

**Lesson Six**  
**The issue of sin**

**1) The Scriptural definition of sin is very different than today's ideas. Romans 3 says that we "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of Elohim." Sin is a "self-centered" act. It is a state of rebellion against YHWH. It is the exact opposite of love. The scriptures state in Romans "where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Y'shua our Messiah." Through these verses a person can understand the effects of sin. Sin has affected everyone that has lived since the beginning of time. Sin separates man from the Heavenly Father. Sin makes mankind in need of forgiveness. Without forgiveness there is no eternal life, no grace, and no righteousness. This is all because of sin. To remedy sin is one of the reasons why the Messiah came.**

1 John 3:4-7

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Psalm 5:4-5

"For You are not a Elohim that has pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with You. The foolish shall not stand in Your sight: You hate all workers of iniquity [sin]."

Matthew 12:36

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

I John 5:17

All unrighteousness is sin.

**2) The word "law" found in most English Bibles is a Greek interpretation of the Hebrew word "Torah." The word "torah" is Hebrew for "teaching or instruction." The "Law" that Torah is commonly translated into brings to mind a restraining order - but this is simply not the case. Torah was given for the benefit of mankind, not to hinder mankind. Torah is the loving instructions and guidelines for living as Yahweh's chosen people. The Torah is traditionally considered the first five books of the Old Testament, including the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments. Yet, the Law is not Jewish, it is Biblical. One author has written, "Christians usually call the Torah "the Law," because most English translations of scripture translate Torah as Law. The reason this came about is because pre-Yahshua rabbis translated the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, called the Septuagint. The Septuagint translated Torah into the Greek word nomia or nomos. The term nomos was used in the Greek culture to mean an unalterable law. Following this tradition, the Greek New Testament also used nomia to signify the Torah." One rabbi has written that, "The**

**Hebrew word “torah,” literally “teaching, doctrine,” is rendered in both the Septuagint and the New Testament by the Greek word “nomos,” which means “law.” Greek has had a more direct and pervasive influence on English and other modern languages than Hebrew has and this is why in most languages one speaks of the “law” of Moses rather than the “teaching” of Moses.**

Exodus 24:3-4

Moshe came and told the people all the words of Yahweh and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words that Yahweh has spoken we will do.' And Moses wrote down all the words of Yahweh

**3) According to the Holman Bible Dictionary, a Baptist publication, “sin is transgression of the law. Elohim established the law as a standard of righteousness; any violation of this standard is defined as sin. Deuteronomy 6:24-25 is a statement of this principle from the perspective that a person who keeps the law is righteous. The implication is that the person who does not keep the law is not righteous, that is, sinful. The Old Testament has a rich vocabulary for sin. The Hebrew word Chata means, “to miss the mark,” as does the Greek hamartia. The word could be used to describe a person shooting a bow and arrow and missing the target with the arrow. When it is used to describe sin, it means that the person has missed the mark that Elohim has established for the person’s life. The Hebrew word Aven describes the crooked or perverse spirit associated with sin. Sinful persons have perverted their spirits and become crooked rather than straight. It also has the connotation of the breaking out of evil. Sin is simply the opposite of righteousness or moral straightness in the Torah. The most notable advancement in the New Testament view of sin is the fact that sin is defined against the backdrop of Yahshua, the living Torah, as the standard for righteousness. His life exemplifies perfection. The exalted purity of His life creates the norm for judging what is sinful.”**

John 17:16 - 17

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

1 John 2:4 – 6

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of YHWH is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**4) Y’shua the Messiah is the Torah or Law alive. “And the Word was made flesh,” John 1:4. Y’shua actually walked fully in the Torah commands and never broke the law or sinned. Or to put it plainly Y’shua kept the Torah in its entirety. And therefore to follow Y’shua man must follow the Old Testament Law. A life patterned after Yahshua, or after the Torah, will be a life absent of sin! For Yahshua never broke the law. Remember it says in 1 John 3:4 that “sin is lawlessness.” Therefore, if Y’shua kept the**

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**law or obeyed the law He never sinned. If you believe the scriptures then you must agree that sin is “lawlessness” and that to be sinless one must obey the Law. Well that’s exactly what Y’shua did and commands also to do.**

1 John 3:5

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.

Luke 6:45

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

James 1:21

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward YHWH? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of YHWH.

**5) Yahshua would often defend the Torah saying, “You have heard it said...” and then would say “but I tell you...” These words were directed not towards the Torah but towards religious leaders who taught anti-torah wisdom. These piercing words of Y’shua found in Matthew 5 and other places were spoken to those who had perverted the Torah/law: the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes.**

Matthew 5:27 & 28

You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Mark 9:50

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other."

Matthew 5:19 - Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

John 14:15

If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

**6) When Y’shua issued the great commandment he wasn’t telling the people not to follow the other aspects of the Law. Just like if the government issued a new law concerning driving, people would still have to obey stop signs and the other safe driving rules. Matthew 22: 34-40, “Hearing that Y’shua had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Y’shua replied:**

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**“Love the YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Love is to be the foundation of all Torah obedience. Here Y’shua insisted that the “Law and the Prophets” hang on man’s relationship with Yahweh and people. Yes, Israel is to love Yahweh and love people. How does a person do that? Easy! By following the Torah! The word “iniquity” that is used throughout the New Testament is a translation from the Greek term “anomia.” This is a compound word. “A” comes from a negative participle in Greek, which means “without.” And “nomia” means “law.” Therefore, “anomia” or iniquity is correctly defined as “without the Law / Torah. Those who are workers are iniquity are those without the Torah.**

Matthew 7:21 -23

Not every one that saith unto me, Rabbi, Rabbi, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Rabbi, Rabbi, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 19:16-19

“Now a man came up to Y’shua and asked, ‘Rabbi, what good thing must I do to attain eternal life?’ ‘Why do you ask me about what is good?’ Y’shua replied. ‘There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.’ ‘Which ones?’ the man inquired. Y’shua replied, ‘You do not murder, you do not commit adultery, you do not steal, you do not give false testimony, you honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Titus 3:9

Put avoid foolish controversies, arguments about genealogies, quarrels, and fights about the law. These things are useless and worthless.

Luke 22:37

For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors (anomia): for the things concerning me have an end.

Romans 4:7

Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities (anomia) are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

**7) Sin or torah-less-ness separates man from YHWH. Sin also hardens a person’s heart to the things of YHWH. When a person sins, that person is putting a layer between their heart and YHWH. The more a person sins, the greater the layers become. Unless dealt with through the blood of Y’shua, sin will bring condemnation and death.**

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Jeremiah 5:25

Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated between you and your Elohim, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Exodus 7:13

Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as YHWH had said.

Exodus 14:17

And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen

Mark 6:52

They considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened

Mark 8:17

Y'shua spoke to His disciples about the characteristics of a hard heart: "And when Y'shua knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?"

Psalm 95:15-19

As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did YHWH swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief."

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

2 Chronicles 12:14

He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking YHWH.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death. The gift of YHWH is eternal life.

Deuteronomy 29:18

Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from YHWH our Elohim to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

Ephesians 2:1

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As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**7) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim—not by works, so that no one can boast,” Ephesians 2:8 & 9. This popular New Testament verse does not mean that the Law has been done away with. “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished,” Mathew 5:18. Everything has not been accomplished and the new heavens and new earth are not present, therefore the Law has not “disappeared.” The Torah remains to define exactly what sin is and to be the guideline for all believers to follow. Y’shua paid the price for sin by giving His life for all mankind. Through trusting Y’shua and following Him, a person can be forgiven of all their sin.**

Romans 6:15

What then? Shall we sin (break the Torah) because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Ephesians 2:8 & 9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of Elohim—not by works, so that no one can boast.

1 John 1:7-9

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Y’shua his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**8) At salvation, a person should begin a life of sinlessness. If sin is breaking YHWH’s Torah then to sin less means to follow the precepts of Torah. The Torah was given to show the way of life for the righteous. Sin has NO power over the believer UNLESS the saint gives in to the desire of rebellion. To combat the thrill of sin, a person should engage in spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting, study, fellowship, and singing.**

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by YHWH,” for YHWH cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.



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- 5) Write out 1 John 2:4-6 below. How can you share this passage with someone today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What does Matthew 5:19 mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What did the Messiah mean when He said, “You have let go of the commands of Elohim and are holding on to the traditions of men. You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of Elohim in order to set up your own traditions,” in Mark 7:8-93?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) What specifically did you learn from this lesson?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9) Explain the Greek and Hebrew words translated as “sin” and “iniquity” and “law.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 10) Use what you have learned in this lesson to explain how the Torah plays a part in a person’s salvation experience. How does sin have power over a believer? How can a person be forgiven of sin? Use Romans 10:5-13 in your answer to this question.

**Lesson Six**  
**The Letter Vav**



This is the Hebrew letter “vav.” It was once a picture of a hook or nail.



In modern Hebrew this letter has the “v” sound as in “very.” In ancient Hebrew the vav had a different sound. It used to be the “w” sound as in “wall”



Sometimes the vav has a dot on top of the letter. This is called an “holom” and gives the letter an “oh” sound.



Sometimes the vav has a dot to the middle of the letter. This is called a “shuruk” and gives the letter an ‘oo’ sound.



This is the sixth Hebrew letter and the number “six.”



This letter acts as a conjunctive like the word “and.” The vav letter can be found in Hebrew writings connecting words, sentences, and meaning. Many times the vav is added to the Hebrew letter “lamed” to mean “to” or “for.”



There are not many words that begin with a “vav.” A few examples are:

**Vahv** – hook, nail

**Vee-lon** - curtain

**Ve-red** – rose

**Vashti** – Vashti

**Vazar** – strange