

About a month ago, I asked for your thoughts on the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Thank you to those who answered my question.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

### Matthew 28:18-20 KJV

#### **Lisa Howard wrote:**

Jesus doesn't offer us a choice - He commands that we go. Go where? EVERYWHERE!!! And not just tell people about Him - but to actually spend the time necessary to make people disciples. To make them "disciplined learners" The convenient idea of just going somewhere (away where no body knows me) and never taking the time to make sure people are plugged into a mentor-type relationship, isn't what Jesus meant. He meant - share your life - share what it takes to make disciples - everywhere you are. Have them baptized for repentance from a dead life and show everyone that they live for Him alone. And teach them - really TEACH - teaching takes time. But Jesus will always be with us as we do this work. We can always know and we are assured that we are walking the steps He has told us walk - when we share who we are with others - we are disciples of Christ - disciplined learners - who have left all to follow Him.

#### **Josiah Cogan wrote:**

For me, when the Bible says to 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel', it means that God wants us to be witnesses for Christ everywhere, and not just in the uttermost parts of the world. We should be spreading our faith in our own home towns as well as in places thousands of miles away.

#### **Paul Day wrote:**

Yeshua tells them to make disciples of the Nations. What does it mean to make disciples of Messiah. Does it mean go out and lead people in the sinner's prayer? Without instruction of what is clean and unclean, holy and profane, and the Sabbath and Feast Days the people will continue in their sin.

Yeshua tells us to teach them to observe all that He has commanded.

Yeshua said I didn't come teaching my own doctrine but my Father's.

We are to be teaching the Nations first that YHVH came in the flesh as Yeshua HaMoshiac and died for the sins of Israel releasing her from the law of sin and death making it possible for her to return to her first husband YHVH, and second the loving teaching and instruction of the Father which is the instruction given to Moses at Sinai; the instruction of the Covenant that was

made from the foundation of the World. The instruction that Yeshua came teaching.

### **Matthew Day wrote:**

This is a call to discipleship. Last month I talked about midrash. Midrash is used to test your beliefs; discipleship is used to form beliefs. In my opinion, both discipleship and midrash are necessary for learning. You can't test a belief that you don't have and everything you are taught should be tested.

What is a disciple exactly? In Israel, a disciple would follow his teacher. A disciple would learn his teacher's doctrine and follow his teacher's interpretation of scripture. A disciple would memorize his teacher's words. A disciple would look up to his teacher and use him as his role model. A disciple would try to be just like his teacher.

Who is the teacher? Yeshua (Jesus). We are to make disciples for Him. We are to train people to act and behave just like Yeshua! He told us to teach what he taught, and He taught what He did; therefore, we are to do as He did.

### **Torah Reading Cycle**

By Matthew Day

Two weeks ago the Torah reading cycle began again. What is the Torah reading cycle? It is a schedule that goes through the first five books of the old testament (Torah), through sections of the Prophets, and some people have even added passages out of the new testament. The cycle starts again every year around the time of Sukkot. Each section is called a Parasha. There is one Parasha read each week.

This cycle was created before Yeshua was born. It is still in use today.

Sections:

**Torah:** The cycle goes through Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy once every year. It goes through these books in the order it is in in your Bible. This part of the Parasha can be anywhere from 3-7 chapters.

**Prophets:** This section is often called the Haftarah. For each Torah section, a passage out of the prophets that is related to that section is read.

**New Testament:** This part of the cycle was recently added. As a result, there are different ways of deciding what to read from it. I have seen two. One goes through the four gospel and the book of Acts in order like the Torah. The other selects a passage out of the new testament related to the Torah reading (Like the Prophets).

I use this cycle for several reasons. One, it keeps me consistent in reading the Bible, because it gives me something to read every week. Two, it take me through the entire foundation of the Bible (the Torah). I say it is the foundation, because, before Israel would accept any other book as the word of God, they would check to see if it lined up with the Torah. Three, since it is such a widely used system, I can read the Parasha and come up with questions and comments before coming to our Sabbath meeting. Those who use this cycle are studying the same words with thousands of others at the same time and it makes it easier to

come together and discuss His word. Every Saturday, when our congregation gets together, we midrash on the Parasha.

If you want to use this cycle to help you study the Bible, you can probably find the schedule on the internet. The following link will take you to FFOZ's calendar for this year ( <http://ffoz.org/Home/downloads.shtml> ). From there, scroll down to and click on the link that says "**Torah Reading Schedule 5767 (2006-7)**". FFOZ uses the first method for going through the new testament (through the four gospels and Acts in order).

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**Children's Newsletter**  
**November, 2006**

P.S. This issue marks the beginning of the third year for the Children's Newsletter.