

# ONE TORAH FOR ALL

Zerubbabel ben Emunah  
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## Israel's Commanded Duty towards Prophets and Teachers Who Speak Lies

***D'varim (Deuteronomy) 18:20***

***"But the prophet, that shall speak a word presumptuously in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die."***

The study that you are about to read applies to each and every one of us, including this writer. In the case of this writer, I stand on both sides of the equation as one who learns as well as one who teaches. Those who learn from those things that YHWH has me write are under certain obligations towards YHWH and towards me as with all teachers in Israel. We are going to examine those obligations in some detail in this study. The main point is that in order for Israel to stay true to YHWH our Elohim, then we must follow the mandate of YHWH our Elohim in this matter so that we do not end up following a man into error. May YHWH give each one of us strength and wisdom in this that we may walk uprightly before Him always.

The first thing that we must realize is that those who are a part of Israel work for what they eat.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:10***

***For even when we were with you, this we commanded you,  
"If any will not work, neither let him eat."***

Now the pashat level of this verse simply means that one must work to provide for himself and his own family, food and other necessities of life. However, there is a deeper meaning in this commandment concerning the eating of spiritual food. In order to eat true spiritual food one must work at it. What does this mean? In part it means that one cannot be lazy and simply be reading other people's writings and take their word for whatever they happen to be teaching.

***1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:21***

***prove all things; hold fast that which is good;***

Everything that one hears and everything that one reads needs to be tried and tested to make sure that it lines up with Scripture. It needs to be proven. If in the process of proving something and it turns out not to hold true to Scripture as far as one's understanding is at

present, then one needs to do certain things to see if his understanding can be rectified and furthered, so that either his own understanding is changed or the understanding of the one who was teaching is changed.

***Ma'aseh (Acts) 17:10-11***

***10 And the brethren immediately sent away Shaul and Silas by night to Berea; who when they had come there went into the synagogue of the Yehudim.***

***11 Now these were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.***

The talmidim at Berea were considered more noble-minded than those at Thessalonica, because when Shaul came to them and began teaching them, these talmidim did the work of proving all things that Shaul was teaching to make sure that it all lined up with Scripture. Likewise, this is exactly what all followers of Mashiach Yeshua should do today as well. However, it is exactly at this point where so many fall short.

***Ephesians 4:14-15***

***14 that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error;***

***15 but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him, who is the head, even Mashiach;***

When a person does not check out and prove everything that he reads and listens to, then such a person will fall victim to being tossed about by every wind of doctrine and he will not be a stable man. This is not a spiritually healthy place to be, neither for him nor for his family.

***Ya'aqov (James) 1:7-8***

***7 For let not that man think that he shall receive anything from YHWH;***

***8 a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

In order for a man to receive the blessings of YHWH he must work at making sure that the path that he is walking on is the right and correct path, proving all things according to Scripture. The truth is, that there are many more teachers teaching lies than there are those who are teaching life and truth.

When we learn something through a human messenger and it turns out to be true according to Scripture, then there is no problem. However, what about those instances in which there seems to be a problem? What is one to do in those instances? This could be something as simple as seeing other passages which seem to contradict what a particular teacher is teaching, to something in which there are very few verses to support a position while a teacher seems to be using proof texts. One's response should be the same in all cases regardless of what the seeming difficulty is.

**Matithyah (Matthew) 7:5**

***“You hypocrite, cast the beam out of your own eye first; and then you shall see clearly to cast the speck out of your brother's eye.”***

The first step in this process is to make sure that the problem of our understanding is not internal rather than external. This is absolutely essential. This is going to take humility of heart and life, because it is easy and common for pride to rear its ugly head and attempt to assert itself when a person is confronted with something that goes contrary to what he has personally held dear in the past.

Once the hard work of doing an internal check is done and the problem still exists, i.e., this process of beam removal did not rectify the difficulty in our understanding, then one is ready to approach his brother in love.

Please note in the passage above in Ephesians 4:15, when one speaks to another he is to do so in love, specifically in the love of Mashiach. When we approach a brother one cannot do so with an attitude of one-up-manship or in a condescending manner or in a manner of “I’m right; you’re wrong,” or any such attitude that will hinder one’s seeking after truth and the edification of the body of Mashiach. If any such attitude is present, then the log in one’s own eye has not yet been completely removed and needs to be before continuing on in this process.

**Matithyah (Matthew) 18:15**

***“And if your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone; if he hears you, you have gained your brother.”***

Let us keep in mind the context of this particular study of dealing with those who teach things not according to Scripture. When a person reads something that he does not agree with today, the most common occurrence is to simply dismiss it and do nothing. Brothers and sisters, I submit to you that this is wrong and against the tenure and teachings of Scripture. There is a purification process going on even now. It is happening in each of us as an individual as well as the body of Mashiach as a whole. But if one does not actively participate in the process, then quite likely he will be left behind and not purified. Not only is each one of his people being purified, but His teachers are being purified as well. At least those teachers that are submissive to Him and those who hear and obey His Voice.

So, when a person hears or reads something that he does not agree with or sees a problem with, then he needs to go to the person who taught it and a dialog needs to be opened so that understanding can come to both parties.

For me personally, I count it a great honor and blessing that someone would care enough to take the time to contact me about something that I have written. While it is my desire to teach only His truth, and to work hard and produce teachings that are in line with His written word, I am still a flawed human and I still make errors. My unseen partner in ministry, my dear wife, who works so very hard proofing all my work also checks for Scriptural errors as she proofs; in

this I am greatly blessed. However, there are times when we both miss something and an error goes out. Or, perhaps the teaching is just not as complete as it could be. Whatever the case, I desire to hear from His people in this matter if something in a teaching I have written is not what it ought to be so that it can be rectified and amended in order that the teaching would be correct.

Now mind you, in some cases the teacher will be correct and it will simply be a lack of understanding on the part of the other. It is just an area in which a person needs some growth in his understanding and spiritual walk. Then there will be those times in which neither will be completely right or wrong on a particular point, but that the correct point will be somewhere in the middle.

This whole process takes humility of heart and life and an understanding that it is not about “me”, but rather it is about Him and His truth and being true to Him in all things great and small.

Now there are some matters that are simply not able to be completely rectified yet. They will be, but some not yet. For example, the whole sacred name issue. This goes for the names of both the Father and the Son. A lot of research is being done and new information is always coming to light. But at present it is not possible to know with 100% certainty how our heavenly Father’s name or our Mashiach’s name is pronounced. In this matter as well as other matters which cannot yet be determined with one hundred percent certainty, we need to give grace, lots of grace, to one another! Lots! If one gives it, he will receive it.

However, if a person refuses to even try to honor our Father and His Son by using their proper Hebrew names, but rather sticks to names and titles which are clearly wrong, then this is another matter altogether.

So, how are we supposed to deal with a teacher who teaches things that are clearly wrong? What is a person supposed to do when the teacher has been contacted and refuses to change?

If a person has personally contacted a teacher about something that is clearly wrong in a teaching or about some personal conduct that is out of line with Scripture; and he has even taken two or three others with him in an attempt to show this error to this teacher, then there is one final step in the process. It is a very important step and cannot be ignored.

***Matithyah (Matthew) 18:17***

***“And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the assembly; and if he refuses to hear the assembly also, let him be to you as the Gentile and the sinner.”***

The final step in this process of purification and restoration if one is not willing to listen to reason, is for the one in error to be cast out. Please note that the Torah commandment with which we began this study states that the person who teaches lies shall die. Now this is not possible to do literally in the Diaspora. So what is the body to do now? Here is what should

happen, but rarely does. When this whole process has been gone through and no change has happened, then all support for that teacher should be removed. If the person contacting the teacher was supporting him financially, then that should stop. All others should also stop supporting him as well. One should also stop receiving his teachings and reading them and studying them. These actions should be plainly and openly spoken to the teacher as a further goad to move him into His truth.

Now mind you, what we are speaking of here in this matter is not manipulation, for such things are clearly wrong. We are not to manipulate another into something that is against Torah. Typically what actually happens is that the one who is teaching truth is the one who is crucified in the public forum without due process. He is attacked publicly and personally. This is clearly wrong and of the enemy, Satan. When we as the body go through the process the way that YHWH intends for us to go through it, then no one is attacked personally. What is called into question is what a person is teaching; or in some cases wrong or sinful living. Do you see the difference?

This goes not only for teachers, but for those who are prophets or claim to be prophets, which are many today.

***D'varim (Deuteronomy) 13:5***

***“And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death, because he has spoken rebellion against YHWH your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to draw you aside out of the way which YHWH your Elohim commanded you to walk in. So shall you put away the evil from out of your midst.”***

As we stated above, it is not possible to literally carry out this commandment to put a prophet of lies to death. However, we can carry this commandment out in a metaphorical sense. The body of Mashiach can stop supporting such a teacher. The body of Mashiach can stop reading his material and teachings. What the body of Mashiach is supposed to do now is to shun totally and completely, one who is teaching lies or living a riotous life, which means living in a manner that is clearly against Scripture. Such men (or women) should be cast out of the assembly and not allowed entrance into the life of a talmid of Yeshua until such time that full and complete repentance is forthcoming and this is done in a public manner. Then and only then can one be received back into the fold.

“But,” one will say, “that particular teacher has a lot of other good things to say. It is just on this other matter that he is wrong. Should he be cast out because of this one matter?” Let us allow Scripture to speak to us.

***Galatians 1:8-9***

***8 But though we, or a messenger from heaven, should preach to you any besorah other than that which we preached to you, let him be anathema.***

***9 As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preaches to you any besorah other than that which you received, let him be anathema.***

The word “anathema” means “to be banned, cursed and excommunicated.” In effect, this is a sentence of death. And so it must be in order to remove the evil from our midst.

Here is what I do not understand. There are well known teachers who in the past have made predictions that did not come true. Yet, instead of those who were supporting these men taking corrective action, they simply just overlooked it. So this is what happens: these men continue to utter predictions which do not come to pass. Such teachers and prophets who utter false words such as these need to be put to death, a metaphorical death, by being cast out of the assembly. Otherwise, who knows what false words will come out of their mouths that will lead His people astray!

This also goes for those teachers who take advantage of His people in ways that bilk His sheep. These men and women who do such atrocities within the body of Mashiach need to be cast out if they refuse to repent and make things right for the wrongs committed.

Please note what YHWH says concerning these self-proclaimed prophets who speak lies to His people.

***Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 14:14***

***Then YHWH said to me, “The prophets prophesy lies in My name; I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither did I speak to them; they prophesy to you a lying vision, and divination, and a thing of nothing, and the deceit of their own heart.”***

Israel should not listen to those who say that he is speaking for YHWH, but in fact are not. Some will say, “But how can we tell if a man is speaking for YHWH or not?” Simply, are the things that he is saying true according to Scripture? If not, then flee from him. If he is making predictions and these predictions are not coming true, then flee from him. If his predictions are coming true but he is enticing Israel to go and serve other gods, then flee from him. But one might ask how does one entice another to go and serve other gods? Our Elohim has a name; it is “YHWH.” If a man speaks in the name or title that replaces this name, then he is enticing to go and serve other gods. Flee from him. It is time for Israel to wake up and do what is right according to YHWH our Elohim and stop fearing man or following men who lead astray!

There are also teachers who are rejecting Scripture by casting out whole books. Some have even rejected the majority of the Brit Chadasha (New Testament). Brothers and sisters, these things should not be tolerated by His people. If His people will do right and go through the proper process, perhaps the teacher can be restored. However, if not, then he needs to be anathema to the whole assembly.

Let me speak plainly to you. I am a man with many flaws and shortcomings. I do not want you to follow me! Because if one were to follow me, at some point he would be sorely

disappointed! My desire is to serve our Master with all of my heart, mind and life. My desire is for us to walk together serving our Master. Please do not follow me. Let us follow our Mashiach Yeshua together, watching out for one another and lifting up one another in prayer and love, protecting each other as well as the body of Mashiach from all error regardless of where it comes from. Let us do this together.

This next section of Scripture is rather long, but in it YHWH has much to say concerning prophets who speak lies in His name. We need to read this section of Scripture over and over again and let the words of YHWH sink into our being so that we might live a life that is wholly pleasing to Him.

***Yirmeyah (Jeremiah) 23:13-33***

***13 "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied by the Lord, and caused My people Israel to err."***

The prophets of Samaria are a reference to the prophets of Ephrayim. So this is speaking to those of the northern kingdom of Israel. Please note that they did not prophesy by YHWH, but rather they prophesied by "the Lord". The Hebrew here is the word "Ba'al" which is rightly translated as "lord" in English. So for all these millennia the prophets of Ephrayim have not changed. They are still prophesying by "the Lord" and are still leading the people of Israel astray.

Brothers and sisters, it is time to stop listening to all those who teach, preach and prophesy in the name of "the Lord." Now some will strongly object to this saying that this is not correct, that when some prophesy in "the Lord," they are referring to YHWH. But in a few more verses below, YHWH makes it abundantly clear to those who have ears to hear, that those who use the name of "the Lord" to replace His name, are in for some pretty awful judgment directly from Him.

***14 In the prophets of Jerusalem also I have seen a horrible thing; they commit adultery, and walk in lies; and they strengthen the hands of evil-doers, so that none return from his wickedness; they are all of them become to Me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.***

Not only is YHWH displeased with the prophets of Ephrayim, but He is also displeased with the prophets from the southern kingdom of Yehudah as well. These prophets are leading His people astray as well to become evil doers as they are. The result is that YHWH now considers them to be as Sodom and Gomorrah. He is going to toast them just as He did the five cities of the plains. Every one of us had better pay attention to this, because if one gets caught on the wrong side of the fence, he will be toast as well. Remember Lot's wife!

***15 Therefore thus says YHWH Tzava'ot concerning the prophets; "Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall; for from the prophets of Jerusalem is ungodliness gone forth into all the land."***

YHWH is going to stop this prophesying of lies by feeding wormwood to them and by making them drink gall. He will do this because they have spoken lies and some have even spoken lies in His name to mislead His people. Both wormwood and gall represent death in Scripture.

***16 Thus says YHWH Tzava'ot, "Do not hear and obey the words of the prophets that prophesy to you; they teach you vanity; they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of YHWH."***

Those who teach and prophesy in the name of "the Lord," we are not to listen to, and we are not to obey! When a person speaks in the name of "the Lord" he is speaking vanity. Each person needs to ask YHWH for His Spirit of discernment so that each may see His truth concerning this matter! It quite literally is a matter of life and death for each person.

***17 They say continually to them that despise Me, "YHWH has said, 'You shall have peace;'" and to everyone that walks in the stubbornness of his own heart they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'***

This verse reminds me of when hurricane Katrina hit, and on national television there were many prominent pastors and teachers who came on television and said that this disaster was not from the Creator. This verse also reminds me of the prophet Amos.

***Amos 3:6 "Shall the trumpet be blown in a city, and the people not be afraid? Shall evil befall a city, and YHWH has not done it?"***

The truth is that YHWH is totally and completely sovereign over His creation. He works to bring His will to pass and no man can stop it! Whenever a disaster of any sort happens His people should always fall on their faces before Him and seek Him to see what has happened, what we have done that this judgment has come. For this type of judgment is always for the express purpose of getting our attention so that we may return to YHWH our Elohim and stop serving other gods. So that we may do what is right in His eyes rather than doing what is right in our own eyes.

***18 For who has stood in the council of YHWH, that he should perceive and hear his word? Who has marked My word, and heard it?***

Well, according to the context of this passage those who have not heard the council of YHWH are the prophets who prophesy in the name of "the Lord" rather than in His name, "YHWH"!

***19 Behold, the tempest of YHWH, even His wrath, is gone forth, yea, a whirling tempest; it shall burst upon the head of the wicked.***

Please realize that throughout this whole passage it is YHWH speaking to His people through the prophet Yirmeyah. YHWH declares that His tempest, which is directly from His anger, has

gone out into the world. Why? It is because of sin and disobedience from His people. They have gone to serve other gods, and in this particular case they have gone to serve “the Lord”, and have forsaken the name of YHWH.

***20 The anger of YHWH shall not return, until He has executed, and till He has performed the intents of His heart; in the latter days you shall understand it perfectly.***

Please note that this whole prophecy is actually about the latter days. That means right now today. This prophecy is about us in the here and now. Let us seek to understand this prophecy for it is imperative that we do so. YHWH will not relent of His anger until it is completely spent upon the wicked who have forsaken His name for the name of other gods.

***21 I sent not these prophets, yet they ran; I spoke not to them, yet they prophesied.***

In the context of this whole passage it is those who are speaking in the name of “the Lord” that He has not spoken to. Yet, these same prophets have run and spoken as if YHWH had spoken to them, but He did not speak to them. It is their own vain imaginations of their hearts which have deceived them; and then in turn they are deceiving His people.

***22 But if they had stood in My council, then they would have caused My people to hear My words, and had turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.***

One of the main differences in a prophet of YHWH and a self-proclaimed prophet is that a prophet of YHWH will always point His people to Him. In contrast to this, a self-proclaimed prophet points either to himself or to some other false deity like “the Lord” and leads the people astray from following YHWH our Elohim. A prophet of YHWH points these things out and tries to get His people to return to Him. Whereas, a self-proclaimed prophet, a prophet of lies, simply tries to comfort the people and he tells the people that they are okay and they do not have to change their evil ways. See verse 17 above. They are prophets of ease and comfort.

***23 “Am I an Elohim at hand,” says YHWH, “and not an Elohim afar off?”***

YHWH is an Elohim who is near. He is not far off as some vainly imagine. He is near and He knows what is going on in His creation.

***24 “Can anyone hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him?” says YHWH. “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says YHWH.***

No one can hide himself from YHWH. Every single person will give an account of his life to YHWH as to why he did not do according to all that His prophets spoke, but rather chose to go after lies and vanity to pursue the desires of his own dark heart.

***25 I have heard what the prophets have said, that prophesy lies in My name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed."***

When a man or woman stands before His people to declare a message, YHWH takes special note of what is said. If the words are from YHWH, then it will be well with that person. However, if the words are not from YHWH and that man or woman has spoken lies in His name, or he has spoken lies in the name of "the Lord," then YHWH will require it from Him. Frankly, no man can afford the price of doing such evil.

***26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies, even the prophets of the deceit of their own heart?***

How long will these prophets of lies continue in their deceitful ways? YHWH is slow to act, not willing for even these prophets of lies to perish. However, there will come a day in each of their lives in which, just as Bala'am died for his sin against Israel, so too, will each one of these prophets of lies fall into their own mire never to get back up again!

***27 that think to cause My people to forget My name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for the Lord.***

Just to make sure that His people are getting what He is saying: YHWH makes it very clear what and who He is talking about in this verse. He is specifically talking about those who substitute the name of "the Lord" for "YHWH". He is talking about those who know His name but refuse to use His name and in its place use "the Lord." Those who do this are speaking lies and vanities, says YHWH! It is time for all who do this to repent of this evil and stop displeasing YHWH our Elohim. When we get down to verse 33, you will see what YHWH is going to do with those who do this evil.

***28 "The prophet that has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the straw to the wheat?" says YHWH.***

If a man or woman has had a dream from YHWH, let him speak it. If a man or a woman has a word from YHWH, let him speak it. But when he does, let him speak it faithfully, giving full credit to YHWH our Elohim rather than to "the Lord"! This is how the wheat acts. The straw does not listen and is burned up in the fire.

***29 "Is not My word like fire?" says YHWH; "and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"***

YHWH is an all consuming fire. Like Him, so is His word, both the written word and the word made flesh, His Son. The word shall consume all that is before it. If what a person builds is from YHWH, then it will stand. But if it is not from YHWH, but is lies, deceit and vanity, then it will be taken away and will not stand.

**30 "Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets," says YHWH, "that steal My words everyone from his neighbor."**

YHWH is especially against those prophets who steal His name away from others. You prophets of lies, beware!

**31 "Behold, I am against the prophets," says YHWH, that use their tongues, and say, "He says."**

One of the heights of folly has to be when a person knowingly does things that place him in opposition to YHWH. To have YHWH against him and not fall on his face in total and complete repentance is simply asking YHWH the Elohim of all creation to strike him down.

**32 "Behold, I am against them that prophesy lying dreams," says YHWH, "and do tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies, and by their vain boasting; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them; neither do they profit this people at all," says YHWH.**

There is no profit in lies and vanity. Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, why should we follow those whom YHWH has not sent? We should not! Those whom YHWH has not sent speak lies and vanity to lead His people away from Him. YHWH is against them. If YHWH be against them, then should we listen to them? No! We should not listen to them nor give any heed to them, and we are not to fear them or their vain words!

**33 "And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask you, saying, 'What is the burden of YHWH?' Then you shall say to them, 'What burden!' I will cast you off", says YHWH.**

YHWH has cast off those who speak lies in His name and those who speak lies in the name of "the Lord." And as YHWH has cast them off, so should we.

It is time to stop enabling the prophets and teachers of lies to continue on in their lying ministry. Let every man withhold his support until such time as these men repent and speak truth in His name, in the name of YHWH our Elohim. If they refuse to speak truth in His name, in the name of YHWH, then let them be a dried up branch on the vine, which will be pruned away and cast into the fire.

Let each one of us follow YHWH our Elohim rather than a man. Let us beware of those who are out to get our money or our possessions. Let us beware of those who speak to the flesh, trying to appease that which must die. Let us beware of these men who declare lies and vanities. Let us come fully out of mystery Babylon!

**1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:19-21**

**19 Do not quench the Spirit;**

**20 do not despise prophetic utterances;**

***21 prove all things; hold fast that which is good;***

Let the true man of YHWH stand up and speak. Let the true prophet declare a word from YHWH our Elohim. Let us test their words to see that they are from YHWH, and then let us follow fully YHWH our Elohim and His word to us through His prophets.

ABBA YHWH, place in our hearts a deep desire to know and to do Your will and Your word; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach.

Amein and Amein.

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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