

Drash Notes

Acts 17:11

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, because they received the message with goodwill, searching the Scriptures each day to see whether these things were true



A Structural Overview

**Bible - Tanakh
- Brit Chadashah**

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Bible — Tanakh - Torah
- Neviim
- Ketuvim
- Brit Chadashah

A Structural Overview

Bible – Tanakh – Torah – Gen- Deut

- Nevi'im – 21 books

- Ketuvim – 11 books

- Brit Chadashah

Torah = 5 books, Genesis through Deuteronomy

Nevi'im = 21 books of the prophets

Former Prophets – Nevi'im Rishonom

Joshua, Judges, 1'st and 2'nd Samuel, 1'st and 2'nd

Kings

Latter Prophets (Nevi'im Acharonim)

Major – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel

Minor – Counted as a single book in Jewish

Tradition – Hoshea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum,

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachai

Ketuvim = The writings including the poetic books (Sifrei Emet) –

Psalms, Proverbs, Job

The Five Scrolls (Hamesh Megillot) –

Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

The Other Writings – Daniel, Ezra

and Nehemiah, and Chronicles

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Besorah – Good News (Gospels)

History (Writings) – Acts

Pauline Epistles (13 books)

General Epistles (8 books)

Prophecy (1 book)

Brit Chadashah

Besorah – meaning Good News or more loosely, Tidings of Great Joy

Consists of 4 books, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Matthew, Mark and Luke = Synoptic Gospels
due to similar layout and timeline

History (Writings) – Book of Acts

Pauline Epistles – Romans, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon – It needs to be understood that this is layout is not in chronology but rather it is based on size and the books are listed largest to shortest

General Epistles – Written by leaders and teacher other than Rav Shaul. The Books are Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, Jude.

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The overall structure of the Bible is as follows:

The Torah of G-D, to teach us how G-D expects us to live with Him and with each other – Love the L-RD your G-D with everything in you, and love your neighbor as To the people living in the days of the Older Testament, the Torah was known as G-D's Word. Psalm 119:160 says,

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*“Truth is the essence of Your word, and all
Your righteous rulings are eternal.” Psalm 119:160*

Psalm 119:152 reads, “Long ago I learned from Your testimonies that You founded them firmly forever.”

Psalm 119:89 “Forever, *ADONAI*, Your word stands firm in the heavens.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades. But the word of our God stands forever.”

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. ”

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the *Torah* or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. ¹⁸ Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or serif^[b] shall ever pass away from the *Torah* until all things come to pass

To abolish something means to teach it incorrectly or insufficiently. To fulfill something means to teach it correctly and to live it out.

The passage goes on to say, " ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

To be least in the Kingdom means to be farthest away from G-D and to be in His judgment in hell. To be great in the Kingdom means to be in His presence.

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The Prophets warn us what happens if we stray from G-D's Torah and tell us what happens when we return to G-D's Torah

Isaiah 1:4 reads, *Oy, a sinful nation,*

a people weighed down with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,

sons dealing corruptly!

They have abandoned ADONAI.

They have despised Israel's Holy One.

They have turned backwards.

For the next 11 verses G-D continues to describe our sin and our judgment for that sin. Then in verse 16, the message changes...

¹⁶ “Wash and make yourselves clean.
Put away the evil of your deeds
from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil.
¹⁷ Learn to do good,
seek justice, relieve the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.”
¹⁸ “Come now, let us reason together,”
says *ADONAI*.
“Though your sins be like scarlet,
they will be as white as snow.
Though they be red like crimson,
they will become like wool.
¹⁹ If you are willing and obey,
you will eat the good of the land.

Did you catch that? It begins with a command to “Wash and make yourselves clean, it is an active choice. And it begs the question, what can wash away my sin? 1 John 1:7 answers that question, ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of His Son *Yeshua* purifies us from all sin.” Be washed in the blood of Messiah! – put away evil deeds, stop doing evil. Then He said in verse 17, Learn to do good, seek justice, relieve the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” It is amazing to me that this is verse 17... the number 17 is the number that speaks of victory and that victory is found in living a life that is like how G-D lives His life... according to His Torah.

Just as a side note, there is a debate that has been raging – the replacement theologians who claim that Israel has been replaced and will not be saved, (Mainstream Catholic doctrine is that Jews can at best hope to reach purgatory

because we rejected Jesus – there is no heaven for Jews according to the Vatican, a doctrine of man and demon that ignores the words of Yeshua in Matthew 5:24 when He said that He had come for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. This doctrine ignores the words of Rav Saul (Apostle Paul) when he wrote, in Romans 1:16 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who trusts—to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

On the opposite side of the replacement theology heresy is the group who says that the Jews will be saved because they are Jews... That it is genetics that determine salvation and this is based on a poor interpretation of passage Romans 11:26 when it says, “and all Israel shall be saved”. The reality is that those who are present at that day, when according to Isaiah 59:20, “but a Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.” In other words, those present on that day when the Redeemer (who is that Redeemer? Yeshua! On that day when the Redeemer comes to Zion, and those in Jacob turn from their sin.

Zechariah 13:1 says, In that day a spring will be opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and impurity. It will happen in that day”

What is required for salvation? Ears and hearts to hear the conviction of the L-RD, the teruah of G-D’s Holy Spirit calling to us and warning us of the judgment that is coming. Then one repents and turns away from his sin, both in practice and in thought! What good is it if we hold to our sin in our hearts, deep inside while we publicly condemn that same sin? We remain guilty of the sin. Matthew 23:26, Yeshua commanded us to clean the inside as well as the outside.... He taught us that sins done internally, in the secret places of our hearts are still violations of His Torah that being sin!

The prophetic books tell us what happens when we violate G-D’s Torah

and tell us what happens when we return to His Torah.

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The Ketuvim, or the writings, are the historical record of G-D's Chosen people. They give the historical record of what happened when we sinned against our G-D and King and what happened when we returned to Him.

We see the historical narrative of Israel, the breaking off of the northern kingdom that was then called Israel, and the history of Judah. We see the promises of G-D that started way back in Torah with our fathers Adam, Noach, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and we see how these promises were handed down to the righteous of Israel who walked with G-D (2 Sam chapter 7)

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But what of the Brit Chadashah. The New Covenant? Is this a new and different covenant all together than the one that G-D gave at mount Sinai? To suggest that one covenant is better than another would be to suggest that the first was weaker and imperfect which would go against the very passages in Psalm 119 that we read earlier... such a suggestion would contradict the very words of Rav Saul (the Apostle Paul) in Romans 7:12 when he wrote, the Torah is Holy, just and good.” The New Covenant is the Old Covenant brought into our hearts and internalized. It is the fulfillment and same wording actually as that which was promised in Jeremiah 31:30-32 “Behold, days are coming” —it is a declaration of *ADONAI*—“when I will make a new covenant^[d] with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³¹ not like the covenant I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they broke My covenant, though I was a husband to them.” it is a declaration of *ADONAI*. ³² “But this is the covenant I will make

with the house of Israel after those days” —it is a declaration of *ADONAI*— “I will put My *Torah* within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart.^[e] I will be their God and they will be My people.

The New Covenant is a fresh covenant, a renewal of the Eternal Covenant but instead of relying on its authority coming from the inscription onto stones, it is written on our hearts by the very finger of G-D.

And there are plenty who will argue that the book of Hebrews teaches the Covenant of G-D is done away with because Covenant 1.0 was imperfect and weak. Again, we should be reminded of the words of Psalm 119 when it teaches over and over that the Word of G-D, His *Torah*, the Covenant He made with His people is perfect and is in fact eternal. We also have to understand the reality of Rav Saul’s writing, “The *Torah* is HOLY, JUST AND GOOD!”

If we are to understand Jeremiah 31, we will understand that G-D was to one day write His commandments not on stone but on the flesh of our hearts... In doing so, He would thereby circumcise the foreskin of our hearts with the Sword of His Word, His *Torah*. In so doing, He would write it in a place that we could not look upon with our eyes, point to it and say, “See! This is the command of G-D!” Instead we would have to believe that G-D’s Word is eternal, that G-D’s Word is true and Pure... Psalm 19:9-10

We live by faith that Yeshua came to live out His Father’s *Torah* and in so doing, make a permanent covering for our sin, a new and living way into which we can come and worship at the throne of the Greatness of the Glory on High! It is by faith that we believe Psalm 119:89 Forever, *ADONAI*, Your word stands firm in the heavens.”

Psalm 119:89-96

⁸⁹ Forever, *ADONAI*,

Your word stands firm in the heavens.

⁹⁰ Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

You established the earth, and it stands.

⁹¹ Your judgments stand today,
for all things are Your servants.

⁹² If Your *Torah* had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

⁹³ I will never forget Your precepts.
For with them You have kept me alive.

⁹⁴ I am Yours, save me!
For I have sought out Your precepts.

⁹⁵ The wicked wait for me to destroy me.
But I will study Your testimonies.

⁹⁶ I have seen a limit to all perfection,
yet Your commandment is boundless.