

## Torah Questions (Conclusion)

*(Part 1 of "Torah questions" pointed out the Torah was the first 5 Books of the Old Testament. However, oral teachings on the law started to be included in these writings. Eventually other writings such as the Mishna and Talmud evolved and were combined with the Torah. Those writings and oral "traditions" sometimes conflicted with or went beyond the word of God.)*

Therefore, if one asks the question "why don't we study the Torah?" We have to ask if the person is referring to the Pentateuch, the first 5 books of the Old Testament; or are they referring to those Books plus the Mishna and Talmud. Obviously, we do study Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. We do not study the Mishna and Talmud because they are simply the ideas of men and not God. Those Rabbis were not inspired and their words are not to be treated as equal to God's Word.

There was also the implication that the Torah has changed over the years. Again, if one is meaning the Pentateuch, then I would deny such is true. On numerous occasions we are told the word of God has been changed over the years. The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints tells us the Book of Mormon is God's Word and is necessary because the original Bible was changed by man. This leads me to ask some questions. How do you know this to be true? When did this happen? What was changed and who made these changes? Do you really believe the Pentateuch was changed and no one noticed or objected? I really find it hard to believe that the Jews would have accepted such changes. Equally I find it hard to believe that Christians would have not noticed such changes made in the Bible. It is easy to claim that the Bible has been changed, but I have yet to see any proof. I do know that the Catholic Church added some books to their Bible, but they did not change those already in the Bible. If one is referring to the Mishna and Talmud, then such is possible. The teachings of the Rabbis have changed over the years. There is the Jerusalem Talmud which was compiled around 400 BC. There is another Talmud compiled by the leading Babylonian Rabbis and is called the Babylonian Talmud. However, none of those Talmud's were inspired by God.

Keep this in mind. Jesus quoted from the Hebrew Bible in His ministry. He quoted from Deuteronomy in dealing with Satan in Matthew 4. He answered questions based on what the Hebrew Bible said. At no time did Jesus correct any perversions

in the Hebrew Bible. The Jews took great pains to make sure manuscripts were accurately recorded. Each page would have a certain number of lines, words, and letters. Each line, word, and letter were numbered. This was done to make sure all errors would be caught. No ancient manuscript has been found to refute the Bible as we have it now. God's word has been preserved for us today. – Dennis Tucker