

Torah – Law and Instruction (page 9)

1. Read Psalm 1:1-3, and Ps. 119:1-20, substituting the word “teaching” for “law”. How does changing the phrase “law of the Lord” to “teaching of the Lord” change the tone of these psalms? (If you have a Jewish Tanakh, compare that translation of the texts to those in your Bible.)

2. In Proverbs 13:14, it says in the NIV, “The teaching (*torah*) of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.” Usually the NIV renders *torah* as “law”, but here it translates it as “teaching” instead of “law”. From this passage and the passages in question 1, explain how the concepts of “teaching and “law” overlap. How would you explain what “torah” means in English?

3. The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” was an idiomatic phrase that Jesus used to describe the Scriptures of his time – the Torah of Moses, (the Pentateuch) and the Prophetic writings, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, and other books. How does knowing that “Law and Prophets” is often an idiom meaning “Scriptures” affect your reading of the following passages?

Matthew 7:12

Luke 16:16 -17

4. Read Leviticus 19. How do you feel personally about God’s laws when you read them? Do you feel burdened or joyful at having God’s “teaching”? How does that impact how you live?