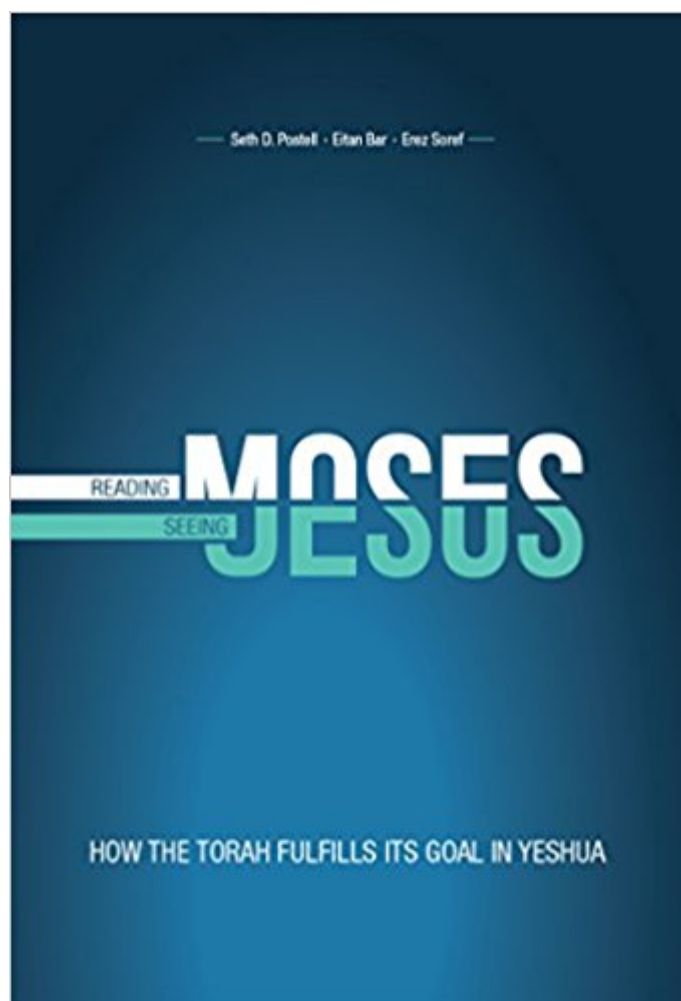


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# Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus: How The Torah Fulfills Its Goal In Yeshua



## Synopsis

This book addresses the questions about the believer's relationship to the Torah (the five Books of Moses, or the Pentateuch) and its commandments (the Law): Since Jesus kept the Law, are believers (Jewish and Gentile) also obliged to keep the Law, or at least some portions of it (Sabbath, the food laws, etc.)? What about the Oral Law (rabbinic traditions)? How does the Torah point to the Messiah? How do we apply the Law of Moses today? Though this book is based on more than a decade of academic research, it is written with the non-academic reader in mind and provides easy-to-understand answers to the questions related to the Torah and does so in a manner thoroughly rooted in a careful reading of the biblical text.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“At a time when there is much confusion about the believer's relationship to the law of Moses, Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus brings clarity, and it does so with light, not heat. What a helpful book for all followers of Yeshua, but particularly for Messianic Jews. Authors Postell, Bar, and Soref maintain a high and respectful perspective of Torah while demonstrating its continued role of pointing to the One of whom Moses wrote. If you want to understand the significance of the Torah and its relationship to those who are followers of Messiah, read this outstanding book. And while reading, keep your Bible at hand, take notes, become enlightened and be transformed.” (Michael Rydelnik, Professor of Jewish Studies and Bible, Moody Bible Institute Syndicated Radio Host and Teacher, Open Line with Dr. Michael Rydelnik Author of The

Messianic Hope and Co-editor and contributor, The Moody Bible Commentary)“Most Christians believe the apostle Paul’s assertion to Timothy that “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. But how many Christians truly study the Old Testament in their own devotions, or feel that they really understand the differences in and the relationship between the Old and New Testaments? Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus is a tremendous resource for anyone interested in understanding the whole counsel of Scripture, the fundamental purpose of the Mosaic law, the power of the Messianic prophecies, and how to engage in effective and fruitful Jewish evangelism and discipleship. I absolutely loved this book and highly recommend it to pastors and lay people alike!” (Joel C. Rosenberg, New York Times best-selling author, Bible teacher and founder of The Joshua Fund)“We are often told that by traditional Jews that they don’t need Yeshua because they have the Torah. Yet Yeshua told the Jewish leaders of his day that, if they truly believed Moses, they would believe in him. How can this be? The authors of this exciting new book, written with humility and clarity, and based on solid academic research, explain just what Yeshua meant, even demonstrating that the ultimate goal of the Torah is to point to him. Your eyes will be opened as you read.” (Michael L. Brown, President, FIRE School of Ministry, author, Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus (5 vols.))“The one most confusing issue among Messianic Jews (and today, also among many Gentiles believers) is the role of the Torah in the life of the believer. In the movement there are many who claim to be Torah observant but fail to read the details of what was commanded by God through Moses, and often as they claim to keep the Torah, they are actually breaking the specific laws involved in keeping the Torah. In the end, while they are preaching Torah, they practice grace. Thus the publication of Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus is a welcome contribution to the discussion that will clearly clarify all the issues from a solid biblical perspective and help many believers reach a biblical balance on the role and purpose of the Torah.” (Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Founder and Director, Ariel Ministries)“The discussion of the law and believers in Messiah has been a topic of discussion ever since Jesus showed up and many Jews and Gentiles proclaimed him as the fulfillment of promise. This is a brilliant little book showing Torah was not just about law but also about the prospect of promise and the need for that Messiah. What Torah promised pointed ultimately of the need for God working from within. That message rings loud and clear in this book with an explanation to match.” (Darrell L. Bock, Executive Director for Cultural Engagement, Howard G. Hendricks Center for Christian Leadership and Cultural Engagement; Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary)“Christians have

discussed and debated for centuries the role of the law now that Christ has come. The authors of this delightful and clear book show that the Old Testament itself teaches that the law cannot save. Indeed, a right reading of the Old Testament points to the Messiah as the one who forgives sins, and thus Christians are oriented fundamentally to Jesus instead of the law. Here we have a biblical-theological reading of the Old Testament that is insightful and instructive, and readers will see the wonderful unity of the whole Bible in this work. I warmly welcome this contribution from Jewish believers in Jesus. (Thomas R. Schreiner, James R. Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) “Exegetically solid, theologically sound, contemporaneously relevant, eminently readable—all these qualifiers are true and will prove to be vindicated by its intended readership. Especially commendable and that lends it authenticity is the fact that its authors are Israeli scholars who embrace messianic faith that names Jesus of Nazareth as Savior and Lord. This is a must! (Eugene H. Merrill, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies (Emeritus), Dallas Theological Seminary)

“At a time when there is much confusion about the believer's relationship to the law of Moses, Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus brings clarity, and it does so with light, not heat. What a helpful book for all followers of Yeshua, but particularly for Messianic Jews. Authors Postell, Bar, and Soref maintain a high and respectful perspective of Torah while demonstrating its continued role of pointing to the One of whom Moses wrote. If you want to understand the significance of the Torah and its relationship to those who are followers of Messiah, read this outstanding book. And while reading, keep your Bible at hand, take notes, become enlightened and be transformed.” Michael Rydelnik, Professor of Jewish Studies and Bible, Moody Bible Institute Syndicated Radio Host and Teacher, Open Line with Dr. Michael Rydelnik Author of The Messianic Hope and Co-editor and contributor, The Moody Bible Commentary “Most Christians believe the apostle Paul's assertion to Timothy that ‘all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. But how many Christians truly study the Old Testament in their own devotions, or feel that they really understand the differences in and the relationship between the Old and New Testaments? Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus is a tremendous resource for anyone interested in understanding the whole counsel of Scripture, the fundamental purpose of the Mosaic law, the power of the Messianic prophecies, and how to engage in effective and fruitful Jewish evangelism and discipleship. I absolutely loved this book and highly recommend it to pastors

and lay people alike!

• Joel C. Rosenberg, New York Times best-selling author, Bible teacher and founder of The Joshua Fund

“We are often told that by traditional Jews that they don’t need Yeshua because they have the Torah. Yet Yeshua told the Jewish leaders of his day that, if they truly believed Moses, they would believe in him. How can this be? The authors of this exciting new book, written with humility and clarity, and based on solid academic research, explain just what Yeshua meant, even demonstrating that the ultimate goal of the Torah is to point to him. Your eyes will be opened as you read.

• Michael L. Brown, President, FIRE School of Ministry, author, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus* (5 vols.)

“The one most confusing issue among Messianic Jews (and today, also among many Gentiles believers) is the role of the Torah in the life of the believer. In the movement there are many who claim to be Torah observant but fail to read the details of what was commanded by God through Moses, and often as they claim to keep the Torah, they are actually breaking the specific laws involved in keeping the Torah. In the end, while they are preaching Torah, they practice grace. Thus the publication of *Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus* is a welcome contribution to the discussion that will clearly clarify all the issues from a solid biblical perspective and help many believers reach a biblical balance on the role and purpose of the Torah.

• Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Founder and Director, Ariel Ministries

“The discussion of the law and believers in Messiah has been a topic of discussion ever since Jesus showed up and many Jews and Gentiles proclaimed him as the fulfillment of promise. This is a brilliant little book showing Torah was not just about law but also about the prospect of promise and the need for that Messiah. What Torah promised pointed ultimately of the need for God working from within. That message rings loud and clear in this book with an explanation to match.

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• Thomas R. Schreiner, James R. Buchanan Harrison Professor of New Testament, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Exegetically solid, theologically sound, contemporaneously relevant, eminently readable – all these qualifiers are true and will prove to be vindicated by its intended readership. Especially commendable – and that lends it authenticity – is the fact that its authors are Israeli scholars who embrace messianic faith that names Jesus of Nazareth as Savior and Lord. This is a must!”

• Eugene H. Merrill, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament Studies (Emeritus), Dallas Theological Seminary

“Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus is a book that will help Jews and Gentiles alike understand what it means to be a Jewish believer in Jesus, or Yeshua. Authors Seth Postell, Eitan Bar, and Erez Soref demonstrate from Scripture that to embrace Yeshua is not to abandon the Jewish people or Israel’s great heritage. On the contrary, to embrace Yeshua in faith is to enter into the blessings of the new covenant prophesied by Jeremiah long ago. God has fulfilled his promises to his people Israel in the life, death, and resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah. Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus shows in a clear and compelling way that God has not rejected his chosen people but continues to love them and seeks to bring them into fellowship with him.”

• Craig A. Evans, John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins, Houston Baptist University

“I give thanks to the Lord for the work of ONE FOR ISRAEL and Israel College of the Bible. Their book Reading Moses, Seeing Jesus is a rich and helpful resource for understanding the Torah both literarily and theologically, demonstrating that, by divine design, Moses indeed spoke of Yeshua (John 5:46).”

• L. Michael Morales, Professor of Biblical Studies, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Taylors, SC

“As a professor and student of the Bible, I found fresh insights in this book that clarified the trajectory of the whole of Scripture. Highly recommended!”

• George H. Guthrie, Professor of New Testament, Regent College, Vancouver, BC

This book gave me the answers to questions I had tucked away in my heart for many years. One of the things that is important in studying the Word of God is the threads throughout, which this has. After reading I tried to think of a summary: Love Adonai, love the brethren and be separate. This is a message we have been hearing for such a long time, but the threads this connects is amazing. I am going to go back over it and study it, but I have to say my reading of the Word has been forever changed.

When I met Seth Postell about 10 years ago, we were both Jewish believers and students at the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Marin County, California. He was studying for his PhD

at that time and had effusive praise for his mentor, John Sailhamer, and his compositional hermeneutics approach. Seeing the Torah and the whole Tanakh via the compositional strategy showed the original intent of the authors to show God's eternal and continuing purposes. God knew that Adam and Eve could not keep even one law, and He knew that Israel could not either. He always had a plan to use the Law to show us that we cannot hope to keep it and cannot rely on anything in ourselves for salvation. He always had Messiah as the answer. This book, *Reading Moses*, very successfully takes what could be very tricky academic material and makes it very accessible to all of us, Jews and Gentiles of all stripes. How easy it is to find one's way in the thick, dark forest of "Torah observant" issues after reading this book. Bravo to Seth and colleagues. Nice cover graphic, too.

This is a wonderful book that gives understanding that is very much needed. Having read it from a Gentile believer's perspective, it is a great help in understanding the application of (what we call) the Old Testament scriptures and how they apply to us today. It is also a great help in learning more about what our Jewish brothers and sisters face in their search for (and finding) Yeshua (aka Jesus). I just can't say enough good things about this book and highly encourage everyone to read and study it for themselves! Also, I don't have a Kindle, so I downloaded the Kindle app on my smartphone then purchased the book to repay for the PDF version Eitan was kind enough to send so I could read it on my computer.

Very enlightening, bringing a deeper meaning to what I always believed! That the Old Testament is applicable today as a shadow of the Messiah! We love the law but are not a debtor to the law. The law shows us God's love and righteousness, but mostly it shows us His Salvation through the Messiah! Written by Jews who both know and understand the Law and Jesus our Messiah! I learned so much from this short book!

Very detailed and convincing proofs as to how Yeshua (Jesus) did not violate the Torah in His earthly life, and the Jewish New Covenant adherent's relationship to the Torah. I disagree with the authors' conclusions concerning the complete obsolescence of the First Covenant, as well as a separation of requirements between Jew and Gentile: God does not hold two different standards of righteousness. In the New Covenant, there is One God, One People, One Story, One Faith, One Hope, and One Love. However, I agree wholeheartedly with their interpretation of the Law and how it applies to us that the goal of the Torah is Messiah's relationship

with Him and allowing His love to flow through us. Priestly rituals, sacrifices, and rote mitzvot have been fulfilled in Yeshua. In my own book (The Upside-Down Kingdom), I analyze the Law from a perspective that makes sense to Western Gentiles, breaking it down into priestly and moral sections, understanding that the priestly commandments have been fulfilled, whereas obedience to the moral commands are the fruit of what Ruach HaKodesh is producing in us; here, the authors argue from a more holistic, natively Jewish approach – which may be better understood by Jewish readers. In the end, the conclusions we reach on the Law's interpretation are the same.

The short but pithy book comes with three co-authors, though I suspect Seth Postell is largely responsible for shaping the biblical material here. Postell earned a Ph.D. under John Sailhamer and much in the book reflects his mentor's underrated approach to the text of the Hebrew Bible. Of particular interest to me was the literary analysis of the Torah text, marshalled in support of the authors' thesis that the Torah expects Israel to fail to keep the Law and hence moves us beyond the Law to the hope of redemption through a coming Messiah. In their words, the Torah does not lead us "to, but through the broken Law and beyond." The authors add a fresh perspective to the debate among contemporary Jewish followers of Jesus as to the role of the Law of Moses and later Jewish tradition in the lives of Messianic Jews today. This fresh perspective is described as follows (with specific reference to Paul, but applicable to the rest of the New Testament): "We are claiming that the solution to understanding Paul's use of the Torah is to begin with a close reading of the Torah itself." The current debate among Messianic Jews has been shaped by many currents (see eg. authors David Rudolph, Mark Nanos, the New Perspective, etc.) and the level of scholarship in this debate has become much more sophisticated than in the past. One does not need to be a scholar, however, in order to read and learn profitably from this accessible volume. Whether you end up agreeing with the authors or not, your thinking will surely be challenged in a positive way.

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