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)

In **Him (Messiah),** you also, after **listening** to the **message of truth**,
the **gospel** of your **salvation**—having also **believed**, you were ***sealed*** in Him
with the **Holy Spirit** of **promise**, (Ephesians 1:13)

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***, when **taught** and **heard** ***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)

F. The ***Scriptures*** **declare** the **way of Righteousness**

How **blessed** are those who **observe His testimonies**,
Who **seek Him** with all *their* heart.
They also do **no unrighteousness**;
They walk in ***His*** **ways**...

How can a young man keep his way **pure**?
By **keeping *it*** according to **Your word**...

Your word I have treasured in **my heart,**
That I may **not sin** against **You**. (Psalm 119:2-3, 9, 11)

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)

G. The ***Scriptures*** are "**living** and **active**," and bring about a **Transformation** in 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)

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)

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.**

No one has **seen God** at **any time**; the **only begotten God**
who is in the **bosom** of the **Father, He** has **explained *Him***. (John 1:18)

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**

In **Him** (the **Word**) was **life,** and the **life** was the **Light of men**. (John 1:4)

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" declared** to us the **way of Salvation**.

Jesus answered and said...
"For **God so *loved*** the **world**, that **He *gave* His only begotten Son,**
that whoever **believes in Him** shall **not perish**, but have **eternal life**.

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

D. As the ***written* word predicted** the **Messiah** to **come**, the **"*Living* Word"**
is the **coming** 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. The ***written* word** is **life** "to **those** who **find them**" (Prov. 4:22)
The "***Living Word"*** is the very **"Life" of God *manifested***

What was from the **beginning,** what we have **heard,**
what we have **seen** with **our eyes,**
what we have **looked a**t and **touched** with **our hands**,
concerning the **Word of Life**—
and the **life** was ***manifested***,
and we have **seen** and **testify** and **proclaim** to you **the eternal life**,
which was ***with* the Father** and was ***manifested* to us**—(I John 1:1-2)