

Torah Studies – Statutes #344-350

Statute Summary: A few words of background information: The word Covenant itself is a word which means a promise, joining and league between two parties entered into with the shedding of blood. In the Marriage Covenant, YHWH designed that the virgin's hymen would be broken so that this holy covenant is literally entered into with the shedding of blood. Some say that the shedding of blood in the covenant ended when Yahshua died. But, notably, YHWH did not end the shedding of blood in the marriage bed. Also, when Moses did not circumcise his sons, the death angel was sent (Exodus 4:24-26). Clearly, if uncircumcision was a killing offense to YHWH this is no small matter (Hebrews 13:8)!

Traditionally, Christians have set aside the command to circumcise believing that this ended at the Cross. Clearly, the Holy Spirit fell upon the circumcised and uncircumcised alike in the New Testament (Acts 10:45). Paul taught that it was profitable to be circumcised (Romans 2:25), but only if one kept the Torah. If one was circumcised, yet broke the Torah, their physical circumcision was counted before YHWH as uncircumcision.

Some misinterpret Galatians 5:2 and say that Paul taught that if you were circumcised, you were making the work of Messiah of no effect. But, the Aramaic New Testament predates the Greek (Yahshua and His followers spoke Hebrew and Aramaic), and in the English Bible translated from the Aramaic Peshitta, we find this verse to have different meaning: "If you are circumcised (marginal note: to please the status quo, or for acceptance into a peer group) then Mashiyach is a thing that has no benefit to you." This doesn't mean that CIRCUMCISION is evil and does away with Messiah, as it appears to state in KJV or Greek. It means that if we circumcise to impress people, it is of no value.

The Bible clearly teaches (as we will see in the next statutes) that circumcision was more than flesh. It was predominantly of the heart (Romans 2:28-29). If we have the body circumcised, but not the heart, the physical circumcision is meaningless (1 Corinthians 7:19). Still, does this set aside the circumcision of the body? The Bible clearly teaches that circumcision is not necessary to be called of YHWH or receive the Holy Spirit. Even Abraham himself (of whom we are spiritual seed) was called before he was circumcised (Romans 4:12).

Many have thought that Paul taught that circumcision was no longer necessary, but Paul himself said that he could not understand why the Jews were so upset with him, since he had not preached against circumcision (Galatians 5:11). In other words, just because the uncircumcised Gentiles could come to YHWH and even receive the Holy Spirit without circumcision, doesn't mean they were to stay permanently uncircumcised. Paul circumcised Timothy, as a teenager, clearly showing that Paul didn't believe it was "slapping the Saviour in the Face" (denying Calvary) by doing so (Acts 16:3) However, Titus, who was a Greek, was not compelled (forced) to be circumcised (Galatians 2:3). This verse is used by many to show that one didn't have to be circumcised. But, as is clear in the translation from the Aramaic Peshitta, it doesn't mean that Titus never became circumcised! It does mean that no one could FORCE Titus to become circumcised. Such an act, like baptism, was to be kept entirely voluntary. Whether or not he chose to do it later was not stated. Merely, the Jews who tried to pressure him into being circumcised were stopped.

Most notably of all, Yahshua, Who is our Example in all things, was circumcised (which if this were wrong, YHWH would have prevented, in order for Him to be a perfect Sacrifice - Luke 2:21). Ultimately, however, Paul (nor any New Testament writer) is not to add to nor take away from Torah (Deuteronomy 4:2). If he had added to or taken away from the Torah in any way, the Bereans would have rejected Paul's teachings (Acts 17:10-12), and his writings would not be in the Bible (Isaiah 8:20). So, let us look at what the Torah teaches about circumcision with fresh eyes, untainted by what we think happened in the New Testament (which is not allowed to undermine the Old Testament).

(#344) YHWH commands His people (who are the seed of Abraham – Galatians 3:16 & 29) to keep His Covenant. The Covenant of YHWH involves the shedding of blood and the entering into a bonded relationship. In the Abrahamic Covenant (which all the righteous enter) both YAH (Calvary) and Abraham (circumcision) shed blood. (#345) YHWH not only commanded Abraham to keep His Covenant, He also commanded all of Abraham's seed to keep it in every generation. (#346) Every male child, who is a partaker of YHWH's Covenant, is to be circumcised. (#347) Circumcision means that we are to cut away the foreskin, or the fold of skin surrounding the male organ. (#348) Circumcision is the sign, or physical evidence, that we belong to YHWH and are partakers of His Abrahamic Covenant. (#349) Male children, born in our homes, are to be circumcised on the eighth day. (#350) Servants or people brought into the household, that are not born in the house, still were to be circumcised. Every male in the house of Abraham's seed is to be circumcised. (Judgment) Failure to circumcise as YHWH has commanded means that one has broken the Covenant and is no longer numbered among YHWH's people.

Genesis 17:9-14 “And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt **keep** My **Covenant** therefore, thou, and thy **seed** after thee in their **generations**. This is My Covenant, which ye shall keep, between Me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be **circumcised**. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your **foreskin**; and it shall be a **token** of the Covenant betwixt Me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and My Covenant shall be in your **flesh** for an **everlasting** covenant. And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be **cut off** from his people; he hath **broken** My Covenant.”

Torah Studies – Statutes #351-353

Statute Summary:

(#351) YHWH commands His people to be circumcised in our hearts. This means that the innermost person, our thinking and understanding, out of which flows our actions and words, is to have the “old man” of sin, cut away and removed (see Colossians 2:11-13). (#352) YHWH commands us not to be hardened in sin nor dense in understanding spiritual Truth. (#353) Our motivation for having circumcised hearts is to be our awareness that YHWH is THE ALMIGHTY.

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 “**Circumcise** therefore the **foreskin** of your **heart**, and be no more **stiffnecked**. For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a **mighty**, and a **terrible**, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh **reward**.”

Key Word Study: **Directions:** Look up each keyword (underlined in the verses above) in your Strong’s Concordance. Fill in the table below.

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
CIRCUMCISE			
FORESKIN			
HEART			
STIFFNECKED			
MIGHTY			
TERRIBLE			
REWARD			

Synthesis:

Directions: Rewrite this Scripture in your own words, using the fuller meanings you gained from the Key Word Study. Highlight the concept which most stands out to you. Pray and meditate on it today.

Torah Studies – Statutes #354-355

Statute Summary:

(#354) YHWH not only commands His people to be circumcised, He promises to perform this spiritual surgery, if we seek it of Him (James 4:2). Not only does YHWH promise to circumcise our hearts, but also the hearts of our children. (#355) YHWH’s people are to love Him with our whole hearts, vitality, and breath. We are to love Him in choosing Him over appetite. His pleasure is to be our own. When we love YHWH and are fully given to Him, we are fully alive and made strong.

Deuteronomy 30:6 “The LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.”

Key Word Study: Directions: Look up each keyword (underlined in the verses above) in your Strong’s Concordance. Fill in the table below.

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
CIRCUMCISE			
HEART			
SEED			
WITH ALL			
SOUL			
LIVE			

Synthesis:

Directions: Rewrite this Scripture in your own words, using the fuller meanings you gained from the Key Word Study. Highlight the concept which most stands out to you. Pray and meditate on it today.

Torah Studies – Statutes #356-361

Statute Summary:

(#356) YHWH commands His people to take care in choosing foods to eat. We are never to eat any flesh He has deemed “abominable.” (#357) We may only eat meats of animals which chew the cud and have a divided hoof. (#358) An animal which chews the cud but doesn’t have a divided hoof is unclean. (#359) An animal which has a divided hoof, but doesn’t chew the cud is unclean. (#360) YHWH’s people are not to eat the flesh of any unclean animal. (#361) YHWH’s people are not to touch the dead carcass of any unclean animal.

Deuteronomy 14:3-8 “Thou shalt not eat any **abominable thing**. These are the beasts which **ye shall eat**: the ox, the sheep, and the goat, the **hart**, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the **pygarg**, and the wild ox, and the **chamois**. And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat. Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the **coney**: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you. And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass.”

Key Word Study: **Directions:** Look up each keyword (underlined in the verses above) in your Strong’s Concordance. Fill in the table below.

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
ABOMINABLE THING			
YE SHALL EAT			
HART			
PYGARG			
CHAMOIS			
CONEY			

