

# Torah Teachings

## Biblical Definitions: “Lawlessness”

**Source:** “*Messiah – Volume 1 – Understanding His Life and Teachings In Hebraic Context*” by Avi Ben Mordechai. This book is no longer available from [Coming Home - A Biblical Hebraic Outreach Teaching Ministry from Avi Ben Mordechai](#). It is out of print.

**NOTE:** I have added my comments in square brackets as such [ ].

### LAWLESSNESS

In the *Tanakh*, **lawlessness** can be derived from the Hebrew word אָוֶן **aven**, Strong’s number **H205**, meaning **iniquity**, **wickedness** and **sorrow**. Also, the Hebrew word עָוָה **avah**, Strong’s number **H5753**, plays into the sense with a meaning of **bending**, **twisting**, **distorting** and **perverting**. [Emphasis added]

The Greek word **anomia** (Strong’s Number **G458**) is again and again translated “**iniquity**” or “**lawlessness**.” In the *B’rit Chadashah* [New Testament]. it is derived from Strong’s number **G459**, **anomos**, which means “**avoid of the Mosaic Law**” and “**transgression of G-d’s commandments written down for Moshe at Mount Sinai.**” **Anomos** can also refer to **contempt** and **violation of law** or **departure from law** in a general sense. However, unless otherwise noted by context, such as in a setting of Greek and Roman law, Y’shua HaMashiach [Yeshua/Jesus The Messiah] and the *B’rit Chadashah* writers most-often used the idea of “**lawlessness**” to describe a **devious attitude** or **lifestyle with respect to rebellion** against the Mosaic commandments of the Hebrew Torah. To help us understand this Yochanan [John] wrote in his first epistle, Chapter 3 verse 4: [Emphasis added]

*Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.*

(1 Yochanan [John] 3:4, [Emphasis added])

Based on the Hebraic perception that **sin is lawlessness** (**iniquity**) and **sin** (**iniquity**) refers to a lifestyle contrary to the Mosaic Law, Israel is said to have sinned and committed iniquity against G-d and His Torah commandments in *Mizmor* (Psalm) 106: [Emphasis added]

*Verse 6: We have sinned like our fathers, we have committed iniquity, (**lawlessness**) we have behaved wickedly.... [Emphasis added]*

*Verse 35: But they mingled with the nations, and learned their practices... [Emphasis added]*

Verse 36: *And **served their idols**, which became a snare to them.*  
[Emphasis added]

In *Mizmor* [Psalm] 119:133 and 125:5, the great King David further defined **lawlessness** (*iniquity*) in reference to those who turn away from the Torah: [Emphasis added]

***Establish my footsteps in Thy word**, and do not let any **iniquity** (*lawlessness*) have dominion over me.* [Emphasis added]

*But as for those who turn aside to their crooked ways, **the Lord will lead them away with the doers of iniquity** (*lawlessness*). Peace be upon Israel.* [Emphasis added]

Hundreds of years later in Jewish history, the prophet Dani'el besought the L-rd on behalf of Israel confessing the sins of his fathers and calling the sins of his people "**iniquity**": [Emphasis added]

*Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, **we have sinned, committed iniquity** (*lawlessness*), **acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Thy commandments and ordinances.***

(Dani'el 9:4-5, [Emphasis added])

When Y'shua [Yeshua/Jesus] spoke concerning the idea of **sin** and **lawlessness**, He referred to **attitudes** of inward and outward contempt against keeping the Torah commandments of Sinai. This is pictured in the following verses: [Emphasis added]

*Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; **depart from Me. you who practice lawlessness.**"*

(Mattityahu [Matthew] 7:22-23,

[Emphasis added] – **MY NOTE:** The ones being addressed here are those who are not obedient to keeping/doing the Torah. They are doing things their own way. They are more interested in keeping/doing the **traditions of men** than being obedient to YHWH's Teachings and Instructions--Torah.)

*The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will **gather** out of His kingdom **all stumbling blocks**, and **those who commit lawlessness**....*

(Mattityahu [Matthew] 13:41,  
[Emphasis added] – **MY NOTE:** Who do you think these “Stumbling Blocks are?” To find out, we will take a look at the Scriptural definition on “Stumbling Block” next week. stay tuned...)

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but **inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness**.*

(Mattityahu [Matthew] 23:27-28, [Emphasis added])

*And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you...” “And **because lawlessness is increased**, most people’s love will grow cold.”*

(Mattityahu [Matthew] 24:3, 12, [Emphasis added])

Even the great Sha’ul (Paul) understood that one who is lawless is also not committed to the Mosaic Law. Hence, he wrote the following words to the believers in the cities of Corinth, Thessalonica and personally to Titus:

*Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have **righteousness and lawlessness**, or what fellowship has light with **darkness**?*

(2 Corinthians 6:14, [Emphasis added])

*Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the son of destruction....*

(2 Thessalonians 2:3, [Emphasis added])

*...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself **a people for His own possession**, zealous for good deeds.*

(Titus 2:13-14, [Emphasis added])

Interestingly, the above phrase, “*a people for His own possession*” alludes to *Shemot* (Exodus) 19:5 and G-d’s commandment to the Israelites to obey and keep His covenant: [Emphasis added]

*Now then, if you will indeed **obey My voice and keep My covenant**, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine.* [Emphasis added]

On this idea, G-d defines “**His people**” as those who keep His covenant given to Moshe. These are His possession among all the peoples. (More on this in Chapter four of the second volume of this teaching series. [MY NOTE: Both the First and Second Volumes are no longer in print. I will work on this additional part and refer everyone back to this teaching once I have completed that task. However, if you are interested in purchasing Volume 1 ([Messiah: Understanding his life and teachings in Hebraic context, volume 1](#)) and ([Messiah: Understanding his life and teachings in Hebraic context, volume 2](#)), you can do so by either searching for these two volumes or clicking on the above links that I have found to purchase these two volumes.]

I hope this sheds some light upon the Biblical definition of “**Lawlessness**” compared to what man has defined “**Lawlessness**” to be. It makes a big difference when we use the Bible as our dictionary. Especially the Old Covenant/Testament since the New Covenant/Testament did not exist at the time Yeshua/Jesus was here.

Shalom,

I am One Crying In The Wilderness!



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