

Simchat Torah

Why *Celebrate* the Scriptures— God's written word?

A. The *Scriptures* reveal to us the Knowledge of God

“**My son**, if you will receive my sayings
and treasure my commandments within you,
make your ear attentive to *wisdom*, incline your heart to *understanding*;
if you cry for *discernment*, lift your voice for *understanding*;
if you **seek her** as silver and **search for her** as for hidden treasures;

then you will **discern** the *fear* of the LORD
and **discover** the knowledge of God.”
(Proverbs 2:1-5)

My people are **destroyed** for *lack of knowledge*.
Because you have *rejected knowledge*,
I also will **reject you** from being **My priest**.

Since you have *forgotten* the law of your God,
I also will **forget your children**. (Hosea 4:6)

B. The *Scriptures* give us “Light” in a world of Darkness

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light;
and reproofs for discipline are the way of life.
(Proverbs 6:23)

So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure,
to which you do well to **pay attention** as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until the *day dawns*
and the *morning star arises* in your hearts.
(II Peter 1:19)

C. The *Scriptures* declare to us the Way of Salvation

Salvation is far from the **wicked**,
For they **do not** seek Your statutes. (Psalm 119:155)

...and that from **childhood** you have *known* the sacred writings
which are **able** to give you the **wisdom** that *leads* to salvation
through faith which is in **Messiah Jesus**. (II Timothy 3:15)

D. The *Scriptures* reveal to us the Messiah

“You search the Scriptures
because you think that in *them* you have eternal life;
it is *these* that bear witness of Me;”

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He (Jesus) explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them (the Jews), and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Messiah had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah.” (Acts 17:2-3)

E. The *Scriptures* declare the Way of Righteousness

With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.

Blessed are You, O LORD;
Teach me Your statutes. (Psalm 119:10-12)

All Scripture is *inspired by God* and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, *equipped* for every good work.
(II Timothy 3:16)

F. The *Scriptures* are “living and active,” revealing and transforming the lives of believers

For the word of God is *living* and *active* and *sharper* than any two-edged sword, and *piercing* as far as the division of *soul* and *spirit*, of both *joints* and *marrow*, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you *received* the word of God which you heard from us, you *accepted it* not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. (I Thessalonians 2:13)

G. The *Scriptures*, when heard and received produce Faith

How then will they *call on Him* in whom they have not *believed*?

How will they **believe in Him** whom they have **not heard**?
And how will they **hear** without a **preacher**?...

So **faith** comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** by the **word** of Messiah.
(Romans 10:14, 17)

H. The *Scriptures* strengthen us with **Hope**

If **Your law** had not been my **delight**,
then I would have **perished** in my **affliction**. (Psalm 119:92)

For whatever was **written** in **earlier times** was **written** for our **instruction**,
so that through **perseverance** and the **encouragement**
of the **Scriptures** we might have **hope**. (Romans 15:4)

I. The *Scriptures* are a source of **Joy**

The **precepts** of the LORD are **right**, **rejoicing** the heart;
the **commandment** is **pure**, **enlightening** the eyes. (Psalm 19:8)

I have **rejoiced** in the way of **Your testimonies**,
as much as in all **riches**.

I have inherited **Your testimonies** forever,
for they are the **joy** of my heart.

I **rejoice** at Your **word**, as one who finds **great spoil**.
(Psalm 119:14, 111, 162)

J. The *Scriptures* can give us **inward Peace**

Those who **love** Your **law** have **great peace**,
and **nothing** causes them to **stumble**. (Psalm 119:165)

Now may the **God of hope** **fill you** with all **joy** and **peace** in **believing**,
so that you will abound in **hope** by the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.
(Romans 15:13)

As believers, we *believe* and *celebrate* **both** **God's written and His "living" Word**

In the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the **Word** was **with** God,
and the **Word was** God.
He was in the **beginning** **with** God...

And the **Word became flesh**, and **dwelt** among us,
and we saw His **glory, glory** as of the **only begotten** from the **Father**,
full of **grace** and **truth**. (John 1:1-2, 14)

A. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” reveals to us the **Knowledge of God**.
In Him (Messiah)...”are *hidden* all the treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge** (Col. 2:3)”

B. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” is our **Light** in a **dark world**.

Then **Jesus** again spoke to them, saying,
“**I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the *darkness*, but will have the Light of life.” (John 8:12)**

C. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” declares to us the way of **Salvation**.

“For **God so loved** the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**,..

For **God did *not* send the Son into the world to *judge* the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:16a, 17)**

D. Like the *written word* which **reveals** the Messiah to come, the “*living Word*” **is** the **revelation** and **manifestation** of the **Messiah**.

The **woman** (of Samaria) said to **Him**, “I know that **Messiah is coming**... when that **One comes, He will declare *all things*** to us.”
Jesus said to her, “**I who speak to you am He**.” (John 4:25-26)

E. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” declares the way of **Righteousness**

He made Him (Messiah) who knew **no sin** to ***be sin*** on our behalf, so that **we** might **become** the **righteousness of God in Him**. (II Cor. 5:21)

F. Like the *written word* that is “*alive*” and **transformative**, the “*living Word*” **indwells** and **transforms** believers.

Because ***you are sons***, **God** has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** ***into our hearts***, crying, “**Abba! Father!**” (Gal. 4:6) (Rom. 8:29)

G. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” has **given** us **eternal Hope**.

... **looking** for the **blessed hope** and the **appearing** of the ***glory*** of our **great God and Savior, Messiah Jesus**, (Titus 2:13)

H. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” is our source of **great Joy**.

These things **I (Jesus)** have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be ***in you***, and **that your joy** may be **made full**. (John 15:11)

I. Like the *written word*, the “*living Word*” is our **Peace**.

Peace I leave with you; **My peace** I give to you; ***not*** as the world gives do I give to you.

Do not let your **heart** be **troubled**, nor let it be **fearful**. (John 14:27)