

FAQ VOL II

A WORK IN PROGRESS

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MESSIANIC APOLOGETICS
messianicapologetics.net

Frequently Asked Questions

VOLUME II

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latest update 08 November, 2024

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

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)

Torah, biggest challenges

What do you think the biggest challenges are regarding today's Messianic Believers and the Torah?

There are a number of well-known, ongoing challenges present in the broad Messianic movement regarding the Torah, such as the debate regarding non-Jewish Believers keeping the Torah, as well as issues regarding the integration of Jewish tradition and Rabbinic materials into *halachah*. Yet, there are some other issues—which might be a bit more important—which scarcely receive any of our collective attention. These include:

1. **The specific degree of changes which have been inaugurated by the sacrifice of Yeshua the Messiah for human sin, in the post-resurrection era:** What was nailed to the cross/execution-stake (Colossians 2:14)? What does it mean that a “change of law” (Hebrews 7:12, NASU) has taken place? How does a responsible Bible reader balance post-resurrection era changes directly caused by the Messiah’s work, with the Messiah’s own insistence that the Torah is not to be abolished (Matthew 5:17-19)?
2. **Properly considering the Ancient Near Eastern background of the Pentateuch:** While the Torah is to be regarded as valid instruction which informs the lifestyle and character of God’s people, it cannot be ignored that it was originally given to the Ancient Israelites. There are aspects of the Torah which were given to those who operated within a different level of technology and economy than those of today. How do we respect the original intention of many time-sensitive Torah instructions, and derive principles from them for modern-day living?

Concurrent with some of this is the frightening spectre that as we steadily approach the return of the Messiah—not only will there be an increasing need for God’s faithful to be following His Instruction (Revelation 12:17; 14:12)—but there will need to be an increasing knowledge on the part of His people to be aware of the coming apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:3). While there are aspects of this apostasy which will surely involve a steady erosion of Biblical ethics and morality, and people disregarding foundational instructions like the Ten Commandments—how much of this apostasy will be spearheaded by more and more people treating the Holy Scriptures as myths and fairy tales? How much of the coming apostasy will be related to reliability and historicity issues pertaining to the Biblical record, and will even be coupled with scientific criticisms against the Bible? These are issues, which while certainly

Torah, biggest challenges

dominating much of today's evangelical Protestant apologetics, are things which too many of today's Messianic people avoid.