building or denomination. Many denominations are still passing on the religion of the pagan Greco-Roman Empire. For example, Easter is the pagan goddess of fertility. Yeshua rose on resurrection weekend, and it is a disgrace to refer to His resurrection as a pagan god. Think about it.

The colors in the Bible are often used within a context that uses a particular color. This is for your interest only. From online at: <https://www.color-meanings.com/biblical-meaning-colors/>

Amber – Glory of God, judgment upon sin, endurance.

Orange – Fire of God, deliverance, passionate praise.

Pink/Fuchsia – Right relationship with God.

Scarlet – Royalty, fine linen for tabernacle.

Red – Blood of Jesus, love of God, blood of lamb, atonement, salvation.

Blue – Heaven, the Holy Spirit, authority.

Purple – Priesthood, kingship, royalty, mediator, wealth.

Gold – Glory, divinity, kingship, eternal deity, foundation, altar, beauty, precious, holiness, majesty, righteousness.

Wine – New birth, multiply, overflow.

Sapphire – Law, commandments, grace, the Holy Spirit, divine revelation.

Turquoise – River of God, sanctification, healing, New Jerusalem.

Green – Praise, growth, prosperity, new beginning, flourishing, restoration.

Silver – Word of God, purity, divinity, salvation, truth, atonement, redemption.

White – Bride of Christ, surrender, harvest, light, righteousness, conquest, victory, blessedness, joy, angels, saints, peace, completion, triumph.

Brown – End of season, rags, people, pride, weary, faint.

Yellow – Faith and Glory of God, anointing, joy.

Black – Darkness, sin, Earth, affliction, humiliation, calamity, death, mourning.

Atonement for sin would be made once a year on the altar. Since the Messiah Yeshua came, that has changed. Hebrews 10:12-14 NKJV says, "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." It was always understood that a Messiah would come and give Himself for our sins; the Messiah also helps us to be holy through the help of the Holy Spirit (see John 14:26).

Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV says,
 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
 He was bruised for our iniquities;
 The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
 And by His stripes we are healed.
 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 We have turned, every one, to his own way;
 And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

God chose the line of Aharon to be priests. This points us to accepting who God chose as the Messiah, namely Yeshua. Just as Aharon was picked to be the father of all priests, Yeshua is God's chosen Messiah and our priest who has atoned for our sins. One of the major duties of the high priest was to offer a sacrifice for sin on Yom Kippur. Yeshua came as God and offered Himself for our sins. The specific priestly apparel is a shadow picture of the glorious position of Yeshua (see Exodus 28:2) who came as our glorious High Priest and Messiah. Also, Yeshua revealed His true glorious nature when He was transfigured before Kefa, Yochanan, and Ya'akov the brother of Yochanan. As Yeshua prayed, "The appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening;" Luke 9:29 NKJV.

Just as God's presence was there in the Mishkan as the priests ministered, Yeshua was the presence of God on earth when He came to minister to mankind. Yochanan said that Yeshua "tabernacled" or "tented" among us. Yochanan is probably thinking of the Mishkan in the desert where the presence of God was; there was a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. Just as the presence of God was among Israel at the Mishkan, Yeshua was the presence of God when He came as a man. Yeshua came as God in the form of a man; He did not become God. All the patriarchs encountered God as a man. Jeremiah 23:5-6 says that the Messiah would come from the line of David and be God, Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

The Haftarah for Tetzaveh is Ezekiel 43:20-27. Before this portion in Ezekiel, Ezekiel has a vision of the House, namely the future Temple. He talks in detail about the future Temple. A man is standing by him, and He says that this is the place for My throne where the soles of his feet will be with the children of Israel forever.

God's throne will be with Israel forever.

In these passages, the Lord (Yěhōváh) is speaking to Ezekiel in the form of a man. This is probably a vision of Yeshua. No one will ever again defile My holy name again He says. As our portion begins in verse 10, Ezekiel is told to describe, sketch, and give the sacrificial law for the House so that Israel will be ashamed of their crimes. The mountain top for the future Temple will be especially holy. This portion describes the consecration of this future Temple which is to cover the whole mountain.

After this portion it talks about the East Gate being closed because that is the gate that Yě-hō-váh has gone through. It was blocked off but is now open. Someday the Messiah will come with power, and the entire mountain top will be God's holy Temple.

All the ancient believers, the believers of Israel (Exodus 19:6), and all believers in Messiah (1 Peter 2:9) are to be priests and serve each other. Exodus 19:6 NKJV says, "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people." To be holy is to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." Also to walk with God is to keep His commandments. Deuteronomy 5:33 NKJV says, "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you."

We often think that we as individuals only have the responsibility to care for ourselves, but no one is an island, and we all rely on others to survive. Without the farmer, there would be no food at the grocery store. We should not take people for granted but be a humble servant of God. Micah 6:8 NKJV says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Be humble towards God, live right, and be considerate and merciful towards others.

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.
(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

**Following this part of our teaching, we have
a special section on Answering Common Questions about God
followed by the Aaronic Blessing.**

The Menorah in the Mishkan is to stay lit from evening to morning. Perhaps this is symbolic that God does not sleep; He is always available. Exodus 27:21

Special garments were to be made and worn for the High Priest and those descendants of Aaron who are serving. Exodus 28:4

The breastplate is to be fastened securely to the ephod with blue thread. Exodus 28:28

The priests' cloaks are to be made so they will not tear. Exodus 28:32

The priests were to eat a portion of the sacrifice and no one else. Exodus 28:33

The High Priest is to burn incense every morning. Exodus 30:7

Nothing is to be placed on the golden altar except the incense that God says is okay. Exodus 30:9

Answering Common Questions about God. **(a special section)**

The Aaronic Blessing follows this extended section we have included for today.

What do you believe about God? (You might then tell them what you believe, or you could use some of the answers below. You could paraphrase this scripture first and then read them this.)

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NKJV says,

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ (Messiah) died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. And that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also.

What do you think Isaiah 53 is about? This was written 600 years before Yeshua came. Isaiah 53:4-6 NKJV says,

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

What is your best reason for the existence of God?

I have experienced the Holy Spirit, miracles, and healing.

The complexity of life leads to believing there is a God.

The slim chance of life existing on earth leads to thinking there must be a God.

Since life exists why cannot there be a God?

For most people who do not believe in God, they are too proud to accept God. Although you reason with them, they do not care what you have to say. Some people are searching for God

and those are the ones that you can talk to. Here are some things I have heard while talking to people about God and some possible answers.

There are many ways to God.

God is big enough that He can define Himself. Since He is the creator and He can define Himself, wouldn't he do that?

If you were a father, wouldn't you care enough about your kids to give them advice and help? So, wouldn't our Father, God do the same for us? The Bible is our manual for life that God gave us.

We are all God's children.

The Bible says that we are His creation, but we are not all God's children. It says that those who keep God's commandments and act like they are God's children are His children. Also, those who believe in God are to believe in the Messiah Yeshua.

Those who choose to follow God; the Bible says they are God's children. Just like we copy what our father and mother do, we are to imitate God's qualities as His children. To be a child of God, you have to become God's child.

We can find out what those are in the Bible. I can help you with that.

I'm Muslim, Buddhist, ... I believe in Yeshua.

I believe a lot of people existed, for example Abraham Lincoln, and I can understand some things about them, but believing in Yeshua doesn't mean just that He existed. Believing in Yeshua means we believe in who He is, His teachings, in keeping God's commandment, and in receiving the Holy Spirit.

Believing in Yeshua means that you believe that He is the Messiah, that He came from heaven to reach man and show men how to live and to show God's love; He also came to bring back men to Him because man is not perfect. People need the commandments of our good creator God who knows what is best for mankind. Because we have fallen short, we needed God's help in life to bring us back to Him. We deserved to die as imperfect people, but Yeshua came for our imperfections and died for us as the suffering messiah so that we could be forgiven. Amazingly, Yeshua rose from the dead according to the scriptures. After He rose from the dead, He went away until the final ages to come and, in the meantime, we have God's commandments and Yeshua gave believers a helper, the Holy Spirit. Do you believe that?

I encourage you to read the New Testament portion and see who Yeshua is for yourself. We need to go to the source to find out who He is.

The Bible was written by man, not God.

That's true the Bible was written by men, but the Bible says they were holy men that were given the words by the Holy Spirit – they were given them by God.

There were at least 39 different authors, but the Bible fits together to form a coherent book. If you have 2 professors in a room, they probably won't agree on everything, and they may even contradict each other. So, it is amazing that the Bible fits together the way it does.

God wanted to reach out to man, so He chose good men and holy men to write down His message.

The Bible is full of errors.

Do you know of any?

A lot of the so-called errors are just errors in understanding, translation, cultural context, or bad theology. There are some errors in the Greek manuscripts, but the translators have done a good job translating what they have. All the writers of the New Testament portion say we are to still keep the law and that includes Yeshua. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

It cannot be any plainer. Yeshua will reject those who do not keep the law. So, scriptures in the New Testament portion that seem to say that we do not have to keep the law were modified by heretics, or it may be because we have difficulty understanding them. Therefore, we must adhere to the scriptures that say we are to keep the law and not let the scriptures that we think may tell us not to keep the law confuse us.

They've been able to document and prove that the Old Testament portion of the Bible hasn't changed much from the original texts except for a few minor changes. So, it is a very reliable document. So, most of the error is in translation or in our understanding – also, since both the old and new portions were written by Jews, some of our misunderstandings come from not understanding the cultural context.

God cannot have a son.

God can do what He wants. He is the creator, God. There is evidence in the Old Testament portion that the Messiah was to be the son of God and in the New Testament portion we see Yeshua living that out and He is called Lord.

We are multiple parts – body, life, and spirit; and so why can't God be multiple parts yet one? God wanted to reveal His love for man and show us how to live so He went to extraordinary measures to do this.

In the Bible, God appeared to Isaac, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and others as a man. These were preincarnate appearances of Yeshua. The Bible says in Jeremiah 23:5-6 that the Messiah would be both from the line of King David and God.

The Bible has many contradictions.

What contradictions are you aware of? Many supposed contradictions can be explained.

The Bible can be difficult to understand at times and studying it definitely helps. Reading good books, going to congregation, and study groups can help us with our understanding.

Do you have any questions that I can help you with? I would be willing to get together with you and help you understand the Bible.

The God I would love would not allow all the suffering.

That's a tough one. Suffering can be bad, I know. We all suffer.

I don't believe it was God's intention that man should suffer. In the story of Adam, we see that he hid from God. It is a story about how man has decided to do things on His own apart from God. This has caused mankind a tremendous number of problems and evil.

God is love and God is light, and God has been in the process of trying to restore man back to Himself ever since. That's why God gave us His good commandments and that is why Yeshua came. When we accept Yeshua as the Messiah, we begin some of that restoration process by keeping the law and also through the help of the Holy Spirit. The restoration process will become fully realized in eternity.

We live in a fallen and evil world that needs a loving and good God and His commandments.

But I'm a good person.

That may be true, but what you think is good is subject to your own personal feelings or thoughts. Wouldn't it be better if there was a perfect standard outside of yourself? Since God is all knowing and good, He would be a better choice to make our standards, and we can find out about these good concepts for life in the Bible.

Can you define what is good? Is your idea of good the absolute good? Since God created all, He should be able to define what is truly good.

My mom was a good person; you mean to tell me if she didn't accept Yeshua she is in hell?

This isn't about your mom right now. It is about you. God is a righteous judge, and he will do the right thing with your mom. What about you?

People make choices all the time and you can choose to get to know the good and loving God.

I don't believe in God.

Yeshua said that if you believe, you will see. That's been my experience. My experience is that we will experience God; we just have to give Him a chance. I have a logical mind, and I like proof myself – so by giving God a genuine opportunity, God will give you the proof. Yeshua said that if we seek, we will find. I believe that if you begin seeking God, you will find Him.

That takes a lot of guts to not believe. There is a lot of evidence for the existence of God. If you have just a little bit of doubt that God could exist, isn't that reason enough to investigate more.

We are all gods.

What do you mean? Being a human being or something created by God does not make us God the creator. I am not George Washington even if I think I am.

God is most often defined as being the creator of the universe. We know that we are not the creators of the universe, so you probably mean something else. Possibly you mean that there is something special about us. That is absolutely true. God created the universe, and He created man to be His special people and to have a relationship with Him. We can find out about that in the Bible.

I've been looking for God, but I can't find Him.

That is great because God wants you to find Him. Maybe I can help you with that. I've been seeking God my whole life and I believe I've found Him. Because I continue to seek Him, I keep finding out more about Him.

I experience God, I keep getting to know Him more and more and one of those ways is through the Bible.

Where have you been looking? Maybe I can help you find Him. I would be willing to get together with you. He wants to reveal Himself to you. Let's pray.

If God is real, He needs to prove it to me.

One of the problems with God proving Himself is the idea that God must answer all my prayers and that is really something that is up to God. But, if we keep seeking Him and trust in Him, it is not unusual for God to answer some of our prayers.

God gave us free will, right? If He did everything you asked for, you'd have to believe and you'd no longer have free will.

Yet Yeshua said that if you believe you will see – God doesn't expect us to have blind faith.

The Bible has so much killing in it, that can't be of God.

The Bible has a lot of things in it. It is a story about man going His own way and God continually trying to help mankind to come back to Him.

Mankind does a lot of awful things. And the Bible doesn't try to cover up things but present the facts. It is the story of God trying to help us and reach us with His love.

God gave us the Bible so that we could know our good God and know how to live and love others. The world would be a better place if we believed in the Bible. The Bible says the fruits or results of believing in Yeshua are peace, love, joy, and patience. What do you think of that?

Too many people have been killed in the name of God.

Many people have been killed by controlling people who have used religion or a philosophy of life to control others. Some atheist religions and other religions think it is okay to commit murder. The Bible says that murder is wrong. People can be incredibly selfish and hurtful.

What does that have to do with God? Yeshua said love one another. If people did that, they wouldn't be killing each other would they? One of the commandments in the Bible says murder is wrong. The Bible tells us about a better way of living.

The Church is full of hypocrites.

The church is full of imperfect people. We are all hypocritical to a certain extent. None of us are perfect. The Bible says that no one is perfect and that's why we need Yeshua the Messiah. We aren't perfect and we sin.

At least Christians are trying to do something about who they are. A person who doesn't believe can make up their values and change their mind about their values any time they want to.

I had a friend years ago that was an atheist, and he told me that he'd be more apt to trust someone that had religious values than someone who didn't.

It's all a myth, just like the Greek gods.

Some of the things in the Bible just seem like stories, but they've been able to document that quite a few of these people existed. For example, they've been able to document that at one time there was a huge flood so even the flood story is plausible. Archeologists have now found the crossing site where Israel crossed the Sea of Aqaba and the real Mount Sinai.

The Bible is a historic document. The Greek myths are acknowledged as myths.

The Bible is the story of God trying to reach out to man and the stories are absolutely true. People need to hear about God and He is trying to reveal Himself to us through the Bible and personally reach out to us.

What about the one person who has never heard of The Messiah, or the many people who haven't heard, do you say they are condemned to hell?

God knows all and He is able to judge everyone justly. All those who keep God's commandments and believe on Yeshua can be assured they are forgiven.

I know it's true, and I'll do it later after I have fun. If you really believed, you would be taking care of it now. If you were standing on a tower that you knew was going to collapse, you would get off of it.

How do you know that you will act later? There is no better time than the present.

He never answers my prayers.

He doesn't answer all prayers, but He does answer some. He tells us to keep praying to Him. I've had quite a number of prayers answered, but not all of them. I know he cares about me and loves me. He's taken care of the most important thing – a great way to live through His commandments, His gift of the Holy Spirit, my forgiveness, and eternal life.

I'm an atheist.

That means you don't believe in anything. No one can be an atheist because we have to believe in something.

That takes a lot of guts. There is a lot of evidence for God. If you have just a little bit of doubt, isn't that reason enough to investigate more?

We can't know for certain.

God doesn't expect us to have blind faith. There is a certain reasonable understanding that we can have. Yeshua said that if we believe, we will see.

What makes your way the right way? (or what you say right)

There are over 300 prophecies about Yeshua that have come true. If 8 prophecies came true, I understand that the chances of that are 1 in 17 zeroes.

There is a lot of evidence. I suggest reading: [Evidence Demands a Verdict](#) by Josh McDowell or [The Case for Christ](#) by Lee Strobel.

It's all the same God.

The Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says that God has given us His good commandments to live by in the Bible. Also, Yeshua said that He has the truth and there is no other way to God than through Him.

The Bible says that Yeshua is the Messiah who came to help us. Since the Messiah came, we are required to give a response to Him and believe in Him.

The Bible reveals the true God and that's how we can know about Him; we cannot get to know the true God through philosophy or any other religion.

Whatever – feels right. (or good)

God cares about us. A father that cared about his children would instruct them and help them. There is a right way and wrong way. For example, we all know killing young children is wrong.

Doing things our own way means we are making up the rules as we go along.

God, who is all knowing would be able to show us the best way to live and what is right.

Too many people have fought/died over religion.

Mankind does a lot of bad things, but the Bible says that God loves us and is a loving God. Yeshua said love one another. If people did that, they wouldn't be murdering each other would they?

The Bible says that we are not to murder or covet what others have. If nations did that there would be fewer wars. That is a testimony to the truth of the Bible. Other philosophies and religions think it is okay to commit murder.

These are some of the things that I have encountered. I hope some of these things help you to reach others.

We can come up with lots of ideas on how to live life, but God's ways are the commandments of a good God that help us in life. He knows what is best and will even empower His commandments at times and do works on our behalf. In spite of the unknowns in life, God's commandments bring order and goodness to our life. Endure and stick with it and keep moving forward in life no matter what. Be diligent to know and keep God's commandments. Also, be available to help others believe truth. Try opening conversations about God with others.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God, which is pronounced, Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used 6,521 times in the Old Testament portion according to Strong's Dictionary. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name. So, why not use God's real name? According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. In that verse and everywhere we see a name for God in all capitals (in some of our Bibles) it is this exclusive name for God, Yě-hō-váh. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah which means to exist. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. He is our eternal God and creator. I want to honor God's name. Will you also honor God's name?

Some people call God Hashem which means "the name." They dishonor God's name by not using His name (see Deuteronomy 29:20). When we honor someone, we use their name in an appropriate way. Christians for the most part do not use the true name of God. Why not begin using His true name and honor Him? Do not be afraid to use God's real name with respect. I say this in order to encourage you to use God's real name because it points to God being our eternal creator.

The ancient rabbis say that is God's name. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. I have seen God's name pointed as Yě-hō-váh in the Aleppo Codex. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people. So, let's put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיַּחֲנֶךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וַיִּשָּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.