

FAQ VOL II

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Frequently Asked Questions

VOLUME II

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Frequently Asked Questions, Volume II is a multi-year work in progress. Please note how the text may be corrected, updated, or amended, before final publication. Page numbers are also likely to be altered.

Abbreviations and Special Terms

The following is a list of abbreviations for reference works and special terms which are used in publications by Outreach Israel Ministries and Messianic Apologetics. Please familiarize yourself with them as the text may reference a Bible version, i.e., RSV for the Revised Standard Version, or a source such as TWOT for the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, solely by its abbreviation. Detailed listings of these sources are provided in the Bibliography.

- ABD: *Anchor Bible Dictionary*
AMG: *Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, New Testament*
ANE: Ancient Near East(ern)
Apostolic Scriptures/Writings: the New Testament
Ara: Aramaic
ASV: American Standard Version (1901)
ATS: ArtScroll Tanach (1996)
b. Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
B.C.E.: Before Common Era or B.C.
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*
C.E.: Common Era or A.D.
CGEDNT: *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Barclay M. Newman)
CGL: *Cambridge Greek Lexicon* (2021)
CHALOT: *Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Holladay)
CJB: *Complete Jewish Bible* (1998)
CJSB: *Complete Jewish Study Bible* (2016)
DRA: Douay-Rheims American Edition
DSS: Dead Sea Scrolls
EDB: *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*
EJ: *Encyclopaedia Judaica*
ESV: English Standard Version (2001)
Ger: German
GNT: Greek New Testament
Grk: Greek
HALOT: *Hebrew & Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Koehler and Baumgartner)
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible (2004)
Heb: Hebrew
HNV: Hebrew Names Version of the World English Bible
IDB: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
IDBSup: *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible Supplement*
ISBE: *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
IVPBBC: *IVP Bible Background Commentary (Old & New Testament)*
Jastrow: *Dictionary of the Targumim, Talmud Bavli, Talmud Yerushalmi, and Midrashic Literature* (Marcus Jastrow)
JBK: *New Jerusalem Bible-Koren* (2000)
JETS: *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*
KJV: King James Version
Lattimore: *The New Testament* by Richmond Lattimore (1996)
LITV: *Literal Translation of the Holy Bible* by Jay P. Green (1986)
LES: *Lexham English Septuagint* (2019)
LS: *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott)
LSJM: *Greek-English Lexicon* (Liddell-Scott-Jones-McKenzie)
LXE: *Septuagint with Apocrypha* by Sir L.C.L. Brenton (1851)
LXX: Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT: Masoretic Text
NASB: *New American Standard Bible* (1977)
NASU: *New American Standard Update* (1995)
NBCR: *New Bible Commentary: Revised*
NEB: *New English Bible* (1970)
Nelson: *Nelson's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament Words*
NETS: *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (2007)
NIB: *New Interpreter's Bible*
NIDB: *New International Dictionary of the Bible*
NIV: *New International Version* (1984)
NJB: *New Jerusalem Bible-Catholic* (1985)
NJPS: *Tanakh, A New Translation of the Holy Scriptures* (1999)
NKJV: *New King James Version* (1982)
NRSV: *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)
NLT: *New Living Translation* (1996)
NT: *New Testament*

OT: Old Testament
REB: Revised English Bible (1989)
RSV: Revised Standard Version (1952)
t. Tosefta
Tanach (Tanakh): the Old Testament
Thayer: *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*
TDNT: *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*
TLV: Messianic Jewish Family Bible—Tree of Life Version (2014)
TNIV: Today's New International Version (2005)

TWOT: *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*
UBSHNT: United Bible Societies' 1991 Hebrew New Testament revised edition
v(s). verse(s)
Vine: *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
Vul: Latin Vulgate
YLT: Young's Literal Translation (1862/1898)
WMB: World Messianic Bible (2020)

Torahism

I have encountered the term “Torahism” used on social media. What is it?

The following material has been adapted from J.K. McKee, *The New Testament Validates Torah* (McKinney, TX: Messianic Apologetics, 2024), pp 493-495.

It was probably inevitable, given the huge explosion of the Hebrew Roots movement across social media, that at the end of the 2010s someone in the Christian world was going to take notice, and begin refuting much of the false doctrine, shoddy scholarship, and extremism encountered. In 2019, I was sent a complimentary copy of the book *Torahism: Are Christians Required to Keep the Law of Moses?* by R.L. Solberg.¹ Solberg has been responsible for coining the term “Torahism,” which is best defined as some kind of a theology which focuses on a Torah foundation and outward Torah matters. It is easily deduced from his writings and many Internet broadcasts,² how he sees more contrasts, rather than continuity, between the practices of the Tanach (OT) and Apostolic Writings (NT).

What is labeled as “Torahism” could apply, on some level, to non-Jewish Believers, who in some way have been prompted to consider matters such as the seventh-day Sabbath/*Shabbat*, the appointed times/*moedim*, or a kosher style of diet—as well as to Jewish Believers maintaining a level of fidelity to the covenants made with their ancestors.³ Solberg does fairly recognize how those practicing what he labels as “Torahism,” can vary, as not all are extreme legalists trying to earn their salvation by human works. As he states in his 2022 update of *Are Christians Required to Keep the Law of Moses?*,

“When Torahism focuses on how our faith should be lived out, rather than how we are justified or saved, it is a matter between brothers and sisters in the faith. It’s a family disagreement on par with disputes about infant baptism versus believers’ baptism, or

¹ R.L. Solberg, *Torahism: Are Christians Required to Keep the Law of Moses?* (Franklin, TN: Williamson College Press, 2019).

A somewhat related resource is Rubén Gómez, *The Hebrew Roots Movement: A Critical Analysis of Its Origins, Teachings & Biblical Interpretations* (Kent, UK: King’s Divinity Press, 2023).

² Solberg’s YouTube channel, Defending the Biblical Roots of Christianity, is available online via <youtube.com/@TheBiblicalRoots>.

³ R.L. Solberg, *Torahism: Are Christians Required to Keep the Law of Moses? Revised & Expanded* (Franklin, TN: Williamson College Press, 2022), 121 does recognize the value of various outward matters of Torah, as some part of Jewish cultural tradition and ethnic identity.

dispensationalism versus covenant theology. These are not unimportant issues. But they are secondary in the sense that there is room for disagreement among believers.”⁴

Solberg would seemingly classify a ministry like Outreach Israel and Messianic Apologetics along these same lines, given our strong track record of speaking against legalism, inflexibility, works righteousness, and even Torah-olatry—and instead stressing it as part of a Believer’s sanctification and growth in holiness. While we would have strong theological differences and disagreements on the post-resurrection era validity of the Torah, and perhaps what the New Covenant involves (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Hebrews 8:7-13; 10:14-18), I doubt he would consider us as promoting things at the level of “heresy.”⁵ However, to focus the considerable bulk of one’s ministry attention, as Solberg has, on people disregarding the post-resurrection era validity or relevance of God’s Torah, is likely to beg considerable, ongoing questions for the future and prophesied spread of lawlessness (Matthew 24:12). Many of the significant ethical and moral controversies, faced by evangelicalism, directly originate in disregarding the significance of the Torah or Law of Moses. Those who actively encourage people to dismiss the principles of the Torah and Tanach, are not in as strong a position as they think they are, to see Messiah followers incorporate the values and ethics of Yeshua of Nazareth.⁶

⁴ Ibid., 272.

⁵ Ibid.

If necessary, consult the author’s Messianic Apologetics episode from 17 November 2021, “What is Heresy? What is Not Heresy?” accessible via <[youtube.com/MessianicApologetics](https://www.youtube.com/MessianicApologetics)>.

⁶ For a useful review, consult Walter C. Kaiser, *Recovering the Unity of the Bible: One Continuous Story, Plan, and Purpose* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009).