

The Torah:

Adonai Revealed

By Andrew C. Eades

The five books of Moses and the commandments within them tell us a story. The story contained within them is the introduction of ADONAI the God of the universe. The Torah is where ADONAI chooses to reveal Himself in a very unique and special way through story, song, commandments, judgments, teaching, prophecies and statutes, all contained within the scroll of Moses.

TORAH FARSIGHTEDNESS

When we look at the Torah from afar, that is with farsightedness, different things pop out of the pages of Scripture than when we look at it close up. Take the Book of Genesis, for instance. We see God reveal Himself specifically as Creator and Designer of the entire universe. In Genesis we see ADONAI reveal Himself to the patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith.

As we move on to the Book of Exodus, we see the Almighty begin to make and take for Himself a Nation. In Exodus a marriage is about to take place between the Creator of the Universe and His bride Israel. God is Redeemer and Groom in the Exodus account.

Throughout the Book of Leviticus we see God define holiness for us through various commandments as we prepare His dwelling place in the Tabernacle. Holiness is set-apartness, to be uncommon.

In Numbers we see God's faithfulness as He continues to deal with wayward Israel in the wilderness.

In Deuteronomy God is beginning to bring up a new generation of Israel. The Torah is repeated to the next generation, and God's grace and mercy abound.

Sometimes we need to step back and look at Torah with farsightedness.

TORAH NEARSIGHTEDNESS We also need to look at the books of Moses dose up with nearsightedness. When we look at Torah close up, but not too close, we begin to see revelation. There are certain aspects of God that are impossible or very hard for our minds to comprehend. His infiniteness, His anatomy, His seemingly never-ending patience with us, etc. Thankfully for us

the Holy One gave us many glimpses and pictures of Himself through the commandments and judgments of the Torah. When we obey a commandment, it reveals God to us in a way that we can understand. God is without sin entirely. Sin, of course, is going against God's very nature. God's very nature, His ways, are contained in the Torah. Again, when we look into God's unchanging Word with nearsightedness, we behold pictures of what God is.

GLIMPSES AND PICTURES OF GOD

When we obey God's commandments, He not only reveals Himself to us, He reveals Himself through us. Not only does the Holy One teach us something about Himself when we keep a certain commandment, but He also reveals Himself to those around us, because when we obey His commandments, it reveals God's character. We see the many ways in which ADONAI reveals Himself through the commandments as we live them out. Through our obedience to His commandments, we see the grace, mercy, strength and love of the Father in the five books of Moses.

The Torah is therefore a book of revelation. When we study the Torah, whether it be narrative, song, a commandment, or anything else, we are in essence studying ADONAI, God of Israel. So, this should encourage us all the more to study Torah, because it helps us get to know ADONAI, God of Israel, better. Knowing someone helps you get closer to that someone.

ANI ADONAI: I AM ADONAI

Throughout the Torah some commandments read like this: "Do this thing, or don't do this thing, I am ADONAI." A classic example is Leviticus 19, where it says "I am ADONAI" after almost every commandment. Dr. Everett Fox states in his *Five Books of Moses* translation that "I am [name] is an authority formula in the ancient Near East" (p. 285). The "Do this thing, or don't do this thing because I am ADONAI" statements can be read in a way that ascribes a dictator mentality to God: "Do this thing, or don't do this thing, because I said so, because I am God and you're not." Or, they can be read as "Do this thing, or don't do this thing, because it is a piece of revelation of Godliness, that is, God-likeness."

Remember, our relationship to God is one of marriage, not boot camp. We want to portray God to those around us and get to know Him more, so we keep His

commandments. "Do this thing, or don't do this thing, because it is who ADONAI is."

In my marriage, I have noticed something very interesting. As I get to know my wife more and more, I notice that I get interested in what she is interested in, and she gets interested in what I'm interested in. It's like I'm a part of her and she's a part of me in that respect. The main reason I get interested in her interests is because I'm crazy about her, and her interests are a part of her. I find this logic to be similar to our marriage to God. The more I get to know Him, the more I become interested in what He is interested in. He helps us to become interested in what He is interested in -grace, mercy, and love, to name a few examples - because His interests should be a part of our molecular structure. He's in me and I in Him. So, whenever you read the "*Ani ADONAI*" statement, think Godliness: "Because I am ADONAI, do or don't do this thing." "It's who I am," God seems to say.

THE MESSIAH: ADONAI REVEALED

"Messiah is the goal of Torah, that everyone who believes may be considered righteous" (Romans 10:4, my translation).

The usual translation of the above verse goes something like "Christ is the end of the Law," making it seem like Yeshua, with the push of a button, deleted the entire Law of Moses. The word translated "end of (that I retranslated as "goal") is the Greek word *telos*. According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, *telos* (#5056) is defined as to "set out for a definite point or goal." "End" would be better translated as "purpose" or "goal." In other words, Yeshua lives out the Torah perfectly, and our life should reflect Him; that's our goal.

Our Master, Yeshua, lived a life of perfect Torah obedience. Since Yeshua was without sin, God was fully revealed through Him. God revealed Himself fully, through flesh and blood, in and through the Messiah Yeshua of Nazareth. To me, classifying the Messiah as just one of the three parts of a trinity should not be so easy. In my opinion, God's anatomy is much more complicated than we can fully comprehend. Yeshua was fully man and God was fully revealed through Him. Through the Messiah, ADONAI is revealed, because Messiah revealed God perfectly through His display of Torah life and observance. May it be so through us. Q