

haLakha 1

1. What is haLakha?

"The Walk" הלך
Genesis 5:24, 17:1, 48:15;

24 And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

15 And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

Leviticus 26:12;

12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Deuteronomy 8:6;

6 "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

Amos 3.3

3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

2. Define:

God: יה (יהוה) = judgment, הוה = mercy (Kabalah)

Genesis 1.1;

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Exodus 3:14 I Am (I Will Be);

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה *eh'yeh asher eh'yeh* I will be what I will be.

Exodus 3:15 God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob;

15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.'

Hebrews 11.6

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Man: (איש/אישה) *ish/ishah* Genesis 2:18-25-complete w/woman

help "meet" = equal to or complimentary, as pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.

Jew: A Hebrew (עברי) *ivri* (Abraham) descendant of Jacob (Israel). Israelites from the tribe of Judah or the territory of Judea. By extension, all Israelites (Esther 8.16). Mordechai: a Benjamite and a Jew.

3. Relation of Man to God

Creator/Created - Genesis 1:27

27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Sustainer/Sustained – Exodus 16:4

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

Guide/Follower – Exodus 13:21

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

Father/Son – Jeremiah 31:9

⁹ They shall come with weeping,
And with supplications I will lead them.
I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters,
In a straight way in which they shall not stumble;
For I am a Father to Israel,
And Ephraim *is* My firstborn.

Friend – John 15:13-15

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

4. Duties of Man to God

Micah 6:8;

⁸ He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Ecclesiasties 12.12

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is man's all.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

haLakha applies to everyday life

5. Rabbinic Authority

Legend of Oral Torah

Exodus 18:13-26

¹³ And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. ¹⁴ So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"

15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws."

17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do *is* not good. 18 Both you and these people who *are* with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing *is* too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God *so* commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 26 So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.

Deuteronomy 17:10-11 (context v. 8-13)

10 You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you. 11 According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside *to* the right hand or *to* the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you.

Matthew 23:1-3

1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, 2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

Torah (and haLakhah) must be reinterpreted in every generation.

5. Levels of haLakha

haLakha	-	Biblical Commandments	No Variation
Nusach	-	Tradition (Ashkenaz or Sephard)Variations	
Minchah	-	Custom (local habits)	Much Variation

