

TORAHSCOPE
V O L U M E I I

TORAHSCOPE

VOLUME II

Life Examined and Understood
Through the Grid of the Torah

William Mark Huey



TORAHSCOPE

VOLUME II

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edited by J.K. McKee

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Abbreviation Chart and Special Terms

Special terms unique to this publication that may be used have been provided in this chart:

Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
BDAG: *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Bauer, Danker, Arndt, Gingrich)
BDB: *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*
CJB: Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
EXP: *Expositor's Bible Commentary*
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
KJV: King James Version

LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
LS: *A Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell & Scott)
m. Mishnah
NASU: New American Standard Update (1995)
NEB: New English Bible (1970)
NIV: New International Version (1984)
NJPS: Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (1999)
NRSV: New Revised Standard Version (1989)
RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanakh: the Old Testament
TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)
TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)

Annual Torah Reading Schedule

These are the weekly Torah and Haftarah portions, as employed in both the traditional Synagogue and today's Messianic Jewish congregations

KEY:

A: Ashkenazic S: Sephardic*

[] denote differences between traditional Jewish and Christian verse order

GENESIS

Bereisheet "In the beginning"

Genesis 1:1-6:8

Isaiah 42:5-43:10 (A); 42:5-21 (S)

Lekh-Lekha "Get yourself out"

Genesis 12:1-17:27

Isaiah 40:27-41:16

Chayei Sarah "Sarah's life"

Genesis 23:1-25:18

1 Kings 1:1-31

V'yeitzei "He went out"

Genesis 28:10-32:2

Hosea 12:12-14:10 (A); 11:7-12:12 (S)

V'yaishev "He continued living"

Genesis 37:1-40:23

Amos 2:6-3:8

V'yigash "He approached"

Genesis 44:18-47:27

Ezekiel 37:15-28

Noach "Noah"

Genesis 6:9-11:32

Isaiah 54:1-55:5 (A); 54:1-10 (S)

V'yeira "He appeared"

Genesis 18:1-22:24

2 Kings 4:1-37 (A); 4:1-23 (S)

Toldot "History"

Genesis 25:19-28:9

Malachi 1:1-2:7

V'yishlach "He sent"

Genesis 32:3-36:43

Hosea 11:7-12:12 (A); Obadiah 1:1-21 (S)

Mikkeitz "At the end"

Genesis 41:1-44:17

1 Kings 3:15-4:1

V'yechi "He lived"

Genesis 47:28-50:26

1 Kings 2:1-12

EXODUS

Shemot "Names"

Exodus 1:1-6:1

Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23 (A);

Jeremiah 1:2-3 (S)

Bo "Go"

Exodus 10:1-13:16

Jeremiah 46:13-28

Yitro "Jethro"

Exodus 18:1-20:23[26]

Isaiah 6:1-7:6; 9:5-6[6-7] (A); 6:1-13 (S)

V'eira "I appeared"

Exodus 6:2-9:35

Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

B'shalach "After he had let go"

Exodus 13:17-17:16

Judges 4:4-5:31 (A); 5:1-31 (S)

Mishpatim "Rulings"

Exodus 21:1-24:18

Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

* Ashkenazic Jews are largely those from Eastern and Northern Europe, and Sephardic Jews are largely those from Spain and Muslim lands.

Terumah “Contribution”

Exodus 25:1-27:19

1 Kings 5:26-6:13

Ki Tisa “When you take”

Exodus 30:11-34:35

1 Kings 18:1-39 (A); 18:20-39 (S)

Pequdei “Accounts”

Exodus 38:21-40:38

1 Kings 7:51-8:21 (A); 7:40-50 (S)

Tetzaveh “You shall command”

Exodus 27:20-30:10

Ezekiel 43:10-27

V'yak'heil “He assembled”

Exodus 35:1-38:20

1 Kings 7:40-50 (A); 7:13-26 (S)

LEVITICUS**Vayikra** “He called”

Leviticus 1:1-5:26[6:7]

Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Shemini “Eighth”

Leviticus 9:1-11:47

2 Samuel 6:1-7:17 (A); 6:1-19 (S)

Metzora “Leper”

Leviticus 14:1-15:33

2 Kings 7:3-20

Kedoshim “Holy Ones”

Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Amos 9:7-15 (A); Ezekiel 20:2-20 (S)

B'har “On Mount”

Leviticus 25:1-26:2

Jeremiah 32:6-27

Tzav “Give an order”

Leviticus 6:1[8]-8:36

Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 9:22-23

Tazria “She conceives”

Leviticus 12:1-13:59

2 Kings 4:42-5:19

Acharei Mot “After the death”

Leviticus 16:1-18:30

Ezekiel 22:1-19 (A); 22:1-16 (S)

Emor “Speak”

Leviticus 21:1-24:23

Ezekiel 44:15-31

B'chuqotai “By My regulations”

Leviticus 26:3-27:34

Jeremiah 16:19-17:24

NUMBERS**Bamidbar** “In the wilderness”

Numbers 1:1-4:20

Hosea 2:1-22

Beha'alot'kha “When you set up”

Numbers 8:1-12:16

Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Korach “Korah”

Numbers 16:1-18:32

1 Samuel 11:14-12:22

Balak “Balak”

Numbers 22:2-25:9

Micah 5:6-6:8

Naso “Take”

Numbers 4:21-7:89

Judges 13:2-25

Shelakh-Lekha “Send on your behalf”

Numbers 13:1-15:41

Joshua 2:1-24

Chukat “Regulation”

Numbers 19:1-22:1

Judges 11:1-33

Pinchas “Phinehas”

Numbers 25:10-30:1[29:40]

1 Kings 18:46-19:21

Mattot “Tribes”
Numbers 30:2[1]-32:42
Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

Mas’ei “Stages”
Numbers 33:1-36:13
Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4 (A);
2:4-28; 4:1-2 (S)

DEUTERONOMY

Devarim “Words”
Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
Isaiah 1:1-27

V’et’chanan “And I besought”
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
Isaiah 40:1-26

Ekev “Because”
Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25
Isaiah 49:14-51:3

Re’eih “See”
Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17
Isaiah 54:11-55:5

Shoftim “Judges”
Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9
Isaiah 51:12-52:12 (or finish at 53:12)

Ki-Teitzei “When you go out”
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
Isaiah 54:1-10 (or finish at 52:13)

Ki-Tavo “When you come”
Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8
Isaiah 60:1-22

Nitzavim “Standing”
Deuteronomy 29:9[10]-30:20
Isaiah 61:10-63:9

V’yeilekh “He went”
Deuteronomy 31:1-30
Hosea 14:2-10; Micah 7:18-20; Joel 2:15-27

Ha’azinu “Hear”
Deuteronomy 32:1–52
2 Samuel 22:1–22:51

V’zot Ha’berakhah “This is the blessing”
Deuteronomy 33:1–34:12
Joshua 1:1–18 (A); 1:1-9 (S)

The current Torah and Haftarah reading dates, are available online
via the Outreach Israel Ministries website: www.outreachisrael.net

INTRODUCTION

TorahScope, Volume II is a second compilation of written commentaries that compliments the teachings compiled in *TorahScope, Volume I*, first published in 2004. These teachings were assembled by employing the traditional, annual Jewish Torah reading schedule, which has divided the first five books of the Bible into fifty-four separate *parashot* or *sidrot*, coupled with corresponding readings from the Prophets and Writings (Haftarah). For all of our time in full time ministry since 2002, our ministry has sent weekly Torah reflections to our e-mail update subscribers. This volume is a selection of messages that was largely written and transmitted within for the 2005-2006 Torah cycle, later updated and revised for the 2010-2011 Torah cycle.

Since becoming Messianic, our family has discovered that studying the Torah is a dynamic and active part of our pursuit of the Holy One of Israel. In 1995 as our family began attending a Messianic Jewish congregation, I first became acquainted with the Jewish tradition of studying through the Torah on an annual basis. Needless to say, it only took a few months before I realized the profound value of studying and analyzing what makes up the foundational stories and accounts of our faith. After all, if one does not have a solid, foundational knowledge of these ancient texts, what kind of spiritual house is one really building?

For nearly two decades as a Believer in Yeshua the Messiah (1978-1995), I found that the history of the world and Israel communicated in the Biblical books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy was interesting reading. For years I had been taught and I certainly read the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses with remote spiritual connections made to my personal walk with the Lord Jesus. It was not until I entered into the Messianic community, and understood that non-Jewish Believers are a part of the Commonwealth of Israel via their faith in the Messiah (Ephesians 2:10-22; Romans 11:13-21), that the heritage of the Torah was a part of my spiritual heritage as well.

Understanding that as Believers in Messiah Yeshua we were a part of Israel, the consistent study of the Torah became a part of our family's weekly routine. As relative newcomers to this practice, we concluded that following the annual pattern established by the Jewish community made the most practical sense. After all, since the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, when the Jews were allowed to return to the Land of Israel after their Babylonian exile, the example of studying the Torah had been refined for nearly 2,500 years:

“And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, **and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.** Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate

from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose...Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen!' while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground...**They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading**" (Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8).

Here, we see a description of the eager exiles, having returned, wanting to hear the Instruction of God and diligently obey Him. They did not want to go into exile any more or be punished for any kind of disobedience.

How does this relate to us now? Do we want to go into any kind of spiritual exile? If you have entered into the Messianic movement in a way similar to our own family, do you not feel as though you had been separated from certain parts of the Bible, most notably the Torah? The Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 understood that the new, non-Jewish Believers coming to faith had to be instructed in the truths of God's Word weekly from the Torah, as they were to associate themselves with their fellow Jewish Believers and other followers of the Creator God (cf. Acts 15:13-21). Our family's early testimony of becoming Messianic is that we became acquainted with what God wanted us to do every week from a steady reading of the Torah portions.

TorahScope, Volume II is written to encourage a study of the Torah from the perspective of a modern-day Believer in the Messiah Yeshua. To me, it does not matter if you are a Christian Believer familiarizing himself with your Hebraic Roots, or a Jewish Believer who wants to understand more about your Jewish Savior. The call that our Heavenly Father has put upon all of His people is that we be a light to the world. We are to demonstrate proper behavior to others, and have the testimony that committing oneself to a life of Torah obedience makes one more and more like our Lord and Teacher. Our job is to demonstrate His character to others so that God's love, goodness, and the message of salvation may reach forth to all we encounter:

"And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and My God is My strength), He says, **'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth'**" (Isaiah 49:5-6; cf. Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 26:23).

It is my prayer that as you read and meditate upon this reflective commentary that you will be empowered to be about God's work in the sinful world in which we live. May our Heavenly Father use *TorahScope, Volume II* to encourage your testimony of faith in Yeshua the Messiah, and make you more knowledgeable about the Scriptures, so you can be most effective for Him!

Until the restoration of all things...

William Mark Huey
Director, Outreach Israel Ministries

COMMENTARY ON GENESIS

Bereisheet בְּרֵאשִׁית In the Beginning "Return to Foundation"

Genesis 1:1-6:8
Isaiah 42:5-43:10 (A); 42:5-21 (S)

With the joy of celebrating the Fall high holidays and *Simchat Torah* immediately behind us, we now have the privilege of once again returning to the weekly Torah portions for regular spiritual nourishment. For Messianic Believers such as myself, who have been taking advantage of the discipline of consistent Torah study over the past decade (1995-2005), the arrival at "In the Beginning" presents yet another opportunity to dig deeper into the mysteries of God, but also important lessons for life. Genesis 1:1-3, as we all know, are some of not only the most well-known verses of the Bible, but they present us with a considerable degree of questions to be asked and subjects to be probed:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

Also foundational for understanding the Holy Writ is the uniqueness that human beings possess among all of God's creatures. This is established in *Bereisheet* when God asserts His intention to make the man and woman in His image:

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27, NRSV).

Much theological discussion and application has centered around the creation of people in God's image, *b'tzelem Elohim* (בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים), precisely over human dignity, value, and the distinct abilities that we possess like sentient consciousness, a mind and reason, and complex memory—in contrast to the animals.¹ The Psalmist actually describes that humanity has been created a little lower than God, *not* a little higher than the animals:

¹ Editor's note: For some useful discussions and subjects for consideration, consult Fazale Rana with Hugh Ross, *Who Was Adam? A Creation Model Approach to the Origin of Man* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2005), and J.P. Moreland & Scott B. Rae, *Body & Soul: Human Nature & the Crisis in Ethics* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2000).

“What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God², and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet” (Psalm 8:4-6).

God made us as His unique image-bearers so that we could not only reflect key attributes of Him as our Creator, **but also that He might commune with us** and demonstrate His great love and generosity to us. Even with the introduction of sin into our world, as we encounter in the first Torah portion, He has always demonstrated great bounty to His human creations (cf. Acts 14:15-17).

Wisdom and Light

I believe it is important to review the first five books of the Bible, the Torah (תּוֹרָה),³ if we want to please our Heavenly Father—but **most importantly** to know His plan and intentions for His Creation. The Jewish people, who were entrusted with the oracles of God (Romans 3:2), understood the need to *at least try* to understand the mind of God, and accordingly developed a systematic way of studying the Torah. Today’s broad Messianic community, aside from its many internal differences in emphasis in how the Torah may be approached or applied, on the whole still follows the annual Torah cycle. Jewish Believers who have recognized Yeshua as their Savior continue to partake of this edifying tradition from their upbringing, now being able to recognize the Messiah in the Torah. Non-Jewish Believers embracing their Hebraic Roots and being enriched by their heritage in Judaism, get to see how Moses’ Teaching foretells of the Lord Jesus and how He was truly Torah obedient. *The wisdom, in a repetitive study of this often overlooked part of the Bible, should be self-explanatory.*

Acknowledging the importance of the weekly Haftarah too is something which we can all benefit by, as God’s plan does not just involve the Books of Genesis-Deuteronomy, but continues in the Prophets and Writings. In this week’s corresponding Haftarah selection, the Prophet Isaiah makes it abundantly clear how God’s people—most exemplified in the ministry of the Messiah Yeshua—have a responsibility to be a light to the world and be conduits of His goodness to all:

“Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it, ‘I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim *them* to you’” (Isaiah 42:5-9; cf. Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 26:23).

² Heb. *m’at m’Elohim* (מֵעַט מֵאֱלֹהִים).

The Greek Septuagint did render this as *brachu ti par’ angelous* (βραχύ τι παρ’ ἀγγέλους) or “a little less than angels” (LXE), but nonetheless the lot of humanity is cast with the Heavenly host and not with the animals.

³ Also more commonly referred to as the Law of Moses, the Pentateuch, or the *Chumash*.

One term that our ministry will often employ, Moses’ Teaching, is derived from John Goldingay’s *Old Testament Theology: Israel’s Gospel* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003).