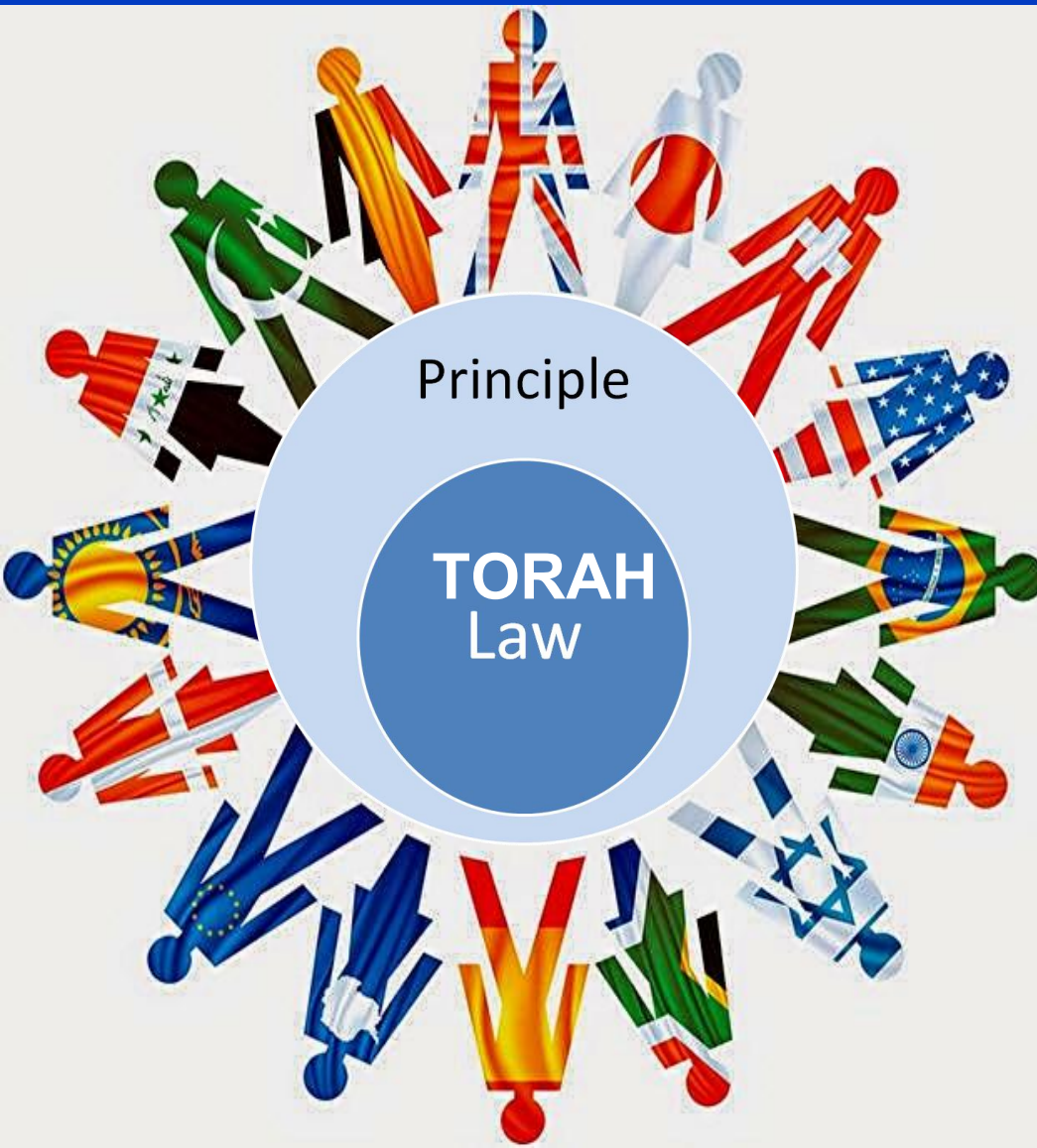




- If we can't obey all the Law, should we live by any of it?
- Many of God's commandments had been replaced by Traditions and customs
- When Hebrew received the Torah, they were under self-rule
- Now they were under Persian rule
- Judah just a small, insignificant Persian province

FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLE

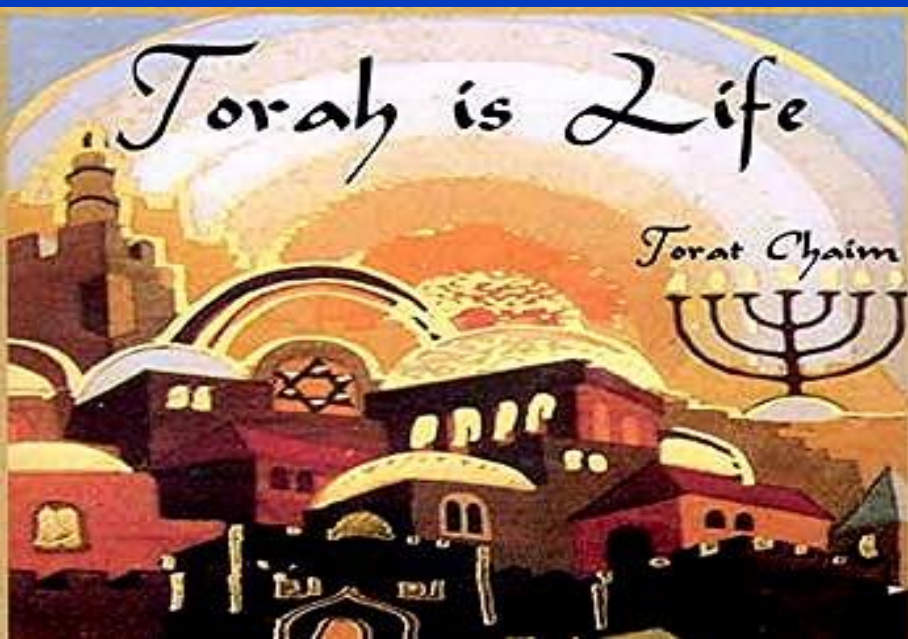


- When you can't follow the Letter of the Law, follow the Principle
- God designed the Torah for cross-cultural flexibility and adaptability over time
- This is Ezra's message
- Christian message: Law is abolished
- Church shall dictate observances, morality, behavior
- Christian doctrines shall replace the Law of Moses

EZRA READS THE LAW



- Nehemiah and Ezra were contemporaries
- Assembly is on 1st Tishri, the 7th month
- Hearing the Law caused the people to weep
- Ezra told people they should instead celebrate !!
- God's purpose for the Law was served: it convicted the people of their sins
- Romans 7:7 – 13



THE EFFECT OF THE LAW

- Many Jews hadn't heard the Law in a long time
- Traditions had replaced God's laws
- Romans 7:8 Was Paul saying that we should be ignorant of the Law, that way we won't know what sin is, so we won't sin??!
- Is sin now customized, person by person?

CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT





- An irony: how can something be bitter and sweet?
- Bitter because people learned they were displeasing God, and faced consequences
- Sweet because NOW they knew exactly what pleased God
- No longer relying on flimsy Traditions of men
- Modern Believers: Do NOT consider it defeat when you realize that the Torah is alive and well!
- The Joy of Adonai is your strength
- **Ma'uz** = refuge, place of protection

2ND DAY OF TISHRI

- People dismissed to go home and celebrate
- They are to send portions to those who don't have the means to have a feast
- Zevah Shelamim = a special sacrifice where the people keep the majority of the meat
- Only the “Heads of the father’s clans” remained in town
- Leviticus 23:39 – 43 Sukkot



A MISSING FEAST DAY?



- Leviticus 23:27 – 32
- 10th day of the 7th month (Tishri)
- Many scholarly speculations on why there is no mention of Yom Kippur
- Yom Kippur is a 100% Priestly function, at the Temple, and for the people it is ONLY a Shabbat therefore mention of it doesn't belong here in this passage
- Judaism added many traditions: Kol Nidrei & 2 festive meals on the 9th. On Yom Kippur 5 prayer services, can't wash or bathe, no leather shoes



CHAG

A HOLY CONVOCATION

- *Kodesh miqra* does NOT mean to assemble
- It means a reading, proclamation, summons
- A journey or pilgrimage to an assembly is a *chag*
- Only 3 chag events: *Matza, Shavuot and Sukkot*
- *Shabbat* Lev.23:3
- So NO call to assemble on *Shabbat*
- The ONLY authorized place of communal worship is the Temple

SHABBOS - A DAY OF REST



A DESIGNATED DAY OF WORSHIP?

- Shabbat is NOT the Jewish “day of worship”
- Orthodox worship all 7 days including Sundays
- Shabbat is day of rest, NOT the “day of worship”
- Sunday worship was instituted by Constantine in 4th Century A.D.
- Intended for ALL religions in Roman Empire, not just Christianity



**KEEP
CALM
ITS
SUNDAY**
The Lord's Day

EVERYONE TO BUILD A SUKKAH



- Any “days of worship” are man-made Traditions
- The Jews did NOT create a “day of worship”, only Christians
- Do not judge one another on this matter !
- Sukkahs erected all over Jerusalem and Judah

CONNECTING ISRAEL WITH IT'S PAST THROUGH ALL ERAS

- Writer of Nehemiah says that not since Joshua had Sukkot been celebrated like this
- The people were overjoyed to build and live in Sukkahs!
- They felt a kindred spirit with their ancestors who came out of Egypt
- Modern Believers need to connect with our Hebrew Roots, and Israel's covenants, by observing these Biblical Feasts



*May your home be blessed with
happiness and joy!*

