

Peter and James Taught Torah and the Old Testament

Peter • James • Torah • Hebrew Scriptures

Who Are Peter and James?

Peter was called from fishing to follow Yeshua and was appointed among the Twelve.

The James examined here is Yeshua's brother, not either James listed among the original Twelve.

Acts 1 places Yeshua's brothers among the believers after the resurrection and ascension.

Peter and the Cornerstone

Matthew 16 records Peter's confession that Yeshua is the Messiah.

Acts 4 records Peter identifying Yeshua as the rejected stone that became the chief cornerstone.

Peter's preaching explains current events by returning to the Hebrew Scriptures.

Who Were They Writing To?

1 Peter addresses the pilgrims of the dispersion.

James addresses the twelve tribes scattered abroad.

The Teaching reads both letters in the context of Israel, dispersion, covenant, and restoration.

Acts 15: What Was the Question?

Acts 15:1 raises the claim that circumcision according to Moses was required in order to be saved.

Peter emphasizes faith, the Holy Spirit, and salvation through the grace of Yeshua.

The Teaching distinguishes requirements before coming to faith from obedience learned after coming to faith.

James's Four Immediate Instructions

Abstain from things polluted by idols.

Abstain from sexual immorality.

Abstain from things strangled.

Abstain from blood.

The Teaching traces these instructions to Torah.

Moses Read Every Sabbath

Acts 15:21 says Moses has long been preached in every city and read in the synagogues every Sabbath. The Teaching treats this statement as important context for how new believers would continue learning. Acts 15 is therefore read as a process of entry, repentance, faith, and continued instruction.

The Implanted Word

James 1 calls believers to receive the implanted word.

James tells them to be doers of the word, not hearers only.

The Teaching connects James's language with the Hebrew Scriptures available to his audience.

The Perfect Law of Liberty

James 1:25 speaks of the perfect law of liberty.

Psalm 119:44-45 joins keeping God's law with walking at liberty.

The Teaching presents obedience as a path of freedom rather than a substitute for faith.

Faith and Obedience

James 2 asks what profit there is in faith without works.

The Teaching uses 'obedience' to explain the kind of action James is describing.

Abraham and Rahab illustrate faith expressed through action.

Obedience is presented as a reflection of faith, not a replacement for faith.

Peter: Covenant and Blood

1 Peter 1 speaks of obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Yeshua.

Exodus 24 records blood sprinkled at the enactment of covenant.

The Teaching connects Peter's covenant language with Torah.

Peter: Be Holy

1 Peter 1: 'Be holy, for I am holy.'

The wording comes from Leviticus.

The Teaching connects holiness with being set apart in conduct and obedience.

Chosen • Priesthood • Holy Nation

1 Peter 2 uses the language of a chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, and special people.

The Teaching traces these descriptions to Exodus and Deuteronomy.

Peter's 'not a people / now the people of God' language is connected with Hosea.

Key Takeaways

Peter and James teach by drawing repeatedly from the Torah, Prophets, and other Hebrew Scriptures.

The Teaching identifies James as Yeshua's brother, not either James listed among the original Twelve.

Acts 15 begins with the question of circumcision as a requirement for salvation; the Teaching treats this as the issue the council is resolving.

James gives four immediate instructions to Gentile believers and connects their ongoing instruction with Moses being read every Sabbath.

James describes the word as something to receive and do, not merely hear.

Key Takeaways - Continued

The 'perfect law of liberty' in James is connected with Psalm 119's description of walking at liberty while seeking God's precepts.

James presents faith and obedience as working together; obedience is described as the expression of faith rather than a replacement for faith.

Peter's language about covenant blood, holiness, priesthood, nation, and people is rooted in earlier Scripture.

Peter identifies Yeshua as the chief cornerstone.

The Teaching emphasizes reading apostolic writings in the context of the Scriptures their original audiences already knew.

Study the Apostles in Context

Read Acts 15, James, and 1 Peter alongside the Torah and Prophets they quote or echo.

Trace quotations and phrases back to their earlier Scriptural settings.

Let the surrounding context define the question being answered.